

**Minutes of cases of cancer and cancerous tendency, successfully treated by Samuel Young .. / with a prefatory letter addressed to the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, by Samuel Whitbread.**

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MINUTES OF CASES  
OF  
**Cancer and Cancerous Tendency,**

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG,

SURGEON;

AUTHOR OF A TREATISE ON CANCER, AND OTHER SURGICAL WORKS;

WITH A

PREFATORY LETTER,

ADDRESSED TO THE

GOVERNORS OF THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL,

BY

SAMUEL WHITBREAD, ESQ. M.P.



LONDON:

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1815.

MINUTES OF CASES

OF

Cancer and Cancerous Tumours



BY

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG

M.D.

OF A TREATISE ON CANCER AND OTHER SOLID TUMORS

WITH A

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BY SAMUEL WHITREAD, ESQ. M.D.



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1825

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TO  
**THE GOVERNORS**

OF THE

**MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.**

THE circumstances which attended the foundation of the ward for the reception of cancerous patients, in the Middlesex Hospital, have naturally led me to the encouragement of every rational effort directed to the cure or alleviation of cancer, one of the greatest of human calamities; and you will rejoice when informed of a successful experiment.

I have lately witnessed the happy effects of the practice of a surgeon, known to the medical world by an approved Treatise on Cancer, published before he had adopted the plan which he now pursues; and I wish to lay before you and the public,

the history of some of the cases which have been treated by Mr. Samuel Young, since my acquaintance with him.

Mr. Young received a part of his medical education in the Middlesex Hospital, and was for some time Surgeon to the House. He afterwards settled himself in the town of Montgomery. From that place, in the month of May, 1814, he addressed a letter to me on the Treatment of Cancer. A correspondence followed, which ended in my request, that he would come into Bedfordshire, to give his advice to a near relation of my own, afflicted with a disease called cancerous; and apply his mode of treatment, if approved by the physician, whose opinion, from my long experience of his general science, talents, and liberality, I had determined to take.

On the 15th of September last, I met Mr. Young, at the House of Dr. Penrose, at Hatfield; and having received from the latter the most positive assurance, that the plan could not produce any mischief, and afforded a prospect of relief, the experiment was decided upon; and on the next day it commenced, at the residence of the

patient, within a short distance of the town of Bedford, in the presence of Dr. Penrose and myself. On the same day Anne Wildman, whose case is amongst the most remarkable of those detailed by Mr. Young, was brought from the Bedford House of Industry, and after minute examination by Dr. Penrose, subjected to the same process.

From that period Mr. Young has resided in Bedford and its neighbourhood; and several patients afflicted with cancer, or diseases of that tendency, have been placed under his care.

The minutes of the cases are drawn up by Mr. Young; and the attestations and opinions of the medical men, and others who had known the origin, or seen the progress of any particular case, or had been called in to decide upon the effect of the treatment, are given in their own words.

The very remarkable case wherein the practice was so promptly adopted by Mr. Macgrath, of Biggleswade, from having seen its application under the hands of Mr. Young, is described by Mr. Mac-

grath: the value of whose testimony is known to an extensive circle.

I thought it might be of some service to the cause of humanity, to see with my own eyes some of the cases; and I have been more than repaid by witnessing the progressive amendment of the patients, and by hearing from time to time their joyful declarations, that they were greatly relieved from the torment of their previous pain.

Where Mr. Young has introduced my name, he has faithfully described my impressions. It is undoubtedly a misfortune, that three patients, all going on prosperously towards the cure of the local disease, Wildman, Thomas, and Wood, should all three have died before their cure was complete; although, in the case of Wildman, it was nearly perfect. But our conviction of the innocency and efficacy of Mr. Young's plan, cannot be shaken by these untoward events. Wildman and Thomas were two paupers, whose constitutions were exhausted. Both were habitual dram-drinkers, and the observation made upon each, when first seen, was,

“ If the patient can but be kept alive for a length of time sufficient for the experiment!”

Unfortunately the constitutions of both failed. Wildman, however, would, in all probability, have survived her cancer, if it had not been for the accidental excess mentioned in the history of her case, which was the immediate cause of her death. The circumstances of the general habit of Wood are given, and sufficiently account for her decease.

All three were indebted to Mr. Young for having passed much of the latter parts of their lives, in that blessed state of repose from pain; the luxury of which none can appreciate but those who have suffered acutely.

In the case of Lea, I have thought it expedient to subjoin his two letters, addressed to me, containing his own blunt, but intelligible account of the disease and its cure. I saw his lip when the swelling upon it was large, and the colour of the deepest black: exhibiting precisely the same appearances which I had seen, some years before, on the lip of an unhappy



man, who having undergone the extirpation of one tumour by the knife, soon had the misfortune to find it succeeded by a second, which ulcerated, spread all over the face and throat, and finally terminated his existence in a manner too well known to the medical world, but too shocking to relate. I have lately seen Lea's lip in a sound state.

I will not prolong my address to you by referring with any particularity to other cases which fill up this volume. The tendency of the complaint in each patient was the same: and it matters little to the sufferer by what precise name the disease be called, according to the specifick form it may take, when told that medicine and surgery afford him no resource but the severe and doubtful experiment of the knife.

The reputation of Mr. Young has spread since his residence at Bedford, and many cases have been brought from a distance to be placed under his care. A physician of the highest eminence, in London, to whom Mr. Young's plan was communicated by me, has recommended a person

afflicted with cancer to call in his assistance; and she will immediately become his patient.

In the person, who was the first object of Mr. Young's attention, the disease has been arrested, and the general health improved. Her case has its distinctive peculiarities of an extraordinary nature, without possessing all the characteristics of cancer.

Other cases, of a most inveterate and complicated kind, are making progress towards cure; the minutes of which are kept, and will, at a future opportunity, be published: but it was not deemed advisable to wait for their completion.

I am sure, the moment these facts are known to you, you will call in the aid of Mr. Young, and his plan, for the hitherto hopeless inhabitants of your Cancer Ward. The liberality of your medical establishment will ensure the most cordial co-operation.

In order that attention may be more generally excited, the knowledge of this new and successful practice more widely diffused, and its author more generally

esteemed and encouraged, I willingly expose myself to any observations which may be made on the appearance of my name to this publication,

I am your very obedient

and faithful Servant,

**SAMUEL WHITBREAD.**

*Dover Street,*

*June 10, 1815.*

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

OF

## THE PROCESS EMPLOYED

BY

MR. YOUNG.

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PURSUING the same train of facts, an account of which was published in 1805, under the title of "An Inquiry into the Nature and Action of Cancer, in order to establish a Principle of Cure by Natural Separation," where it was proved, that the disease can only exist under a previously altered and morbid accumulation of structure; but considering the necessarily confined application of such a principle of cure, in a disease so complicated, so variously acting, so indefinite in extent,

and so often involving parts necessary to life itself; the idea of a more extended effort for the removal of the disease by *Mechanical Pressure* suggested itself; and so far back as the year 1809, in two cases, it was successfully employed.

The principle of this practice was found in the obvious facts, which nature is constantly presenting in the operations of the Animal Economy, viz. the removal of parts by absorption, and particularly under the excitement of pressure. It is true such facts were presented through the medium of disease, but the principle was the same, and only required another direction to obtain beneficial and healthy results.

If by diseased tumours the brain can be absorbed, the bones of the skull removed, or the testis in Hernia Congenita obliterated, to reverse the powers of absorption seemed feasible. If by diseased pressure, healthy structure could thus be removed, why not imitate such pressure, and take advantage of such powers, by directing them to beneficial purposes, and destroy in turn morbidly formed parts or tumours,

by the very means with which Nature has furnished them, for the destruction of natural structure?

By such morbid pressure arterial action also is suppressed. Why then should a tumour of the neck, for example, be suffered to proceed in all the licentiousness of disease, destroying on the one hand by its pressure the natural circulation of parts, and on the other, exciting the absorption of natural by unnatural structure; when the same pressure, *employed* on its own surface, would obstruct its growth, and *cause* its own *absorption*? Under this impression, and on the principle that mechanical pressure resists vascular action, and excites the absorbents, it was adopted as a mode of cure for the removal of Cancer, and other diseases dependent on previously altered and morbidly accumulating structure. One might enter largely on the more minute operations of this process, in the prevention and restoration of diseased structure; but the present object is simply to give a brief statement of leading facts. There are, however, many curious and im-

portant truths, connected with and illustrative of the nature and history of diseases of this class, the detail of which shall be given at some future opportunity.

The means generally employed to effect the pressure as stated in the following cases, have been plaister-straps, sheet lead forming shields of various thicknesses, tin plates, linen compresses, and the use of appropriate rollers.

The strength of the application of the pressure has been progressive, commencing in most cases with the use of the straps only; in some by single, and in other cases by double layers. The force of their application controlled in each instance by the existing circumstances, and the sensations of the patient.

The plaister should be uniformly smooth; and in the application of the straps it is of the first importance that all wrinkles should be avoided; that an equal surface of resistance should be given. In the direction of specific pressure on a diseased part, all sort of partial stricture must be avoided, according to the common principles of sur-

gery, which may be illustrated by the now common treatment of an ulcerated leg, after the admirable plan of Baynton. Here the ulcer of the leg is specifically compressed, although general pressure is also given to the limb, by the use of the roller. So a scirrhus of the breast may be specifically compressed, by the use of the pressure plates, and the adjustment of the linen compress, including at the same time a general pressure of the whole.

Almost every case will present varieties, and the practitioner always carrying the principle and object of cure in view must have recourse to his own judgment and resources, to meet the exigencies of complicated cases. Generally speaking, the application of pressure has been found to relieve pain, and that in the most exquisite and actively painful states of cancerous affections.

After several trials, the best composition for the plaister-straps, has been found in equal parts of the common strengthening and soap-plaisters mixed, and spread, somewhat thickly, on linen.



A plaister so composed, has elasticity, consistency, and durability, which the common adhesive plaister does not possess: and what is more material still, none of its irritating qualities. It may be used in a diseased and tender state of skin, where the adhesive plaister in practice would inevitably produce irritation, and extensive ulceration.

It is to be noted, that in cases of ulceration, where a dry scale or thick incrustation is formed, an increase of discharge is no reason for the discontinuance of the applications. In such cases, an increased discharge is the constant attendant upon the restoration of parts under pressure. In all such cases, and where the skin is tender, shining, partially broken, and diseased, the parts should be well charged and dusted with chalk, or hair powder, or both. In all cases the straps should be long and commanding. Irritable points and parts should be defended by some gold beater's-skin.

The common anxiety which every surgeon must necessarily possess for the wel-

fare of his patients, and those feelings of humanity, which the sad experience of the sufferings of our fellow-creatures naturally excites, will always lead to the application and removal of the pressure with due caution and tenderness.

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ANNE WILDMAN,

OF the Bedford House of Industry, aged 64, of an asthmatic and emaciated constitution, married woman; has had children; applied first at the Barns, on Friday, Sept. 16, 1814. Mr. Whitbread and Dr. Penrose present.

A large irregular square tumour, situated on the upper part of the left breast; the dimensions of the projecting surface, five inches across at the upper part, and about four inches in depth; the lower part forming between a fourth and fifth of its visible length and breadth, and coming nearly in contact with the nipple under the common integument of the breast, which, at this part, forms a loose and flaccid covering. Standing between four and five years. Origin unknown. First discovered from pain in the part. Its size then that of an hazle nut. Its growth within the last twelve months rapid, possessing all the characteristics of the true scirrhus. Impenetrably hard to the touch,

and of unequal knotty surface. Its upper edge or side reaching within an inch or less of the clavicle, and running parallel to it. By the projection of the tumour, which is fully equal to its breadth, a deep channel is formed between it and the clavicle. Colour a deep heavy livid crimson, with many dark purple patches. The integument immediately covering the anterior surface, adheres closely, is extremely thin, and polished, giving the appearance of a transparent varnish; through which are seen innumerable cutaneous vessels, still darker than the general colour of the tumour, and forming an irregular net-work by their anastomosing.

Rising above the common surface, and at the upper margin of the tumour, are situated, about an inch distant from each other, three considerable tubercles, softer to the touch than the common mass, and yielding to the finger upon pressure.

Over these tuberculated fungi, the common integument of the tumour is still more thinly stretched; and on their surfaces here and there little fungous shoots may be distinctly seen, of still softer texture than the general tubercle.

The cuticle covering these smaller shoots has none of the general polish of the rest of the tumour, but appears dead, and blended or in-

dented with their substance. On one of the tubercles a small point gives evident symptoms of ulceration.

Such is the state of things, at these particular points, that, not only surgeons, but any persons of common observation and experience, must hourly expect ulceration to take place. Indeed the woman herself, placing the point of her finger on the part just described, expresses her fears, that "*there* will soon be a sore."

Midway between the tumour and the axilla, a bunch of enlarged lymphatics is felt; and high up in the axilla another cluster fills that cavity. The woman says she is almost constantly in pain from the tumour, attended by dartings, or, as she terms them, jaggings, through the whole substance; by which her rest has been greatly disturbed. The only medical treatment, under the direction of the attendant-surgeon to the house, has been the application of leeches; about once in every six weeks, at times when the pain of her breast has been so great and continued, as wholly to destroy her rest. From the leeches, she thinks she found benefit, in the excessive attacks of pain. This treatment commenced about two years ago; but has been discontinued for the

last four or five months, in consequence of her having thought the tumour had rapidly increased immediately after their application.

She says it certainly got larger from time to time, after they had been used; her expression is, "It growed apace, and I became frightened." This was her answer upon being asked, why the use of the leeches had been discontinued.

Upon the usual enquiry into uterine symptoms, it appears that this viscus partakes of some irregular action. The common symptoms of bearing down, of weight and general uneasiness, with an aggravation of the whole at stated times, resembling periodical efforts, are complained of.

Urinary secretion irregular, frequently very spare, and of a diseased appearance.

In the description of this tumour, the usual attendant characteristic of advanced Cancer, in the instance of large varicose veins, is not to be omitted. These vessels appear in a very marked degree of disease, rising from various parts out of the very substance of the tumour. They crawl down its sides in a tortuous course, affording that appearance of claws, whence, in particular, the antient name has been attached to the disease.

**TREATMENT.**—First application.—The plaster straps only; but applied with every possible

degree of pressure, commencing and ending several inches from the tumour.

*Third Day.*—The plaister straps removed; the general appearance of the tumour more healthy; the enlarged veins decreased; and the tuberculated excrescences certainly diminished. The general character of the tumour otherwise remains the same: excepting the absence of pain. The glands midway and about the axilla, looser to the touch.

**TREATMENT.**—An additional layer of straps was this day used, firmly pressing down a single plate of sheet or tea lead, cut to the figure of the tumour: the whole secured by a six yard roller. No inconvenience produced from the increased pressure. The medicine\* increased to twenty-five drops twice a day.

*Sixth Day.*—The plaister not removed, but considerable pressure given, not only by additional sheet lead, and thickness from the remaining plaisters on the former plate, but also from the use of additional compresses, and in the application of the roller. From this increased pressure no inconvenience experienced. No pain whatever in the tumour.

The woman describes a sensation, however, as if something alive were in it. To her own

\* Tinct. Digitalis Sol. Mineral. Fowl. partes equales—M. M.XX.



observation also, the glands midway between the tumour and axilla had evidently decreased. The axillary cluster likewise is more distinct, and less attached. The woman's health rather improved. The uterine symptoms entirely subsided, a more regular and greater secretion from the kidneys, and a very costive habit of body relieved. From this period, up to the fourteenth day, the plaisters have been occasionally removed, and fresh ones applied, with every possible degree of pressure. The lead sheets were also accommodated, and increased by the addition of two lamina; but the plaisters immediately in contact with the anterior part of the tumour have not been touched.

*Fourteenth Day, Sept. 30.*—At the Barns, Mr. Whitbread and Dr. Penrose present.

All the applications were now removed. At once a most striking change in the size and shape of the tumour was evident. In shape it had changed from the irregular square at the top, to a more rounded form. In the first place it had lost one of its most prominent features, viz. that particular jut at its upper part, which shot towards the shoulder.

Secondly, at the lower outward edge, a considerable portion had become detached from the body of the tumour, and had that sort of floating connexion which a more incipient

scirrhous affords upon examination to the touch; and the substance is covered by the loose integument of the breast.

Thirdly, and perhaps one of the most evident changes of the whole, the tuberculated knobs, as formerly described, had disappeared, except the indistinct remains of the base of one.

Upon further examination, the bunch of glands, midway between the tumour and the axilla, was so much dispersed, as to be scarcely perceptible.—Whilst that situated higher up had evidently lessened, and the glands become more distinct. The appearance of the tumour altogether less malignant. The enlarged veins diminished, and some quite obliterated. On removing the last layer of plaister straps, some peeling of the cuticle took place; yet the integument on the immediate surface of the tumour was evidently thickened, and not so firmly attached to the parts beneath.

**TREATMENT.**—The applications to the tumour were made with still increased pressure: and the drops ordered as before. The tumour free from pain. The sensation still continues at intervals, which the patient described, as something alive moving within the tumour.

*Friday, Oct. 7.*—Since the last Report, the applications have been adjusted, but not re-

moved. On removing the last layer of plaister straps, an entire skin of cuticle came away, exactly corresponding with the anterior surface of the tumour. The appearance of the tumour still presented further change. The colour of the surface considerably fainter. Its cuticle, thicker and more healthy, and the little dark cutaneous vessels, as described forming a network, were no longer to be distinguished.

The surface of the tumour certainly more equal, and the sides and edges of a more uniformly rounded shape. The length of the tumour originally was at the upper part from side to side. Its length now is, from bottom to top. So evident is this change, that the pressure plates, as formerly applied, no longer fit the surface of the tumour. These plates, when placed together, form a firm oval shield, the concavity of which, placed lengthways across the tumour, formed an exact agreement with its surface. But now, to make it agree at all with the form of the tumour, the shield, instead of being placed across, must be put lengthways, almost in a straight line from bottom to top, and not as formerly from side to side.

It is material to notice, that the diminution and general form in the tumour is as evident to the woman herself, as to those who have at-

tended the progress of her treatment. Among the number, it is sufficient to say, that Mr. Whitbread has attended every removal, and even most of the minuter treatments, except the present.

*Saturday, Oct. 15,* at Bedford, Mr. Whitbread present.—The woman reports the tumour to have remained as easy and free from pain as heretofore. All the applications removed. No peeling of the cuticle attended. The integument covering the anterior surface more natural, firmer in itself, and looser in its attachment to the tumour. A very evident change in the colour towards natural appearance.

The degree of difference between the former colour and the present, may be stated to be nearly as great, as between the present colour and that of the natural skin.

Were one to define the diminution of the tumour up to this period, it would be a fifth part of the whole mass, as it existed on the 16th of September last.

*Friday, Oct. 21.*—Upon the removal of the applications, some degree of peeling of the cuticle attended; at one part greater than the size of a shilling piece: near to the lower and inner side of the tumour it was more bare than at any one time since the first application.

The cuticle, the mere varnish-like cuticle, however, over the anterior surface of the tumour, is so far loosened as to go into folds or deep wrinkles, upon the application of the straps. The whole bulk of the tumour certainly becoming still more defined in its shape, and its great projection progressively diminishing.

**TREATMENT.**—The applications made to the tumour with the utmost degree of pressure. The drops to be discontinued. It is important to observe, as proof of the great alteration effected in the tumour, that the former plates, or shields, can no longer be made to answer the purpose.

*Thursday, Oct. 27, Mr. Whitbread present.*—The tumour has remained quite free from pain. The axillary glands still continue to lessen, and the bunch quite separated. Some of the glands are even moveable; and of this change, by frequent examinations, the woman is perfectly sensible. No peeling of the cuticle attended the present removal of the applications. The bare part, mentioned in the last report, better covered, though considerably thinner than the rest of the anterior surface. A manifest improvement in the general colour of the tumour. The patches of it, indeed, are but little deeper than natural integument. The outward side, and part of the upper anterior

surface, which formerly were the most irregular and prominent, are now lower than the opposite part of the tumour. From the diminution of substance and consequent sinking at this part, the entire character of the tumour is reversed. It would now be nearly round, but for an obtuse knob, which shoots, or rather rises, from the upper and inner surface. The whole mass of the tumour is most evidently under progressive diminution.

It has lost also, in a very great measure, its former impenetrable characteristic hardness. This change has become more evident within the last two examinations. And the woman herself has pointed out, more than once, different spots which have become comparatively soft.

The Hon. Mrs. B. who saw the tumour four removals back, considers it diminished one-third. In speaking of the progressive improvement of such a tumour, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain exact proportions and precise dimensions. The eye, however, is certainly better able to detect general change, if change there be, whether in size, shape, or colour, at the distance of a month, than if the tumour had been intermediately seen from week to week.

This lady's opinion, therefore, is satisfactory as to palpable change, although it can only be considered as matter of opinion, as to the precise proportion of that change. The frightful projection of this tumour originally would naturally strike the eye of such an observer. To speak with the utmost professional accuracy of comparative proportions, it may with truth be said, the tumour has almost lost a third of its original projection from the common surface of the chest.

Anne Wildman has endeavoured to ascertain this diminution, by a mode of measurement to which she had accustomed herself in the increase of the tumour, by resting her hand with the ball of her thumb upon the chest, and throwing the fore-finger in a line across. The space between the finger where she says the tumour originally touched, and its present surface, perfectly agrees with all the opinions formed as to its diminished elevation: and although not mathematically correct, yet it must be allowed to be that sort of measurement, very natural and obvious in itself, and, joined with the other facts, decisive of great change and amendment.

**TREATMENT.** The pressure continued with all possible firmness of application. In placing

the first layer of straps, the integument on the anterior part of the surface is so much wrinkled as to render an assistant necessary to draw the skin from the side of the tumour tightly across the chest. The anterior integument of the tumour, however, although very much loosened, and of greater consistency, yet still of a morbidly thin and delicate structure.

*Nov. 1, at Bedford.* The rollers and straps, which had become loose, were adjusted. A tin plate, comprehending the more projecting half of the tumour, was placed over the pressure-plate. The linen compresses were increased, and an additional roller used. No uneasiness or pain produced by this great increase of pressure.

The woman complains of pain at the bone, down the left arm, like a rheumatic pain. She has a short constitutional hacking cough, which appears to have been aggravated during the last week by the unfavourable state of the weather. Her bowels, too, have been somewhat painful. She is represented as an habitual complainer, upon all occasions, which her manner and speech betray; and she has the misfortune to be a reputed dram-drinker. No soreness or swelling exists either in the hand or arm complained of.

*Nov. 3. At the Barns.* Dr. Penrose present.



She described her breast to be rather uneasy. The appearance of the tumour presented a surface very similar to that described in the last report. The general state of the integument had certainly improved both in colour and natural consistency, and this particularly at the anterior part.

The cough very troublesome during her stay at the Barns, which moved and disturbed the tumour considerably; and it evidently had more than its accustomed degree of heat.

**TREATMENT.** The usual local applications were made, with the omission of the tin plates, and small doses of the squill, opium, and foxglove, in tincture, were ordered thrice a day.

After remaining some time, and the applications having been made, the patient was asked how she then did? Her answer was, "quite comfortable."

*Nov. 4.* Called at the House of Industry, to inquire how Anne Wildman did. She was reported to be as well as usual.

*Nov. 7.* Went to the House of Industry, and remained near half an hour with the patient in the Matron's room, during the whole of which time she was not once troubled with cough. The breast had remained quite easy, only that, "during the last night, to the best of her belief, " she thinks she had one dart."

It has been thought advisable to note every trifling complaint relating in any way to the local disease, as well as every favourable observation coming from the mouth of the patient. It is scarcely necessary to recall to the attention of the reader, that these complaints apply to the sensations proceeding from a cancerous tumour, of a nature as inveterate as ever yet met the eye.

It was omitted in the report of Thursday last, that the pain down the bone of the arm had entirely subsided. She could scarcely recollect she had made any such complaint.

*Friday, Nov. 11. At Bedford.*—The tumour has remained quite easy. Its appearance upon the removal of the applications bore evident marks of progressive improvement, particularly in the rounded form and diminished state of the outside surface. The integument covering this part of the tumour, has nearly resumed a natural appearance; and has now become party-coloured, in consequence of the anterior surface still keeping some of its diseased appearance, and being deepened here and there by a still darker patch of crimson. Besides this distinction of colour, there is also a very evident line running obliquely down the tumour, marking still more evidently the division into two surfaces. This line also can be distinctly

traced by the finger on the surface of the tumour itself.

On the application of the first layer of straps, which defined the exact shape of the tumour, the woman, looking down upon it, exclaimed, " Bless me, how small it has got!"

This day the pressure was not only increased by additional plaister straps and sheet lead, but over the whole a large shield of tin was applied, between some linen compress, comprehending the entire body of the tumour, and the coverings placed upon it. The whole was firmly secured by a six-yard roller.

Upon the application of this very extraordinary degree of pressure, the patient complained of some aching in the part; but as it did not seem violent, nor disposed to increase, it was determined to persist in the application. She was told she would be visited on the following morning.

The habitual cough had very much subsided, as well as all her other complaints of the chest. The sol. min. with foxglove and opium tinctures, were again prescribed.

*Nov.* 12. The tumour free from pain.

*Nov.* 14. Called at the House of Industry. The Matron present. The tumour had remained quite easy. The cough diminished.

*Nov.* 15. The tin shield with the linen com-

press have sunk. They were replaced with the utmost strength of application. No pain.

*Saturday, Nov. 19.* All the applications removed. The colour of the tumour more uniform. The line of division mentioned on the eleventh less distinct. A dark coloured spot, about the size of a shilling, only remaining, where formerly a purple crimson colour was extended.

The edges of the tumour become progressively thinner, and take a more uniform shape. The anterior integument still improving; looser in its attachment, and the cuticle more sound.

The parts have remained free from pain. The sensation, as if something were alive, has been occasionally felt in the tumour. The axillary glands lessened, and the integument at the angle between the tumour and the arm-pit, where but a short time since the projecting mass of the former could only be distinguished, becoming more free and flaccid.

On the application of pressure this day, besides the usual lead plates, two tin shields were cut, to be accommodated more accurately to the form of the tumour, and these were firmly secured by plaister straps. The linen compresses reached high up on the side, and all possible strength was used in the application of the two rollers

*Thursday, Nov. 24.* At the House of Industry. The patient had expressed to the Matron the very great comfort she had felt in the whole of the breast for the last three days, and spoke most warmly of the benefits she had received. The outer roller tightened.

*Nov. 30.* All the applications removed. The woman herself was the first to remark the improvement of the skin at the lower part of the tumour, which, she observed, "was as white as natural skin." At this part the tumour has very considerably lessened. There is now a great space between the nipple and lower edge. These parts formerly were nearly in contact. The whole bulk of the tumour more flattened. The axillary glands remarkably improved. Many of those which filled up the cavity have quite disappeared; and the angle at the arm-pit, which space was formerly occupied by the tumour, is still getting broader and more flaccid. The applications as before, and the strongest pressure continued.

*Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1814,* Attended the patient at the House of Industry. This day afforded the very satisfactory evidence of Mrs. Smith, the Matron, who had not seen the tumour since the treatment was first begun. She had however, by constant previous examination, obtained a most accurate knowledge of

the state of the diseased parts; and her description of the tumour, as it presented itself on the 16th of September, was minute to the nicest particularity.

It may not be improper here to remark, that the Matron had within a very few months witnessed the usual awful termination of this terrible disease in an unhappy female inmate of the House, who had died a victim to all the lingering tortures of ulceration to an enormous extent; and her fears had been excited for the fate of Wildman, whom she had seen rapidly approaching the same deplorable crisis of her complaint.

On the removal of the applications, Mrs. Smith expressed her astonishment at the alteration which had taken place. Although informed from time to time of the great improvement, yet she did not think it possible it should have so changed. She described the tumour as it had formerly existed, placing her finger on various points to which it had reached.

The diminution of the tumour from September 16th up to this time, is certainly one-half.

More material still than even the diminution of the tumour, is the comparatively healthy state of the integuments which cover it. The axillary glands are scarcely to be called in a diseased state; and the mass midway between

the tumour and axilla has wholly disappeared.

*Thursday, Dec. 15, 1814.* At the Barns. Mr. Whitbread present.—On the removal of the applications, the diminution of the tumour was so evident, that there was one common expression of surprise. Mr. Whitbread was much struck with the alteration since he last saw it. Mrs. B., who had not seen it from October 27th till this day, was equally surprised at the great diminution and change which had been effected. A female attendant, who had been present on some former occasions, was equally convinced of the improvement.

The TREATMENT pursued as usual.

*Friday, Dec. 23.* At Bedford.—During the week I had called at the House of Industry, and the breast had remained quite easy. To-day the applications remained so perfect, and the woman said her breast was so very easy, that I should not have been induced to remove them, had not the edge of the pressure-plate got above the straps resting upon the skin. Fearful of irritation, I was led to examine further, and found some moisture. Upon the removal of the dressings, an excoriation, though very slight, was visible. On the surface of the straps, in contact with the anterior part of the tumour, a small quantity of adhesive and well looking pus was attached, not more than three or four drops.

At the upper part of the tumour there was a small vesicle formed, as I imagine, by the edge of the pressure-plate; and from this oozed a small quantity of fluid, which dried on the edge of the roller like plum-tree gum. There was also a moisture and general redness on the surface of the tumour, similar to that created by the application of a slight blister; and about the middle, inclining outwards, a curious patch or stripe of yellowish white and perfectly opaque skin appeared. Its connexion with the rest of the integument was similar to a superficial eschar. At the lower part there was a distinct line of separation: and here the anterior integument of the tumour could be drawn from it. The patch is to all appearance attached throughout to the surface beneath, and no fluid under it.

A still further diminution of the tumour is evident; more remarkably so at the inner side. What remains is merely the diminished base, now scarcely rising above the common surface. The tumour has been exposed to considerable motion for the last two or three days, in consequence of the increased frequency of the patient's habitual cough.

The appearances, however, are so entirely those of simple irritation, as to create no anxiety. Nothing of diseased ulceration exists:



the applications are renewed, and every possible degree of pressure given. In placing the first layer of plaister-straps, care was taken that one strap should entirely cover the opaque patch, so that there should be no pressure of the edge of any plaister upon it. The patient suffers no pain.

*Saturday, 24.* Called at the House of Industry. No apparent discharge. The tumour easy.

*Sunday, 25.* Some discharge oozes at the upper edge. The breast quite easy.

*Dec. 26.* On the removal of the applications the discharge appeared about double in quantity since the last examination. Its quality and appearance that of the most bland and healthy pus. The line of separation between the opaque patch and the common integument had increased, and part of the former at one point had come away, leaving a most healthy and florid looking surface, without the smallest disposition to ulceration. The whole was perfectly defined.

The integument over the anterior surface of the tumour still looser, and more thickened in its structure; and the tumour itself, at the upper margin, even so far reduced and softened, as to have become elastic to the touch. The axillary cavity quite free, and the diseased

glands entirely dispersed, except one, which is soft, loosely floating, and diminishing. Cough less violent.

*Thursday, Dec. 29.* The tumour has been easy, and the patient's health, considering the season, her state of constitution, and time of life, better than could be expected. On the removal of the applications, the discharge still appeared to possess the same qualities as at the last dressing, but lessened in quantity. The patch diminished in size, somewhat brighter in colour, and where it had separated, a new formation of cuticle seems to be taking place. The tumour still becoming softer in parts, and diminishing at the edges. The applications and pressure continued.

*Jan. 1, 1815.*—The breast continues easy, the cough lessened in violence and frequency. All the applications removed, the discharge rather less, and of equally good consistency and character.

The ash-coloured patch equally defined round the edges, from the rest of the integument, and smaller in its surface.

The bulk of the tumour, now so much diminished and loosened, that, by the application of the straps, it was drawn more towards the centre of the chest, in order to get at the outer part near the shoulder, where pressure could

not formerly be so well applied, from its covered and confined situation, and there the tumour now remains the thickest in substance: the rest a superficial cake of inconsiderable thickness.

*Jan. 4, 1815.*—All the applications removed. A very small discharge of good purulent matter. The patch much the same as at the last observation: perfectly level, and the line of separation from the common cuticle extended on each side. The absorption at the upper and outer part of the tumour considerable. The applications and pressure continued.

*Saturday, Jan. 7, 1815.*—The appearance altogether very similar to the last report. The pressure, &c., continued.

*Jan. 11.*—Fresh applications made, and the pressure continued.

*Friday, Jan. 13, 1815.*—At the Barns, Mr. Whitbread, and Dr. Penrose present: and Mrs. B. All agreed that the tumour had very greatly diminished in size since the last general inspection. The opinion entertained was, that the tumour had decreased since the 16th of September last, at the least two thirds; approaching to three-fourths of its bulk.

This case, as will be seen by the perusal of the certificate of Dr. Penrose, appeared to possess the true characteristics of cancer; and

to afford a proper touchstone for the merits of the new mode of treatment. Certainly a case could not have been selected of more inveteracy or difficulty; or threatening more immediate mischief.

The cuticular patch at the centre had increased in a small degree during the last three weeks, taking a more circular form; though at the outward part it had healed. Just above this, another small or circular patch, or rather cuticular vesicle has been formed. This has taken place within the last five days. The small quantity of pus afforded from these abraded surfaces is of the most healthy kind. They have for their edges a very thickened cuticle, which apparently is quite distinct. Yet still a thinner cuticle, in connexion with it, would seem to cover these surfaces; as by wrinkling the common integument of the tumour, the surfaces of these patches also may be thrown into wrinkles. Dr. Penrose was of opinion with myself, that these were merely cuticular abrasions, putting on nothing of an ulcerative or malignant nature; and that nothing could form better pus than what was secreted by their surfaces. It was deemed expedient to pursue the pressure without intermission.

*Feb. 2, 1815.*—At the Barns, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Pulley, and others present.

The symptoms have passed on in such unvaried progression, since the last report, that it is only necessary to say, the applications have been renewed every third or fourth day; the discharge still continuing the same in quantity and quality. The cuticular abrasions no way extended, either in depth or surface.

Upon the tumour being exposed, Mr. Whitbread observed, that an obvious diminution had taken place since the 14th of January.

Mr. Pulley, who had not seen the part for about four months previous to September 16, 1814, during which time, (from May to September,) it appears, from the evidence of Mrs. Smith, the Matron of the House of Industry, as well as the observations of Wildman herself, and others, that its increase, both in size and diseased structure, had been most rapid, declared it to be greatly diminished, compared with its size, even in May last, before the period of its accelerated increase; and that its appearance was much improved, compared with that date also. On examining the axilla, one only enlarged, but freely floating gland was found. Mr. Pulley states them to have been many on his last examination. When Dr. Penrose and myself, made our first examination, in September, these glands were so far diseased as to present one hard immov-

able mass, which entirely filled up the axilla. Mr. Pulley said, that he had always considered it a most inveterate tumour; and that he was at any time ready to give a certificate to that effect.

Another lady present, who had not seen the tumour, since Oct. 15, 1814, was sensible of the very great alteration that had taken place; observing, that although so often assured of the very great diminution, and therefore prepared to see it much lessened, she did not expect to have seen it so surprisingly altered in all its circumstances.

*March 10.*—The plan of pressure has been regularly continued. The tumour much diminished and softened. The cuticular abrasions lessened, and the discharge so trifling, that the applications have been continued on for five or six days.

Considering the very shattered state of Anne Wildman's constitution, nothing could be going on better; when, about the 9th of February last, she went to a public house with her son, who had been just discharged from the militia, and there drank so freely, as greatly to aggravate the complaint of her chest, and to induce other febrile symptoms.

This very mortifying circumstance had nearly cost the patient her life on the spot. She

remains in a very debilitated state. The pressure, though continued, could not be made so great since the attack commenced. The tumour however is now nearly level. What remains of it, is so small, that if active measures could have been pursued, the removal of the whole would, no doubt, have been speedily accomplished.

*March 18.*—The patient remains in a weak state. The breast easy. Its diminution still continuing. Great part of the base entirely absorbed. The cuticular abrasions nearly skinned over; the discharge very trifling indeed. The inner side of the tumour which was formerly upwards of three inches thick, now not thicker than a crown piece; and what remains, so soft that the lower surface may be doubled up over the anterior surface. At this part a large circular indent has been made by absorption, which goes quite to the centre of what remains of the former tumour. The part which still retains any thickness is only perceptible by examination with the finger, where the base of the tumour is felt below the common surface of the chest.

*Saturday, March 25.*—The applications renewed, and the pressure continued. The patient still remains in a very debilitated state.

*April 5.*—The cutaneous abrasions having

very nearly skinned over, the applications were suffered to remain on for eleven days, on account of the patient's weakness. During the whole of this time, the discharge from the surface of the tumour amounted to no more than a mere moisture. On this day Mr. Pulley visited the patient with me, and declared his opinion, that the tumour was much lessened since his visit at the Barns, in February. He particularly noticed the flaccid skin about the angle of the axilla, which was formerly, as he remarked, only stretched out by the tumour. He thought that not more than one-third of the size, he had recollected in May, 1814, remained; compared with its size on the 16th of September last, it is certainly not one-fifth. The pressure continued.

*April 17.*—The tumour still very much reduced, and quite level with the skin. Retiring from it a few steps, no unevenness is perceptible. The woman in extreme debility. Fast approaching dissolution is marked by every circumstance of visceral disease, attended by water on the chest.

She can only lie on the right side; the arm of which has lately become enlarged: particularly at the under part, from the elbow to the arm-pit. This, let it be observed, is not the side affected by the cancer. The left arm



throughout has kept its natural size and appearance.

At the beginning of the month, five drops of tincture of foxglove were ordered twice a day; her legs becoming œdematous: but the woman could never be induced to follow any medical plan, so as to authorise a regular report. From the known state of her liver, a grain of calomel has been exhibited occasionally at bed-time.

Latterly, panada flavored by a small quantity of gin, has been her chief support. She has also been induced to take some toasted bread daily, with a little weak port-wine negus. It is but justice to say, that the duties of Mrs. Smith, the matron, as well as those of the attendant nurse, have been most zealously discharged. Nothing but a well regulated establishment could have enabled one to have brought this case up to the present period.

*Thursday, April 20.*—Called about eight o'clock in the evening. The woman still alive and quite sensible. She was lying on her right side. The breathing laborious. All expectoration had ceased for some hours. Small doses of tincture of squill and simple oxymel have been her occasional medicine of late. This being her night to take the calomel, she raised herself up in bed for the purpose without any

assistance. At this moment the pressure upon the tumour quite as firm as at any former period.

*April 21.*—Informed by the matron, that Anne Wildman died this morning, at seven o'clock. She expired in a state of half sleep; and in this state she had passed the whole of the previous night.

*April 23.*—The body was opened by Mr. Wooldrige this morning, in the presence of myself and two medical students. Messrs. Short and Pulley, surgeons to the Bedford Infirmary, were unfortunately prevented from attendance on this examination: the one by illness, and the other from pressing professional engagements, which took him from the town.

What remained of the tumour, was dissected from under the integument, and is preserved.

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*Certificate of Mr. Pulley, Surgeon, attendant on the Bedford House of Industry.*

ANNE WILDMAN first discovered a small knot, about her left breast, attended by some general enlargement, four years ago: she suffered two years to elapse before she requested me to examine it: she had no recollection of having ever received external injury. At the

time I first saw her, the disease had made considerable progress. I found the breast much enlarged; the gland was very hard, and irregular in its form; and at times she felt much pain. Several of the axillary glands were also enlarged and painful. I saw her occasionally from this period until June last, when the complaint had much advanced. The axillary glands had become larger; the breast had increased much in size in all directions; and one part of the scirrhus extended towards, and somewhat under the tendon of the pectoral muscle. The colour of the skin had become livid, and the veins tortuous; and very frequently she suffered greatly, either from a sensation of burning heat, or sharp, darting pain. From her own report, she went on getting rapidly worse till September, at which time she was placed under the care of Mr. Young, and under whose management she still continues. I visited her two days since, (April the 5th), with the above gentleman, and found the disease very much diminished. The size of the scirrhus of the breast, as observed by me in June last, was reduced full two thirds; the skin was improved in colour, and there was no appearance of tortuous veins; her pain was also considerably less, and the axillary

glands had not a quarter of their former bulk ; in fact, the integument about the axilla was hanging in a loose condition.

Mr. Young could not have had a fairer case for his mode of treatment, as a more decided instance of cancerous breast never existed ; but in justice to him, I must add, that he could scarcely have had a more unfortunate constitution for his operations, as the woman is 64 years of age, has been long addicted to habits of intemperance, and independent of her cancerous affection, has been very unhealthy for many years.

JOHN PULLEY, Surgeon.

*Bedford, April 7, 1815.*

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*Certificate of Dr. Penrose.*

APRIL, 22, 1815.

I saw Ann Wildman for the first time, in the month of September last, on the day she was put under the care of Mr. Young ; at that time, I felt, in the superior part of the left breast, a large incompressibly hard tumour, unequal in its figure. The skin of a dusky redness, with enlargements of the cutaneous veins, and at times she suffered very considerable pain in

the part; in short, the tumour appeared to me perfectly characteristic of cancer.

I have seen Anne Wildman several times since the month of September, and at each visit I observed a very considerable diminution of size in the tumour; when I last saw her, which was in the month of January, it was reduced more than half its former size, and the skin, instead of the irritable appearance it had when I first saw her, was returning to a more healthy state, and the disease generally gave very fair promise of a favourable termination.

JAS. PENROSE.

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BEDFORD, APRIL 23, 1815.

Morbid appearances found upon examination of the body of Anne Wildman, post mortem.

The right cavity of the chest filled with water. A morbid quantity of the fluid in the pericardium.

*Cavity of the Abdomen.*—The liver greatly enlarged in size, and diseased in structure, of extreme preternatural hardness, variously attached, by evidently long formed membranous adhesions.

Gall bladder much dilated, with a quantity of dark coloured bile; it contained a number of gall stones, one of which was impacted in

its duct. Spleen enlarged and morbidly hard. The right kidney of pulpy softness. A considerable quantity of water in the general cavity. What remained of the cancerous tumour on, or rather under, the integument of the left breast, was inconsiderable and of an elastic consistence.

SAMUEL YOUNG,  
T. WOOLDRIDGE.

I have examined a portion of the liver and its gall bladder, removed in the above instance for my inspection; and find it in all its circumstances morbidly changed, membranous adhesions attached, and several stones in the gall bladder.

CHARLES SHORT, Surgeon.

I have examined a portion of the liver and found it diseased.

JOHN PULLEY.

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*Extract from a letter from the Matron of the Bedford House of Industry to Mr. Whitbread, dated May 16, 1815.*

SIR,

The size of Wildman's cancer at the time of her death, I suppose to be about a fifth part of

what it was when Mr. Young first took it in hand. It evidently appeared, that Wildman's breast would have become ulcerated, in a very short time, had it not undergone Mr. Young's treatment, which had every appearance of cure, provided she had had a stronger constitution.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

S. SMITH.

**MRS. WOOD,**

Housekeeper to Mr. Halsey, of Gaddesden  
Park, Herts.

BETWEEN forty and fifty years of age, rather spare habit, bowels naturally costive, subject to bilious attacks. The functions of her whole system evidently irregular.

First visited the patient at Gaddesden, on Friday, Nov. 25, 1814. A statement of her case, given by the patient herself, in writing, accompanies this report.

The whole breast exhibits one entire fixed cancerous mass, most malignant in its character, immovable from the side, and of stony hardness. Its surface very unequal and knotty. The outward side much discoloured, with livid tuberculated protuberances. The nipple drawn in and curiously surrounded by several annular projections of diseased and impenetrably hard integument. These parts have exactly the look of circular veins of stones. Similar projections of diseased integument variously



scattered in lines about the breast, have a worn irregular surface. These, and the general polish of the breast, contrasted with the dead mouldering appearance of other parts, and intermixed with various discolorations, give to the whole so battered and decayed an appearance, that it looks more like a part of some sculptured ruin, than the breast of a living woman. The parts immediately over the pectoral tendon and close into the axilla, more prominent than the rest of the mass, and distended to bursting. The integument of this part has taken on the latest diseased alteration, and the whole is under a good deal of direct inflammatory action. This is the only part of the breast where such an action can be supported. All the rest is so morbidly changed, that ulceration can only take place by erysipelas and slough.

The axillary glands greatly diseased. For some way beneath, the side is studded with scirrhous knots. The integument above the breast, and up to the clavicle, is morbidly thickened, of a coarse altered structure, and great enlargement beneath.

The integument of the breast, generally speaking, is extremely thin, shining, and in close adhesion. Scattered about the whole

front of the chest, scirrhus knots may be felt, and on the outside of the left breast a triangular scirrhus is situated within two inches of the axilla. This is often extremely painful, and the arm of this side greatly affected.

**TREATMENT.** The breast well dusted with chalk powder. The plaister-straps applied, including a large space of the side and anterior part of the chest, besides the breast.

The roller applied, but with light pressure. From the immense tumefaction at the angle of the breast, by the axilla, very considerable doubts were entertained whether the applications could be borne. No hope whatever was held out. Indeed, where there was so much complicated and active disease going on, reasoning *à priori*, an aggravation of evils might fairly be dreaded. In this instance, however guided by experience, and not reasoning from mere opinion, the active state of the disease about the axilla was a cause for serious suspense and doubt. If the obstruction were such as not to enable the parts to carry off the increased action of the absorbents excited by the pressure on the breast, of course some disturbance might be expected. Here the experiment was to be tried, and the patient was watched, that the applications might be modified or wholly removed, should circumstances require it.

No pain whatever produced from the immediate pressure made. The Min. Sol. and T. of foxglove equal parts, fifteen drops given at bed-time.

*Saturday morning, Nov. 26.*—During the night bilious vomiting occurred; but this the patient described as by no means uncommon.

The breast had remained quite easy. What uneasiness had been experienced was in the other breast and the affected arm.

*Monday, Nov. 28.*—The breast has remained tolerably easy. No disturbance from taking the medicine, 15 drops noon and night. The general health thought to be improved.

TREATMENT. The roller being removed, the plaister-straps had remained so perfectly even and undisturbed, that they were not touched. The great distention at the axilla evidently diminished. The roller with linen compresses was again applied, but with considerably more pressure. From these applications no pain or uneasiness whatever of the diseased breast; but some aching about the shoulder of the other arm, where the roller passes.

The drops to be continued fifteen at noon, and twenty at bed-time.

*Saturday evening, Dec. 3.* At the Swan, Bedford.—The left shoulder, reported in the last, became more painful on the Monday afternoon,

and did not subside till the Tuesday. The diseased breast was very easy on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday a scalding pain at the nipple; and the Thursday night was greatly disturbed by an increase of pain at this part, with burning to an excessive degree. On Friday the pain subsided, and to-day the breast has been easy.

On the removal of the applications there was not even that moisture naturally to be expected on plaisters eight days applied. At the nipple the greatest degree of moisture existed; but nothing that could be called a discharge. The appearance at the upper part, if any thing, had improved; no part had changed for the worse; and one would think upon trial the diseased mass was not so fixed to the side. The striking alteration for the better is the subsiding of the protuberant part over the pectoral tendon, the integument of which has now become flaccid.

This circumstance has given so favourable an opening for the employment of active measures of a local nature, that the patient is to remain a day or two longer, to try the effect of increased pressure.

**TREATMENT.** The plaister-straps as before, including a considerable surface beside the breast, and the pressure increased in their

application. The nipple in this instance was left free, well dusted, or rather filled with chalk powder, and covered with gold-beater's skin. The linen compress increased, and two rollers applied with considerable firmness. They were so placed, that they gave general pressure to the breast side and shoulder of the other arm. No uneasiness arose in any one part. The drops continued, and the following pill at bed-time :

R. Ex. Hyoscyami gr ij. P. Ipecac. c. gr. ij. Calomel. ppt. gr. iss. ft. Pil.

*Sunday morning, Dec. 4.*—A good night has been passed. The breast easy, except at the nipple, which was painful about a quarter of an hour during the earlier part of the night. The pill has had some effect as a purgative this morning. The drops to be taken as before.

*In the evening.*—The breast has remained quite easy through the day. Some sensation felt in the left breast, but not amounting to any thing serious. The scirrhus of this breast is most evidently lessened and loosened. I was led to examine it by the patient's own desire, who first discovered the change. Her spirits and general health remarkably good. The

pill again to be taken at bed-time, and thirty of the drops three hours before.

*Dec. 5.*—The breast has remained easy, except the nipple. A good night. General health and spirits good. Evident confidence in the plan. Mrs. Wood observed, she could not have thought it possible to have borne such pressure on the breast, when she could not bear even the slightest touch of her clothes at times; obliged to go with her stays quite loose, and frequently without any.

The gold-beater's skin being removed, the nipple and the surrounding parts had changed from their stony to a softer state, yielding upon very slight pressure of the finger. After being well charged with chalk powder, these parts were included by plaister-straps, firmly applied. Two plates of sheet lead, comprehending the outward half of the breast and part of the side, were this day used. They did not extend over the nipple. Their application was closely and accurately secured by long commanding plaister-straps. Linen compresses were used to the whole breast and side; and two rollers, very firmly applied, giving great pressure, and comprehending the entire surface of the chest, as well as the breast and shoulder of the opposite side.

Thirty drops were taken at noon, and an

emetic mixture ordered in the evening. To be repeated every quarter of an hour, till strong and continued vomiting was induced. No night pill.

*Tuesday, Dec. 6.*—A good night has been passed, although the sickness continued for some length of time; so long as to prevent the drops being taken.—In the evening. No pain whatever experienced from the pressure of the lead-plates. The rollers removed to adjust the applications, and place some additional plai-ster-straps. These were applied with as much force as possible. Besides their application to the breast generally, they were placed particularly about the nipple and outward side, where the tuberculated fungi were shooting forth, and the skin the most diseased.

Fresh compresses and rollers were used, and very considerable force employed. From the great increase of pressure no pain or uneasiness of any kind experienced. Thirty of the drops at night, but no pill.

*Dec. 7.*—The patient returned early this morning to Gaddesden. The chamber-maid, who attended, heard no complaint whatever. Mrs. Wood had a good night, appeared in spirits, and seemed in all respects quite equal to her journey. A milk diet has been ordered. The drops to be continued. The emetic mix-

ture again during the week, and some calomel about Saturday night.

*Dec. 13.*—Informed by letter, that the patient had remained easy till Friday night. On Wednesday and Thursday so comfortable, as to put them all in great spirits. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, she had experienced considerable pain. In reply, urged the necessity of her returning to Bedford.

Saturday evening, eight o'clock, attended the patient at her lodgings, in Bedford. The violent pain had subsided, though still some heat about the nipple. The patient herself had removed the plaisters from the breast, and re-applied some of the freshest. On the removal of these, the whole breast afforded evident marks of general amendment. Many parts considerably less hardened. The nipple and its surrounding stone-like rims had become comparatively soft. The outward tuberculated and discoloured surface tolerably uniform, and improved in colour. The tubercles, at least the projecting masses, had disappeared, leaving a small ulceration of the cuticle within about an inch of the nipple. These parts at first threatened immediate sloughing and deeply extended ulceration.

**TREATMENT.** The applications renewed,



with increased pressure. Two plates were placed over the part where the tubercles formerly projected, including the nipple and its rims. The drops increased to eighty in the four-and-twenty hours.

*Sunday, Dec. 18.*—A bad night has been passed. The pain increased from the nipple to the outward side, where it became violent. Visited again in the evening. Took off the bandages, released the plates secured over the first layer of plaisters, and applied them between linen compresses over the same part, instead of applying them again by straps, and the whole breast very firmly rolled. The following night pills were ordered.

℞. Ex. Hyoscyami gr. iiss. Opii gr. ss. Pulv. Ant. gr. i. ft.  
Pil. cap. ij. h. s.

*Monday, Dec. 19.*—A good night has been procured. Four pills were taken. Nausea and head-ach is complained of. The breast easy. The drops not to be taken till night, unless the stomach should become more settled.

*Dec. 20.*—A good night. No pill was taken: breast easy. The drops increased to ninety in the day.

*Dec. 21.*—A good night. Breast easy: except some sensation about the nipple.

All the applications removed. The whole surface of the breast much improved. Somewhat of motion in the mass upon being pressed from side to side. The parts over the pectoral tendon still more flaccid. The diseased lumps down the side considerably better. The cutaneous ulcer less. The parts about the nipple more moveable: and the nipple itself can be separated from the sides, wherein formerly it was closely compacted.

**TREATMENT.**—The plaister-straps were applied; and repeated layer over layer. Increase of linen-compress employed, and the whole bandaged with the greatest force. No plates in this instance were used; but an additional roller: and the whole surface of the chest, sides, and shoulders, was included under one general pressure.

*Thursday, Dec. 22.*—A good night. All the parts have remained easy. The drops continued. No night pills since Sunday.

*Dec. 23.*—At night some uneasiness about the left shoulder, where the rollers pass high upon the neck. Some irritation of the stomach. Skin cool. No symptoms of fever whatever. Bowels free. No irritation upon taking the

drops, which have been to the amount of one hundred and ten drops in the day. The foot-bath to be used.

*Saturday, Dec. 24.*—The irritation subsided. A tolerably composed night. Took off one of the rollers, and applied a fresh one, which gave an increase of pressure to the breast. Two doses of thirty drops each to be taken; but instead of the night dose of fifty, one of the following alteratives.

℞. Pulv. fol. Digitalis Calomel. ppt. a. a: gr. xii. Pulv. Ant. gr. viii. Conf. Opiat. q. s. ft. Pil. N. xii.

*Sunday, Dec. 25.*—A good night. The breast easy. The drops and alterative pills as yesterday.

*Monday, Dec. 26.*—A good night. Alterative pill repeated.

*Tuesday, Dec. 27.*—No drops. Alterative pill repeated.

*Wednesday, Dec. 28.*—General health very much improved. Spirits good. The breast, except an occasional burning sensation, has remained easy since Monday week. No night pill or opiate exhibited. At night all the applications removed. A considerable discharge of a black slimy fluid from the nipple. The parts around very much softened. The ulceration at the outward and lower side

healed. The whole breast, in its rocky attachment to the side, evidently lessened. Its shape more defined. The diseased integument of the side greatly improved, as well as that of the chest; and the parts over the pectoral tendon almost in a natural state. Health and appetite good. Forty of the drops at bed-time. The local applications were renewed, and a shield to the outer and lower side of the breast applied, consisting of three plates; the whole, with linen-compresses, very firmly bandaged.

*Dec.* 29, 30, and 31.—The breast has remained perfectly easy. The discharge felt at the nipple; but no sensation of burning.

*Jan.* 1, 1815.—The breast easy: health good: looks and spirits improved. No periodical appearance.

**TREATMENT.**—All the applications removed. The quantity of slimy discharge from the nipple not near so great as before. The parts around much softened. The whole mass evidently lessened, and its motion rather more distinct from side to side. The integument of the side and chest very much cleared. The cuticle at the outside of the breast, which formerly covered the projecting tubercles, slightly excoriated, but no ulceration.

The stony projecting rims much softened,

and partly obliterated: similar ridges, which rose above the surface at different parts of the breast, are quite dispersed.

TREATMENT.—The local applications continued, and pressure plates used on each side the breast, leaving the nipple free. By the addition of linen compresses, and the use of the three rollers, extreme pressure was given.

No inconvenience experienced. No periodical appearance. The left breast and arm have remained quite easy for some time.

The patient returned to Gaddesden Park the next day, with directions to continue upon the same plan during the week for which she is to be absent.

Here then, during this plan of treatment, through the last fortnight, under continued and increased pressure, the breast has remained free from pain, with the exception of occasional burning sensations at the nipple, which sometimes have extended in a slight degree to the outer side; but the continuance of these symptoms has been of very short duration. Rest has uniformly been obtained without the assistance of any opiate; and the health improved, although under the deranged state of a most important function.

These circumstances alone sufficiently manifest the advantages obtained in this case, which

but a short time since was reckoned desperate. Four or five successive nights had been before passed by the patient in continued paroxysms of pain, whilst she paced her chamber, sat by the fire, or threw herself upon the bed, vainly seeking relief by variety of position.

*Saturday, Jan. 7.*—The patient returned to Bedford. Attended her at night. Mrs. Wood, on her arrival at Gaddesden, had been seized with catarrhal symptoms, attended with swelling of the feet and ancles: these symptoms have subsided excepting in one of the ancles.

All the applications removed. The breast has continued easy during the last week. The discharge, compared with the last, very inconsiderable; flowing from the external side of the breast, and not from the nipple as before. There is a small point where the skin has given way in two places; but there is no ulceration which could furnish this discharge; and it appears like a vitiated perspiration from the surface of the breast.

There is one protuberant discoloured scirrhous mass at the upper part of the arm by the angle of the breast, apparently very ill-conditioned. But the rest of the breast being diminished, may render this particular part more conspicuous.

No periodical appearance. The general

health good. The drops to be discontinued, and the alterative pill taken at bed-time. The local application, besides that of the plaister-straps, consisted of large plates on each side of the breast, producing great compression.

*Sunday, Jan. 8.*—No inconvenience has arisen from the applications of last night. A general puffy appearance of the countenance, especially about the eyes. Two drachms of sulphate of magnesia largely diluted in water, and an eighth part of the following were ordered to be taken twice a day.

℞ Tinct. Hellebori pmenthæ sat ℥vij. Sp. Ammon. c. ℥ss.  
T. Digitalis ℥i. Sp. Camphoræ ℥ss. Aquæ Menthæ Sat.  
℥iiss. M.

The alterative pills at bed-time.

*Jan. 9, 10, 11.*—The above plan has been followed. The symptoms before described all have subsided, and the breast has remained easy.

*Thursday, Jan. 12.*—All the applications removed. The general appearance of the breast very considerably improved. The cuticular ulcerations healed. No discharge. Simply a moisture easily to be accounted for, from such a surface, after five days passed without the removal of the bandages, &c. Applications to the breast were made; but the pressure plates discontinued. Additional plaister-straps and

linen compresses used in their place, and the rolling made with considerable force. The drops again ordered, commencing with twenty twice in the day. The alterative pill every other night. Health apparently good.

*Jan. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.*—The plan has been pursued, increasing the drops by five at a time to thirty-five in each dose. Breast easy.

*Wednesday, Jan. 18.*—All the applications removed. The breast certainly diminished. No discharge. All the skin of the breast, though still in a diseased state, quite perfect, not a point broken. To the outer part in particular, very extraordinary pressure has been given, and here great change and improvement have been effected. The tuberculated knobs can now no longer be traced.

*Jan. 20, to Friday 27.*—The usual plan has been pursued, and the rollers occasionally adjusted and tightened to keep up the pressure. The breast has remained perfectly easy. On the removal of the plaister-straps, some discharge had taken place, and a small surface of the inward and lower part of the breast extremely tender, and at points slightly abraded. The breast generally and progressively improving.

Mrs. Wood observed, that the outer side appeared better than the inner part of the breast. A striking proof of the real improvement



that has taken place in this part, formerly affected with so much malignant and complicated disease.

Pressure was renewed with the use of tin plates, and every degree of strength used in the application of the rollers. The remark of the patient is, that she does not feel comfortable without the pressure is very great. The medical plans continued. No night opiate used.

*Tuesday, Jan. 31.*—During the interval the breast has been easy. The general plan pursued. The nights good, and the health improving.

On the removal of the plaisters the breast presented an evident state of progressive improvement. The surrounding parts on the side from the breast to the axilla, and those over the chest, were rapidly losing their hardened glands, and the whole of these surfaces putting on a more natural appearance. The breast itself looser in its attachment to the side. The part over the pectoral tendon more flaccid, and the tendon and abraded parts, as noticed in the last, healed, and the cuticle putting on a more healthy look. No discharge.

The local applications renewed with increased pressure, aided by an additional tin-plate. The general remedies to be pursued as usual.

*Sunday, Feb. 5.*—Mrs. Wood returning to Gaddesden to-morrow, for a few days, the local applications were changed, and renewed. Very evident amendment in the breast. Yesterday Mr. Whitbread conversed with her at the door of the Swan Inn, to whom she gave a very favourable report.

At that time Mrs. Wood observed, that she had not enjoyed so good a state of health for years, as since she had been placed under the present treatment. I particularly drew Mr. Whitbread's attention to this observation, it having been made to another person whilst he was getting upon his horse.

*Tuesday, Feb. 14.*—Mrs. Wood returned to Bedford. For the last two days, the breast had been somewhat uneasy. The applications had remained undisturbed for nine days.

It is very unfortunate that Mrs. Wood should have experienced a second catarrhal attack, attended by considerable œdematous swellings of the feet and ancles, instantly upon her return to Gaddesden.

There has been no periodical appearance whatever; and yet, under all these aggravating circumstances, the breast continues to make progress towards cure. The medicine of hellebore and digitalis was again ordered, and an alkaline purgative with jalap, rhubarb,

and soda; to be taken every other morning, and repeated intermediately if necessary.

*Feb. 15, 16, and 17.*—The breast easy; but painful sensation of the left shoulder, arm, and side.

*Feb. 18.*—Troubled with a violent cough: twelve of the following drops to be taken occasionally.

T. Digitalis ʒij.—Opii.—Hyoscyami a. a. ʒi. M.

*Feb. 19, 20.*—The cough relieved. To day all the applications removed, the breast evidently diminished, and in all respects looking better. The alterative pill to be taken every other night.

*Saturday, Feb. 25.*—The bowels difficult to be kept open, though aperient medicines have been constantly used. The health however seems again mending.

The local applications removed. The breast was painful through the day after the last applications were made; partial and very great pressure in that instance was made upon the external side. This part, as well as the whole of the breast evidently improved. Its motion from side to side now very considerable. The nipple becoming natural, the stony projecting rims have sunk into irregular soft folds, or deep cracks; which, however, from the

great remaining hardness of the breast, are closely compacted round the nipple.

The pressure was still continued on the same principle, but extended by a concave shield.

The pressure carried as far as the applications could be made, so as to produce considerable burning pain.

*Monday, March 6.*—Though the pain of the breast was considerable for the first day, it had gradually subsided, and the last three days it had been perfectly easy. Upon the removal of the plaisters, the breast still presented the appearance of amendment. The local applications still continued, with the greatest degree of pressure. Some burning pain produced.

For the last four days the tinct. hellebore, &c. has been laid aside. The warm foot-bath has been constantly used, and an alterative pill taken at bed-time.

*March 7 and 11.*—The breast tolerably easy. The alterative pill has been taken the three last nights. The bowels kept actively open.

*March 13.*—The applications removed. The breast continues to improve. The same plan pursued.

*March 20.*—The breast so far reduced, as to

require an entire change of the pressure plates. The surface losing its dark and discoloured appearance, and the cuticle becoming more natural.

By the arrangement of the new plates, with the addition of linen compresses, very extraordinary pressure given. No uneasiness whatever produced. No periodical appearance, and the general health a good deal deranged.

*Saturday, March 25.*—In this interval, powders of rhubarb and soda, four grains each, have been given twice a day; also the alterative pills at night, with the alkaline purgative in the day-time. The mouth slightly affected.

*Wednesday, March 29.*—A good deal under the influence of the catarrhal attack, now prevalent in the town of Bedford and its neighbourhood. The motion of the breast much freer; its size greatly reduced. In many parts, the cuticle is in a peeling state, and almost of a natural colour. The nipple and the surrounding parts still losing their diseased condition, and the upper margin of the breast, which formerly was one solid scirrhus mass, is so far reduced, as to present a thin elastic shell to the touch, which freely gives upon pressure. The highly discoloured and malignant knobules, which formerly studded the breast, are now removed;

and the breast presents one tolerably uniform surface, variously tinted however as to colour, as well as of various degrees of hardness.

The local applications continued. The pressure as great as possible.

*Thursday at night, March 30.*—The general indisposition continues, though not so violent.

℞. P. Jalapii ʒ iij. Crem. Tart. ʒ i. Zingiberis ʒ i. fol. Digitalis gr. xx. (tere bene simul) Tinct. Scillæ ʒ ij. Elect. Sennæ ʒ ij M. ft. Elect. Cochl. i. Min. bis quotidie.

*Monday, April 3.*—Intermediately the alterative pill has been taken, but the electuary not persevered in, on account of sickness of the stomach, which the patient attributed to the electuary, instead of its true cause, viz. visceral disease.

From the long periodical obstruction, the stomach and liver are greatly deranged. The latter, I suspect, to be deeply affected. Through life its functions have been very imperfect, producing what are termed bilious attacks. This impaired state of the liver has been attended to throughout the treatment. Latterly its obstructed and diseased state has been more strongly indicated. Great tension of the body, at times swellings at the ancles, green vomitings, and a confined state of bowels have

existed. The local applications renewed, and great pressure continued. Alterative pill at night, and the former aperient medicines. Particularly requested to keep the bowels actively open.

*Tuesday, April 4.*—The patient feels herself better to-day.

*April 5.*—The patient set out on her return to Gaddesden to-day in tolerably good spirits, and feeling herself better.

*Wednesday, April 12.*—Visited the patient at Gaddesden, in consequence of a letter from Mrs. Halsey. Her health represented to have grown rapidly worse since she last left Bedford. The stomach greatly enlarged, quite hard, and in extreme pain. Amidst all these complaints, however, the breast is allowed to be much diminished, and the local disease better.

About the region of the liver and stomach there was great enlargement. She had suffered her bowels to be confined, although strongly enjoined to the contrary. The colour of the stools like white coal ashes. The alterative pill had been suspended till my arrival. Five grains of calomel and one of digitalis were immediately given in a pill, and repeated in three hours. The local applications were removed, and the

improvement so great, that Mrs. Halsey was requested to see the breast. The applications renewed and the pressure continued.

*Thursday morning, half past 5 o'clock.*—The patient has passed a bad night. Much pain and some vomitings. The purgative medicines had not operated. If the bowels did not quickly operate, clysters to be given. The alterative pill to be taken every night, and the bowels to be kept open under all circumstances. The following prescription to be rubbed into the side every night.

R̄. Ung. Hydrargyri fort. 3 ss. Camphoræ gr. v. M.

The hip warm bath to be used, and twenty-four leeches to be applied on the region of the stomach, if the pain should increase, or great soreness ensue: saline medicines, soda water, &c.

*Saturday, April 15.*—Informed by letter from Mrs. Wood,\* that her complaint still remained unabated. In reply, requested the plan I had laid down to be strictly attended to, and also to be more accurately informed upon some leading facts; such as the state of the bowels, &c.

*April 22.*—Informed by letter from Mr.

\* Mrs. Wood wrote herself.



Somers, the medical gentleman who attends at Gaddesden, that the patient is in a very weak state. The bowels relaxed, and the stools of a dark colour and very thin; 2d, the quantity and quality of the urine still spare and foul; 3d, the enlargement about the stomach still the same, but more painful on the 19th, and most excruciating pains every night, particularly about the loins. The mercurial ointment had been used, and the alterative pill taken every night, with the purgative powders. The saline draught, in an effervescing state, produced pain and distention, and could not be borne. The common saline, with some syrup of poppies and nitrous ether, was given, which seemed to agree tolerably well.

In reply, requested prompt and vigorous measures to be used. Two dozen leeches round the loins and bottom of the belly, and immediately on their falling off, the warm hip-bath to be used and the bleeding encouraged. To increase the mercurial friction to one drachm of the ointment; to adopt the use of opening clysters; to persevere in the use of the hip-bath every night; to continue mercurial medicines, either the blue pill or calomel, and digitalis, if the stomach would bear it, and the application of a blister about the epigastrick; but to leave space sufficient for the use of the ointment.

Mrs. Wood expired at Gaddesden Park on the 11th of May, 1815.

Internal mortification had taken place to such an extent before her death, that an examination of the body was found impracticable.

*The particulars of the case of Mrs. Wood,  
as stated by herself.*

The first symptom of an unpleasant nature was by the discovery of a lump, nearly the size of a small walnut, on the side of the right breast, rather inclining towards the arm; it then occasioned no particular pain, and might not have been so soon discovered, but for an unpleasant sensation of a kind of soreness on lying down on that side. It continued in that state for about two years, (or it might have been longer), without any material alteration; when, on going to London, I was advised to apply to a surgeon, and Mr. Heaviside was fixed on. He then, on examining it, made very light of it; observing, that though there was a lump which ought not to be, he did not apprehend any thing of a serious nature might ever occur from it; but if it should, not for some years to come. It is now two years and a few months since I had that interview with him, and therefore I imagine it may be about

four years since the first discovery of the lump. He recommended the frequent use of leeches, which were occasionally applied.

About six months after, I found a very unpleasant pain in my arm, on the same side; and as it continued for some weeks, I was then advised to apply to Mr. Ashley Cooper, who ordered a plaister, which was on leather, to be worn on the breast, and quite under the arm. As at that time there seemed to be some smaller lumps settled there, which at times I found troublesome. No material alteration at that time had taken place with respect to the size of the lump on the breast. The pain in the arm soon got better, and after a fresh plaister or two of the same kind, I found the nipple quite drawn in, flatter than it now is, and the lump, which was before loose and distinctly felt, could scarcely be discovered, as the breast had got all over large and hard, but still not particularly painful, having only darting pains at times. Such was its state till within the last six months; and not till within the last month that it became so violently painful as to prevent my rest at night, many of which I passed nearly without sleep, being tormented with a burning, gnawing, shooting pain through the whole breast; but no part

more painful and inflamed than round the nipple.

When I was about the age of twelve, I recollect having had a gathering in the same breast, which broke, and discharged; but never recollect having had a blow or hurt since, that could have caused its present distressing state, and am inclined to think it came in a natural way, as the other side does not seem quite free from the same complaint, and, in short, at this time is more subject to pain than the right side was, for three years after the lump was first discovered.

This statement was given to me in writing by Mrs. Wood, at Gaddesden Park, Nov. 25, 1814.

S. YOUNG.

## ELIZABETH BAR,

AGED 28, married woman, has had children, resident at Henlow, Bedfordshire. Applied first at Southill, Oct. 1, 1814. Scirrhus of the left breast, situated at the outer side, within an inch of the nipple, some of the diseased parts extending under it. The scirrhus is of an irregular triangular form, about the size and thickness of a common chesnut in the centre, but unequal in thickness at its margin, and of a knotty surface. Standing about six years. Supposed by her to have originated from cold, and the pressure of stays whilst suckling. The left arm much affected with pain and numbness, and supposed to be increased at times in size. A broad surface of altered structure, hard to the touch, exists from the tumour up to the axilla, where it is imperceptibly lost. Midway is situated a little scirrhus knot, very hard, unequal, and sharply pointed.

**GENERAL TREATMENT.** Emetic alternate nights. Alterative pill at bed-time.

**LOCAL TREATMENT.** Moderate pressure

with plaister-straps, one course of sheet lead, and the roller.

*Oct. 4.*—The patient complains this morning of somewhat increased pain in the scirrhus, more in degree than she had experienced a fortnight before the applications were made.

**LOCAL TREATMENT.** The pressure considerably augmented, without any aggravation of pain. After remaining some time, in order that the effect of the increased pressure might be known, the pain gradually subsided, and there remained no uneasiness whatever in the part.

The general appearance of the countenance was more clear and healthy than on Saturday last. On that day an alteration of her health came on, which had not appeared for six weeks before. This circumstance probably occasioned the increased uneasiness of the breast. The use of the emetics and the alterative pills to be continued.

*Saturday, Oct. 8.*—The scirrhus for the last four days has been much easier than for the same period of time before the applications were made at all. The tumour would appear to be somewhat looser. The pressure increased by additional plates.

Tinct. Digitalis et solut. Mineral partes equales. M<sup>c</sup>. G<sup>t</sup> xv.  
bis quotidie.

*Thursday, Oct. 13.*—The scirrhus has remained easy for the most part since the last. Some degree of sensation, however, came on last night. The pressure-plates, as well as all the other applications, had become quite loose.

A great degree of difficulty has all along attended the application of the pressure in this case. From the situation of the scirrhus, and the great flaccidity of the breast, especially since the tumour has become more loosened, much nicety is required to fix the scirrhus accurately, and when fixed, to obtain an equal surface of resistance beneath, to answer the pressure of the external plates.

On this day's examination the scirrhus certainly much looser, apparently under progressive change, not having those asperities or points which formerly projected. It is not only softened, but lessened in bulk.

In the local treatment the pressure-plates considerably increased, and further supported and secured by additional compresses and tight rolling. The same medical treatment to be pursued.

*Oct. 20 to Oct. 27.*—Up to this day the applications have been variously augmented, and now the pressure-plates form a solid mass, half an inch in thickness, and about four inches

square. The applications during the last fortnight have still required many adjustments, and the roller in particular has been frequently re-applied, with all possible pressure. It is well worthy of notice, that the tumour has always become more or less uneasy whenever the applications have become slack; and such uneasiness has always been relieved the moment the applications have been re-adjusted, even when the degree of pressure has been the greatest. This particularly happened between the 13th and the 20th, when the roller was twice re-applied.

On Tuesday, the 25th, the applications again began to slacken; and on that night and part of the Wednesday, the scirrhus became uneasy.

To-day, *i. e.* the 27th, the applications have been made with the greatest care, so as to effect the most accurate and strongest pressure. Before the applications were renewed, a very minute examination was made; and it was found, upon pressing the ends of the fore and middle finger upon the scirrhus, that the motion of the heart must materially have affected the part throughout. Its pulsations were distinctly felt moving or pushing the tumour against the fingers, pressing upon its surface. And this, in all probability, has been a parti-



cular cause of that uneasiness experienced upon the slackening of the bandages.

It may be observed, however, as generally applicable to this practice, that the pressure has always relieved pain; and that when uneasiness or pain come on, whether it be in a deeply seated scirrhus, or in one projecting, the uneasiness has always been experienced at the time when the pressure has been diminished or wholly suspended.

The scirrhus up to this time has progressively changed, from a triangular, hard, knotty, irregular mass, to a smooth globular tumour, much softened in consistency, and considerably lessened in bulk. This is evident to the patient herself, who described to Mr. Whitbread the change it had undergone, comparing one of the hard angles it had lost, to a carved point on the rail of a chair-back which was in the room.

*Nov. 3. At the Barns.*—The woman in good spirits; states her health to be improved. The applications have remained on very well. From Saturday night to Tuesday last, the breast was in some pain. From that time to the present, perfectly easy. On Saturday her health again changed. The tumour evidently diminished, becoming softer to the touch, and in shape almost round.

The plan continued.

*Nov. 10.* At the Barns.—The weather being severe at her last visit, the patient had taken cold on her journey home. Fever and sore throat had been the consequence. The breast remained undisturbed. No pain. The last two days the application became somewhat slack, and a degree of uneasiness in the part has been experienced. All the thickened diseased parts about the nipple, formerly connected with the tumour, perfectly free and healthy. The scirrhus itself becomes gradually softer and less. The general treatment has been pretty constantly adhered to, excepting the disuse of emetics for the last fortnight. The local treatment pursued, with the same degree of pressure. No pain or inconvenience experienced upon the re-application of the pressure, which, as usual, was made with the greatest firmness.

*Nov. 17.*—The tumour so much diminished, and the general state of the breast so much improved, that the specific pressure was laid aside, and only the plaister-straps, linen compresses, and roller used.

*Nov. 24.* At the Barns.—Some pain has been experienced in the last two days. The thick lead plates were again used, and ap-

plied accurately to the part. The pressure produced was as great as could be effected. The pain upon this treatment immediately ceased.

*Dec. 1.* At the Barns.—The breast has been free from uneasiness for these three last days, The remains of the tumour could scarcely be discerned by the patient herself.

**TREATMENT.** The plates were again laid aside, and general pressure substituted by a large single sheet of tea-lead, comprehending the external side of the breast, firmly bound down.

*Dec. 8.*—The woman has been quite free from pain the whole of the week. The tumour more distinct than last week, and all the parts in connexion remarkably brought out and defined in their structure. The small gland midway between the scirrhus and the axilla very evident, which has for weeks been entirely imperceptible. But though quite distinct, it has none of its former angular hardness. Indeed all the glandular structure of the breast seems a good deal harsher, and more perceptible. Mr. Pulley, who was in professional attendance at the Barns, examined the breast, and observed that there was still evidence sufficient of what the case had been; a case where the

knife could not have been used with any prospect of advantage.

The local applications of to-day consisted only of long plaister-straps, linen compress, and the roller.

The general structure of the breast improved to the touch, more uniform, although knotty and irritable at points. The original scirrhus at the nipple apparently obliterated. Very considerable motion has been given to the breast, by the use of the arm in washing for the family this week, and the applications in consequence quite loosened.

**TREATMENT.** Some firmer pressure was given to the external side of the breast than in the last applications. From the usual symptom, there is great probability that the patient may be breeding. No medicine ordered.

*Dec. 22.*—The woman has been obliged to use her arms freely in attendance upon her sick mother. The applications were all loose. Although the parts are somewhat thickened, yet there is nothing of distinct tumour remaining; nothing even to be compared to its state on Dec. 8. Still there is more irritation about the breast generally, which is evidently enlarged.

There is now little doubt of the woman's situation,

All pressure-plates laid aside, and the breast only encompassed by long straps, linen compresses, and firm rolling. The woman was informed she need not attend till that day fortnight, without the breast became painful.

*Jan. 13.* At the Barns.—Dr. Penrose present. The breast has remained very easy.

On Thursday, the 5th. of January, the plaster-straps were removed, and the part lightly rolled. To-day it is so very evident the woman is breeding, that all treatment has been laid aside. Upon very attentive examination, we cannot detect any sort of difference in the structure of the two breasts. The structure of both breasts generally has become more thickened, and there is now no more to be felt in the left breast, where the scirrhus was, than at the same part of the right breast. In both there is a general knotty feel, but nothing like distinct induration.

Formerly, the patient says, when in this situation, the scirrhus became very much enlarged, and extremely painful. None of these circumstances now exist.

*April 27.*—I have not received any communication from the woman. If the breast became painful, she was to inform me. Several messages have been sent to me about her cousin, for whom I have prescribed for another disease;

but Elizabeth Bar herself has never sent the smallest complaint about her breast. She must now be within four months of her time. And here the case rests.

## ELIZABETH THOMAS,

Widow, of the parish of Blunham, recommended by the Rev. Mr. Beachcroft,

AGED 46. Has had children. Constitution changed eleven years ago. Spare miserable habit, and premature old age so marked in her countenance, that she has the appearance of a woman of seventy and upwards. The functions of the kidneys irregular, and the urine foul; troubled with flatulent stomach complaints; bowels costive, and at times painful.

Applied first Sept. 26, 1814, for a cancerous ulcer of the nipple and areola of the right breast. The sore circular, and about three inches in diameter. Standing two years. First commenced with pain, hardness, and running at the nipple. The discharge thin, ichorous, and profuse, requiring changes of linen twice a day. The ulcer morbidly irritable; much aggravated upon exposure to air, and always in pain. A scirrhous knob, pointing obliquely upwards, was first discovered about seven months ago, which has progressively increased.

Is now of an irregular triangular shape, hard, knotty, and most exquisitely painful to the touch. The axillary glands greatly enlarged, are now one fixed mass, which nearly fills up the natural cavity of the parts. This also is extremely painful to the touch. Indeed the whole surface of the breast, from the sore to the axilla, and reaching some way down the side, is so sensitive, as to render the most cautious and tender examination almost insupportable to the patient.

For the last twelvemonths she has been in constant pain, and her nights almost without sleep.

**TREATMENT.** Local applications. The plaster-straps, including a considerable surface beside the ulcer and the scirrhus, firmly applied. The ulcer thickly dusted with chalk powder previous to the application of the straps. Several folds of linen compress, over which the six-yard roller, with strong and uniform compression.

Some calomel was ordered to be taken at bed-time, and afterwards the min. solution and tinct. of foxglove, equal parts, fifteen drops twice a day.

No inconvenience or additional pain experienced from the local applications.

*Thursday, Sept. 29. At Bedford. Mr. Whit-*



bread present.—The pain of the ulcer entirely relieved. Neither the scirrhus nor the axillary glands very sensible, even when freely handled. The latter, however, the most so.

**TREATMENT.** The local applications the same, but made with an increase of pressure.

The drops as before.

*Oct. 3.* At Southill. Mr. Whitbread, and Mr. Macgrath, of Biggleswade, surgeon, present.—The woman complains greatly of the axillary glands; supposed to arise from an uneven fold of the roller in the last application. The ulcer evidently improved. The scirrhus bore the necessary handling, and as well as the ulcer, was free from all pain.

**TREATMENT.** The local applications as before, made with the strongest pressure. In the application of the roller, the turn under the right shoulder was avoided.

The woman was desired to remain, and provision was made for her, at the Southill Poor-House, that the case might be better attended to, under any aggravation of symptoms.

*Oct. 4.*—The pain complained of in the last report has quite subsided, and therefore would seem to have arisen from the accidental application of the roller, as conjectured.

It is to be observed as an invariable rule in this mode of treatment, that all the applica-

tions, whether of plaister-straps, linen compresses, or plates, as well as the rollers, should be made with such care and nicety, as to render the pressure quite uniform.

**TREATMENT.** The applications remaining perfectly tight and unmoved, nothing was done.

*Oct. 6.*—Complains of pain, particularly at the centre of the sore. On the re-application of the plaister-straps, a plate of sheet lead was fixed, the size of the sore, and immediately to press upon it, the linen compresses increased several folds, and the roller applied as firmly as possible, giving particular pressure to the ulcer.

*Oct. 7.*—The pain complained of yesterday quite subsided, and the breast and surrounding parts perfectly easy.

*Oct. 9.*—Complains yesterday and to-day of pain in the stomach and bowels. Particularly questioned if increased after taking the drops. On the contrary, she said, that she felt comforted by them. Since last night the pain at the centre of the sore has been considerable; but the appearance of the ulcer is improved.

**LOCAL TREATMENT.**—The pressure increased by additional plates over the ulcer; and plates also have, for the first time, been secured over the scirrhus. The linen compresses still increased in thickness, and the whole bandaged down as firmly as possible.

After these applications the pain entirely subsided, and the whole breast perfectly easy.

*Oct. 13.* At Bedford.—Since the last applications, no pain whatever of the breast. The ulcer not so painful upon exposure to the air, and immediately relieved upon fresh applications being made.

It is to be observed, that the discharge from the ulcer has progressively improved since the application of the pressure commenced. The matter now formed is of a fair character, and in quantity not one quarter so much in four days, the time since the last applications were made, as formerly in one.

The pressure augmented, and the drops increased to twenty at bed-time and fifteen morning and noon. The woman's general health certainly improved. The spirits and appetite better, and the stomach greatly relieved. The scirrhus would appear to be somewhat lessened, and not so hard to the touch.

*Monday, Oct. 17.*—No pain under the axilla, even upon pressure. No pain whatever of the sore or scirrhus. The ulcer now can bear the action of the air, and shews little sensibility even to the touch. The centre more florid, the appearance altogether healthier, and the sore itself very much diminished. From a circle it

has changed to a triangle, in consequence of the healing in particular of the lower and outer edge. The axillary glands diminished. The scirrhus to all appearance much the same as on the last examination.

It was omitted to be noted, that an issue was made in the right arm the first week of the treatment. One had been previously made in the left, by the woman herself.

The local treatment pursued.

On Saturday the woman was attacked by violent pains of the stomach. Not increased, but not relieved upon taking the drops. Some difficulty of breathing also attended. The urine diminished since Saturday to not more than half a pint in the twenty-four hours. Skin healthy. Pulse 84, and natural. Tongue clean and moist; if any thing, florid.

The former medicine discontinued, and the following ordered :

R̄. T. Digitalis—Scillæ a. a. ʒ iss. Sp. Ammon. fœtid.  
ʒ iij. M<sup>c</sup>. G<sup>t</sup>. xl. bis quotidie.

and a grain of calomel at bed-time every night.

N. B. The woman, it is to be observed, is so far recovered from Saturday's attack, as to have been able to walk to Bedford, upwards of six miles from her home.

*Friday, October 21. At the Barns.—Greatly*

relieved from the pains complained of in the last report. Urine increased, and the general health so much improved, that the woman states herself to have been better the last four days than for the half year preceding. No pain whatever of the breast. The appearances of the sore much improved. The formation of new skin going on. The patient herself considers one-half of the sore to have healed.

No pain now of the sore, either when exposed to the air, or touched by lint. The scirrhus certainly lessened, and softer to the touch. The axillary glands can bear free handling.

LOCAL TREATMENT.—The pressure-plates increased, both to the scirrhus and ulcer, and all possible compression given in the application of the roller.

*Tuesday, Oct. 25.*—Attended the patient at her own habitation, and her answer “quite comfortable” to my inquiry how she did, sufficiently evinces the great change and hitherto marked success of a practice, which has converted a mass of diseased and painful action into a progressive course of healthy functions: affording to the woman ease by day, and comparatively good nights. Her general constitution in rather a less wretched state. In short, enabling one to pass day after day in comfort,

who had dragged on a suffering existence for twelve months, without even the respite of an hour from pain.

The ulcer generally improved in its appearance, and healing round the edges. The discharge, which is now good, fair pus, so much diminished as not to be a fifth of what formerly was produced in the space of twelve hours. The scirrhus appears much the same as at the last visit. The Urine healthy, both in quality and quantity. The pressure re-applied. No pain in consequence.

In the centre of the sore, where the nipple once was, a considerable fungus has shot up since the last applications. To resist this, a compress of solid lint was made between the two first plates, and so placed as to press directly upon the part.

*Thursday, Oct. 27.* At the Barns. Mr. Whitbread present.—The woman has passed the last two days in comfort. On the removal of the applications, the discharge considerably larger than usual, but of good quality. The fungus, noted in the last, now nearly reduced. The sore healthy, and still keeping up its healing character. The cuticle that has formed, getting into a more firm thickened state, and the new-formed skin more continuous.

The local treatment as usual, with increased pressure.

*Saturday, Oct. 30.*—The ulcer and scirrhus have remained easy. The axillary glands fuller and more tender to the touch. Some complaint of uneasiness at the stomach, and more general debility than usual.

The local treatment pursued as usual: the general remedies, small doses of calomel, and occasionally, the drops.

*Thursday, Nov. 3.*—At the Barns, received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Beachcroft, stating that the patient (Thomas) had had a severe stomach attack, in consequence of which he was sent for to her; and conceiving she was dying, he had loosened the bandages in the hope of giving relief.

*Friday, 4.*—Attended the patient at her own habitation, and found her relieved from the severity of the stomach attack. The breast, scirrhus, and axillary glands, had remained perfectly easy. The bandages had remained from Tuesday night last quite loose.

Though in great pain from the stomach attack, the woman had strongly opposed the loosening of the bandages. She told her attendants at the time, that the pain she suffered had nothing to do with her breast. Reminded them of the great benefit she had derived from

the applications, and what mischief might occur if they were slackened. "But they would do it," said she, "though I told them if they brought on the pain of my breast again, it would be more than I could bear." It is to be particularly noted, that by the loosening of the bandages on Tuesday night last no sort of relief was afforded. On examination of the ulcer to day, I perceived great amendment. It had contracted very much.

The applications were renewed. Every possible compression used. No inconvenience whatever experienced. Small doses of the carbonate of soda, rhubarb, and ginger, were ordered twice a day for the stomach complaint; and as occasional medicine in severity of pain, common doses of anodyne ether, the fetid sal volatile, and tincture of opium combined.

*Nov. 8.*—Mr. Beachcroft has had the goodness to report daily the woman's state of health, since the last visit, which has slowly mended.

The ulcer under all its general circumstances much the same as when last reported. The axillary glands are much diminished, and by no means tender when handled.

Formerly, upon the removal of the applications, or rather a short time after their removal, a sort of capillary oozing from distinct points



of the sore, used to take place, very much like in appearance to what occurs in the seed-stalks of the lettuce, when transversely divided. This, for the last four removals of the pressure, has not taken place.

The oxid of bismuth was ordered twice a day, and a calomel and opium pill occasionally at bed time.

*Saturday, Nov. 12*—Mr. Beachcroft attended the patient with me. Her complaint seems to lessen, the pain very much decreased, and the sore of the breast nearly skinned over. The local and general remedies continued.

N. B. The woman indolent in nature, and extremely averse to exercise, which has been most positively enjoined.

*Thursday, Nov. 17*.—Visited at her own home. She reports her health to be still very indifferent, though the pain of the stomach has abated. She is represented to be of a perverse, obstinate temper, which nothing can rouse of late to the slightest exertion.

The axillary glands appeared fuller and more sensible to the touch, than upon the last examination; and some skin, which had slightly formed over part of the sore, has given way. On this day no amendment to be observed. The local and other remedies pursued.

*Monday, Nov. 21.* Found the woman in bed, in full talk with some idle neighbours: it was then four o'clock in the afternoon, not a single thing ready, and the roller so wet, which was left off on Thursday last, that it could not be used.

She reports having had another attack of the stomach, for which she had remained in bed, Saturday, Sunday, and to-day.

The sore, the scirrhus, and the axillary glands, had all improved since the last report. On my way back to Bedford, called on Mr. Beachcroft, to consult about the management of the woman; and urge, if possible, the necessity of her taking some exercise. When I had the mortification to learn that she was given to drinking, and that some money had been converted into gin, which had been given to her for the express purpose of buying meat. Her breast being perfectly easy, she seems quite indifferent as to her general health, and cares not how long she remains in supineness, if she can but be supported by the active charities of others.

*Thursday, Nov. 24.*—In the hope of getting the woman into better habits, she had been appointed to come to Mr. Beachcroft's at Blunham; but she sent word she could not move from her bed. Mr. Beachcroft accompanied

me to the cottage. At first, if she had had worlds for it, she could not stir out of bed. She was however soon dressed, and placed in a chair to have the applications renewed.

There is little doubt of her liver being considerably diseased; yet her tongue was quite clean, her skin moderate, and the pulse natural.

What remained of the sore had improved. The scirrhous still lessened, the axillary glands reduced, and every thing bore a most improved and favourable appearance. Those of the bystanders, her neighbours, who remembered the former state of the sore, gave strong evidence in favour of its altered condition. The local treatment of pressure was pursued as usual.

Again the woman was entreated to pursue a course more conducive to her general health, and begged particularly to attend to the state of the bowels, which, from mere indolence, she had shamefully neglected.

*Tuesday, Nov. 29.*—The woman was sitting up quite cheerful with two of her female friends. No complaint whatever since the last visit. Though perfectly equal to it, and the weather remarkably favourable for exercise, yet she had not stirred from her cottage; and above all, in spite of what had been said to her, she had suffered her bowels to be confined five

entire days. She is well attended, wants for nothing, and has been repeatedly urged by her nurse to take something for her costive habit, but all to no purpose.

The ulcer appeared with every disposition to heal completely, and even a slight film of cuticle is perceptible on the circular spot formed by the ulcerated base of the nipple.

The local treatment as usual; and pressure extended as high up in the axilla as possible. The medical treatment has been ordered as heretofore; but there can be no reliance on the observance of any plan.

*Saturday, Dec. 3.*—The woman has remained perfectly easy: her health indeed appears better. All she complains of is a soreness of one of the issues. The sore of the breast, the scirrhus, and the axillary glands still continue progressively to improve. In the local treatment of to-day, pressure was made by the use of tin plates.

*Friday, Dec. 9.*—The sore has remained easy since the last report. Several patches of new cuticle formed, and still every disposition and effort towards healing. The new-formed cuticle round the ulceration very much thickened and improved.

The woman complains of swelling of the body: the ancles have been œdematous for

some time, and the urine spare. For these symptoms the foxglove has been ordered; but whether taken cannot be ascertained.

Mr. Beachcroft told me, from Mr. Gall, a medical gentleman of Biggleswade, who had previously attended her, that no faith whatever could be placed in her; that she invariably resisted, or threw away all the medicine that had ever been ordered for her: and a woman who has long known her, assured me she had done nothing I had ordered, except in keeping on the bandages; and that such had ever been her way. She would take nothing but her drink, and that she would have.

No entreaty can get her to move. For the last five weeks she has either been in bed, or sitting cramped up in a chair by the fire-side. Thus she has not only nursed her diseased state of liver and stomach, by ardent spirits, but has neglected her bowels so as to suffer them to be locked up for a week and nine days together. From such a condition of things, what can be expected, but that dropsy will speedily ensue? It is truly mortifying to have a case thus thwarted. Nothing, however, can speak more strongly for the principle of the treatment, than its very marked success, under such circumstances of vexatious and destructive contradiction.

*Dec. 13.*—Visited the woman. It was three o'clock: she was in bed surrounded by gossips as usual. I waited for her rising, and not a single thing ready for use. The old compresses and roller were again used.

The sore had so very nearly skinned over that I sent for Mr. Beachcroft, requesting him to come and see it. Not near the size of a sixpence in the centre now remains without perfect cuticle. The scirrhus still lessens, and all the parts free from pain.

**LOCAL TREATMENT.**—The straps with linen compresses only, and the roller. The surface, which formerly had been the sore, was well covered with chalk powder, previous to the application of the plaister-straps. No medicines were ordered, because wholly useless to carry on the farce.

*Dec. 27.*—This day I endeavoured to go to Blunham, but had not got above two miles on the road, when from sudden illness, I was obliged to return.

*Jan. 6, 1815.*—Informed by letter from Mr. Whitbread, that the widow Thomas had died, Dec. 31. During her last illness, it appears that she was quite free from pain in her breast, and that she declared it had nothing to do with her illness.

The following extract of a very satisfactory

letter, from the Rev. Mr. Beachcroft to Mr. Whitbread, is subjoined. Mr. Gall, whose name is mentioned in the letter and the history of the case, is a medical practitioner of great respectability and integrity.

BLUNHAM, MAY 16, 1815.

DEAR SIR,

Any information which I can give, upon the case of the late Frances Thomas, or any intelligence which I may be able to procure from Mr. Gall, shall be much at your service.

I believe I mentioned in my note to you, when the poor woman was introduced to Mr. Young, that Mr. Gall had never allowed the disease to be a cancer. She had been occasionally under his care, and after Mr. Young had seen her, and Mr. Gall very kindly made up the prescriptions, he still continued to hold the same opinion, that the disease was not a cancer. On this point I can say nothing. That the sore gradually decreased under the treatment of Mr. Young, and that the discharge diminished daily until her death, I can testify from my own observation. The dropsy, which was very rapid in its progress, and which terminated in her dissolution, appeared to arise from a worn out constitution. In my humble opinion, there could not have been a more un-

favourable subject for Mr. Young's very kind practice.

To him and to you, I shall always consider myself much indebted on this poor woman's behalf.

I am ever,

My dear Sir,

Your's very sincerely obliged,

R. P. BEACHCROFT.



## WILLIAM LEA,

AGED 70, recommended by Sir John Sebright. Applied first Jan. 17, 1815, for a cancerous affection of the under-lip. The lip itself very generally diseased, having a stony hardness deeply seated throughout its substance. About the centre, rather inclining to the right side, and above the surface of the vermillion ridge, a black, hard, and generally uniform substance rises, of the size of a common chesnut, broader at its base, and connected throughout with the structure of the lip.

The patient complains of constant pain, so great as not to have had two hours undisturbed sleep for more than the last year. From his description, the facial nerves must be deeply affected; indeed they are visibly so on the right side, where the lip, from the tumour to the angle of the mouth, is particularly diseased, and of stony hardness. This part, as well as the external angle of the eye, is almost incessantly jerked upwards, by spasmodic catchings of the muscles.

But the diseased affection of the fifth and seventh pairs of nerves, is more evidently marked, by a constant, deep-seated pain, at the angles of the lower jaw, shooting up to the ears: pains of the face, exactly over the foramen, where a branch of the fifth pair is given out, and also along the lower jaw, but particularly from the socket of one of the molares of the right side, which strike with violence to the angle of the jaw, and which the patient describes like jumping. There is also a smarting caustic sensation in the nose. The tongue has neither pain, nor any unnatural sensation.

The patient was asked to write down what he knew of the disease himself, and the following is a copy from the paper he wrote.

JANUARY, 1815.

*"The Case of the Lip of Mr. Lea, from  
Flamstead.*

"First came a small sore, and called a wart. Tried means to kill it; but all to no purpose. It has been coming to what it now is for this four years. The symptoms are, continual pain, otherwise shooting. Grew to a scurff, and then came off; and when off, underneath was a seedy root like to a cauliflower, and then grew again in a little time."

This statement, though not explicitly entering into detail, sufficiently shews the active nature of the disease, and the progressive morbid change, that has been going on in the structure of the lip. For the increase of the tumour, it is to be noted, has been from the enlargement of its base, and consequent involving the natural structure of the lip.

Upon questioning the patient what he means by growing to a scurff, and then coming off, it appears that the whole projecting surface of this cancerous mass, or wart, or excrescence, arising from an actively diseased and morbidly changed mass leading to cancer, has been in a state of ulceration for a length of time. That the different surfaces so exposed have shortly died, turning to a black, smooth, and rather polished substance. That these partial disengagements have given a temporary strength of growth to the part, which has always ended in a succession of superficial slough. The time between the operations of nature being from four to five weeks.

The incrustations, when thrown off, have been about two lines in thickness, retaining the form of the excrescence they covered: and the surfaces then exposed have had a hard sort of structure, like white cauliflower. These in turn, after a short growth, became of a dark

colour, till they were changed to the uniform black incrustations described. So, that while the base of this tumour has been progressively increasing in intimate morbid connexion with the structure of the lip, sloughing and separation, with partial growth of its surface, have been going on in constant succession; strongly exemplifying the nature of such diseases, the strength they gain by mere partial destruction, and the consequent mischiefs of all partial removals.

During the four years' progress of the disease, the patient consulted five professional gentlemen; but no remedy was found to check its advance. Caustics and leeches were applied to the lip, under the care of one surgeon, without avail; and Lea's health at length became so much affected from continual pain, as to require the advice of an eminent physician; fresh applications were ordered to the lip, as well as general remedies; but still the local and constitutional symptoms continued in an aggravated state of advancement.

For the last six months, and till within a week or two of his present application, the patient has been exposed to a severe caustic treatment, under the direction of some unprofessional person. This only produced insufferable torture, and an aggravated state of the disease

in all its circumstances, both as to the degree, duration, and extension of pain, as well as the rapid change of the lip towards disease. The whole of which is now little short of a complete scirrhus.

From the margin of the black film, foul ulcers run inward into its substance, and a putrid effluvia is emitted, which is offensive at some distance. This last symptom was particularly brought to my notice, by the man who accompanied the patient to Bedford.

The patient complains of a constant dry burning heat of the skin, particularly affecting the right arm and hand, and more especially at his accustomed hour of rising, and about four o'clock in the afternoon.

The following was ordered.

℞. Calomel. ppt. gr. iv. Pulv. fol. Cicutæ—Ant. a. a. gr. ij. Opii pulv.—fol. Digitalis a. a. gr. j. Conf. Opiat. q. s. ft. Pil. N. ij. h. s. s.

℞. Pulv. Jalapii ʒ ss. Vini Ant. G<sup>tt</sup>. xv. Sp. Ammon. c. ʒ ss.—Lavand. c. ʒ i. Aquæ Menthæ sat. ʒ iss. M<sup>c</sup>. ft. Haustus cras mane sumendus.

*Jan.* 18.—A better night has been passed than for some months. The bowels opened by the draught. The night pills and morning draught to be repeated, and the mouth frequently washed with the following lotion, as

well as applications of it on lint, to be kept constantly to the lip.

℞. Conservæ Rosæ ℥ij. Camphoræ pulv. ℥i. tere bene simul, et adde

Aquæ Bullient. ℥iv. Boracis pulv. ℥ss. Aquæ Rosæ ℥ix. Tinct. Myrrhæ ℥ij. Tinct. Opii ℥ij. M<sup>c</sup>. et Cola.

*Jan. 19.*—The patient returning to Flamstead for a few days early on the morrow, the following was ordered :

℞. Pulv. fol. Cicutæ ℥ij.—Digitalis ℥j. Calomel. ppt. gr. xv. Pulv. Ant. ℥ss. Opii. gr. x. Conf. Opiat. q. s. Misce bene et divide in pil. N. xx. Capt. i. o. n. h. s.

℞. Pulv. Jalapii ℥iiss.—Rhei ℥ss.—Zingiberis ℥j. M<sup>c</sup>. divide in Chart. N. 6. j. alterâ quâque mane.

Thirty drops of the mineral solution has been taken twice a day since the seventeenth, and ordered to be continued. The patient has been desired to make as great a change as possible in all his habits, and to live entirely upon water-gruel and tea.

*Saturday, Jan. 28.*—The patient came back to Bedford: the general health improved, and the lip easier.

*Jan. 29.*—Commenced the treatment for the natural separation of the tumour. Although improved, the state of the lip still morbidly enlarged. The tumour of deep stony hardness, particularly from its edge to the right angle of the mouth, as before stated.

℞. Oxydi Arsenical. Opii Pulv. a. a. gr. v. Pulv. Crætæ ppt. gr. x. Mucilag. G. Arab. q. s. ft. Pasta.

This paste was applied in small quantities, to every part of the tumour, where the substance could be got at, or into any fissure.

One or two of the following pills were ordered to be taken every night at bed-time.

℞. Ex. Hyoscyami ʒi. Opii ʒss. Pulv. Ant. gr. xxx. ft. Pil. N. xxiv.

*Feb. 2.*—The paste has been applied sometimes every night and morning; and sometimes, according to the effect produced, omitted altogether. To day one of the incrustations came off, and left the surface more exposed. A vigorous application of the paste was made. The opening powders have been continued every other morning. Some pain produced upon the application of the paste.

*Feb. 12.*—The application of the paste has been continued, under the plan described; and the other remedies regularly pursued. The lotion ordered on Jan. 18, has been constantly applied to the mouth and lip. To day the greater part of the projecting tumour has been removed in one unbroken body. The substance now exposed still retains the form of the tumour, rising somewhat above the common surface of the lip; but entirely blended

with its structure. It has a whitish appearance, and is, as well as the surrounding substance of the lip, of the hardness of gristle. During this part of the progress, considerable pain has been experienced; but the patient states that it is not to be compared with what he suffered under the plan of caustic. The mineral solution has been taken in various doses, from twenty to forty drops, twice a day. The local treatment now comprises natural separation, and pressure conjoined.

After the application of the paste, the whole of the lip was firmly compressed: first by the use of long and appropriate plaister-straps, which fixed the lip to the jaw; then by a firm shield of sheet lead, part of which was made accurately to include the base of the tumour, as well as the vermilion edge of the lip, particularly on the right side; further secured by plaister-straps and linen compress, and the whole adjusted with the greatest care and strength, by the use of a narrow double-headed roller. In the application of linen compresses, and the use of the roller, particular attention was given to direct the pressure on the diseased parts. After the applications were made, the lip was easy: and the patient expressed himself as well as he could, that he felt no inconvenience, and retired in excellent heart. Before the pressure



was applied, two ragged stumps of teeth had been removed.

*Feb. 20.*—A milk and water-gruel diet, with the general plan, has been strictly attended to, and mercurial alteratives occasionally given at bed-time. The local treatment has been actively pursued. The general health greatly improved, and the former pains of the face much diminished.

From the situation of the disease, that part of the local treatment connected with the pressure has necessarily required daily and almost constant attendance. The patient was obliged to be released before he could take any sufficient quantity of nourishment. He however shewed the strongest disposition throughout to aid the plan, and has often contrived to take some milk or tea through a straw, rather than have the applications disturbed.

The separation of the tumour has now got down the level of the lip. In some instances, a large piece has been removed at once; but still the stony base of the tumour is felt to occupy the whole of its thickness.

*March 1.*—The local treatment has been actively pursued, the mineral solution excepted. The whole of the diseased base is now nearly removed, and the natural structure of the lip greatly restored. The smarting caustic pain

in the nose has subsided into a tingling sensation, and the severe pains of the lower jaw are nearly removed.

*March 10.*—Strong pressure throughout has been actively employed. The lip now presents a natural structure, except in one small point. It is greatly reduced in size, and quite soft and pliable. The deep excavation formed, by the separation of the scirrhus mass, is now uniformly filled up, and covered with healthy and well-formed cuticle, except the small surface already noticed.

Throughout the treatment, the arsenical paste has been applied in small quantities almost every day, but to different parts of the disease, leaving that part untouched which was going on with a sloughing process, or which by slough had just exposed a new surface. But where the diseased structure was deep, and the slough long adhering, and any edge loose, or that could be loosened, then the ball of the probe, charged with a bit of the paste, was introduced, giving a degree of pressure and circular motion to the instrument.

In the treatment of a case like the present, the skill and judgment of the surgeon must be exerted, in order to apply the paste according to the circumstances which may present themselves; for it is not the application of the paste

generally, made after a certain prescription, which will effect the object.

For example; after a new surface is exposed, time should be given to ascertain what disposition the parts underneath possess. Whether they shew any healing powers, any capability to resist, or, on the contrary, a still further disposition to run into disease. By these means the degree and frequency of the application will be regulated, or wholly suspended, according to the various appearances which may be exhibited. Besides, it is to be recollected, that the deeper seated parts restored to their living powers, through the aid of the pressure, are of themselves capable of throwing off diseased structure, and furnishing an healthy surface. This does not merely apply to the present less aggravated case, but to instances of disease of enormous extent and depth, as will hereafter be illustrated, where the whole has been conducted up to the formation of a large extent of cuticle, by the aid of pressure alone.

In the present instance, natural separation was first induced by means of the paste, because the projection of the tumour, and the situation of the part, rendered any application of very forcible pressure extremely difficult, while the projection remained.

The paste may be so modified, either in quality or quantity, as that its application shall only produce an healthy excitement, without the smallest attendant slough, and thus prove a good corrector of any sluggish disposition, and hasten cure after the morbid parts may have been removed.

Even at the very last, as in Lea's case, a small point may be left, where an indisposition to form cuticle is evinced, and where the slightest touch with the paste on the point of a probe, will facilitate cure.

*March 14.*—The lip quite healed, and restored to its natural state. A very active plan of pressure has been continued up to yesterday. The patient returns home, with directions of great caution to avoid the severe winds now prevalent, all excess in living, and to pursue the alterative and mineral solution plan, under the usual restrictions, for a week or two longer.

*March 19.*—Received a letter from the patient, wherein he mentions, that his lip is as smooth and level as ever it was in his life; that some little itching on the nose and lip remain; but that he supposes the medicine will stop it.

*March 30.*—Another letter has been received from the patient, wherein he states, that he

continues comfortable; only a little itching and tingling remain.

*May 26.*—This day brought the satisfaction of another letter from the patient. He expresses himself in strong terms, and adds, “My lip continues comfortable.” No mention is now made either of itching or tingling; and thus this case has ended in the restoration of perfect health.

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*First Letter to Mr. Whitbread.*

*March 19, 1815.*

HON. SIR,

I RECEIVED your's this day respecting my lip, which I am happy to inform you is, I hope, cured; at which I am perfectly happy, and return my friends thanks, next to the Lord.

Sir, you had seen it at Bedford, in a bad state. Now my lip is level and smooth as before it came on it. Sir John Sebright has seen, and he was surprised. I wished to have shewn it to you, only you had left Bedford, and I in a weakly state, otherwise I should have took the journey to London; and if you wish to see me, will now.

Your obedient humble servant,

WM. LEA,

*Flamstead.*

*Second Letter to Mr. Whitbread, in answer to a particular inquiry respecting the commencement of the disease, and the treatment of it previous to Mr. Young's seeing it.*

HON. SIR,

I RECEIVED your kind letter, concerning my lip. Thank God, it is much the same as when I left Bedford, five weeks ago. Thank you for your goodness of recommending me to Mr. Young; and, please God, I hope it will remain well. The first of its coming, five years ago; it came a small scurf on my lip, and it was called a wart. I applied means for a wart, but to no purpose, for a year or two. Then Doctor Chase, of Luton, took it in hand, and applied caustics and leeches to the lip for some time, to no purpose. He did not persevere in it now, as it was called a wart. He did not say what it was. Then we stopt. Then Mr. Somers had it in hand a considerable time, and no better. Then he had Doctor Penrose to see it. He give Dr. Somers advice how to treat with it, and give me medicines and applied something to the lip, and got no better. Then wish me to have Ashley Cooper's advice; but I did not go. Doctor *Winkfield* wished me to have it cut out; but I did not

agree to it. Dr. Warren, Surgeon now to the Duke of York's Asylum, Chelsea, saw it two or three times. He wished me to have the best advice. He said it was a cancerous substance. After all this, we heard of a woman at Westoning, Bedfordshire, that cured cancers. I applied to her, as it grew so painful and bigger, and she applied a burning caustic, which caused me a deal of pain, and got no better. She called it a dry cancer.

Then Mr. Whitbread and Sir John Sebright recommended me to Mr. Young, and he gave me a diligent attendance, and now, please God, it remains comfortable, and I hope will continue so. Mr. Young deserves merits and thanks; likewise you, Gentlemen.

This is the only information I can give, Sir. I wish you to see the lip, as you saw it in a bad state. I expect to be in London in a short time; then I shall take the liberty to call on Mr. Whitbread.

Excuse my blunt way of explaining myself.

I remain

Your obedient humble servant,

WM. LEA.

April 20, 1815.

N. B. Mr. Lea afterwards came to London, and called on Mr. Whitbread. His lip appeared in a sound state.

## FRANCES DAY,

GOLDINGTON, AGED 20,

APPLIED September 21, 1814. A considerable scirrhous of the centre of the right breast; but the greater part on the left, or inner side. Standing six years. Origin unknown. From the upper part, a large fungous excrescence projects inward and upward, and thrusts the integument of the breast considerably out beyond the common surface. At this point, from a body about the size of a large egg, two distinct shoots can be felt. The history of the case is, that at fourteen years of age, the girl, being naturally full-breasted, a hard lump, the size of a marble, was first discovered in the breast now affected. This produced no disturbance till she was seventeen, when her constitution first altered. The breast became considerably enlarged and painful, as she sat at work, her employment being that of lace-maker. The lump in particular disturbed her, which had increased to the size of an egg.

It continued to get worse, and after some



time she discovered a soft substance growing out from the top of the hard lump. She soon discovered this change, being frequently induced to examine the lump and breast, from the pain she suffered.

It still kept growing worse; the lump enlarging, and the fungous shoot increasing; till at length, in the winter, 1813, she was advised to go into the Bedford Infirmary.

The disease being considered cancerous, an operation was proposed, to which she could not make up her mind to submit, and at length came out.

After this she went to some empyrick, whom she attended for six months. During, or rather previous to this time, the arm of the same side became affected and painful. The lump, the girl states, got very large, and the fungus at the top, as large as an egg, when it began to force out the integument, already described, at the upper part of the breast. At this period she describes herself as suffering a great deal of pain, which made her very ill indeed.

When she first came under the present treatment, her case was deplorable, having unfortunately received a violent blow upon the diseased breast, about ten days before, which had aggravated the condition of her sufferings to a great degree. The whole breast was af-

fected; quite tense, more than double its natural size, and the fungus had rapidly increased, forcing the protruded integument almost to bursting. Drops, apparently of pure blood, fell from the nipple.

Naturally of a placid temper, she made no violent complaint; but her leaden complexion, and fixed abstracted countenance, were indicative of what she suffered.

The treatment commenced by an active course of purgatives, with mercurial alteratives, and a number of leeches to be applied on the side leading to the axilla, but not upon the integument of the breast itself.

*Sept. 23.*—The great excitement of the breast reduced. The outer side, which, previous to the late injury, was comparatively in a natural state, returning to its former condition, and considerably less tense. The scirrhus body, upon examination, is now quite distinct, occupying the centre and inner, or left side of the breast. But the mass of excrescence, which at the upper part has an elastic feel under the protruded integument, cannot be so distinctly traced down to its connexion with the scirrhus. The pain not so considerable.

In the treatment of this day, the whole breast and side were included by long commanding plaister-straps, firmly placed; and the whole

with linen compress bandaged by a six-yard roller.

Mercurial alteratives to be continued every other night, and fifteen drops of the following twice a day.

R̄ . Solut. Mineral. Tinct. Digitalis partes equales M<sup>c</sup>.

*Sept. 27.*—The breast much reduced, and the fungous projection has left the protruded integument quite flaccid. This part now presents a loose square flap, having lost, from its long distention, the natural elasticity of integument. It lies distinctly above the common surface, though no longer pressed out by fungus.

Upon slightly elevating the scirrhus mass beneath, the flap again becomes distended by a soft spongy substance; and which can now be traced down to its origin, from the upper portion of the scirrhus mass. The excrescence so projected is quite obtuse, and has none of the shoots formerly described. The scirrhus mass itself is a large irregularly round knotted body, of considerable density, hard and warty, particularly along the lower edge. But though it has nothing of softness, it does not feel so impenetrable, if I may be allowed the expression, as more circumscribed scirrhi.

These remarks are made simply in the direct course of detail, and have nothing whatever to do with opinion, or any attempt specifically to fix the degree of hardness necessary to indicate cancerous formation.

Facts and experience have long established the truth, that cancerous results have had different origins; and have exhibited not only varied, but contradictory symptoms in their different stages of progress.

The local treatment, by pressure, continued in progressive increase, and the drops and Mercurial Alteratives as in the last report. The pain of the breast quite gone, and the general health improved.

*Sept. 30.* At the Barns. Dr. Penrose present.—The girl's health very much improved, and her countenance quite changed. She states herself to be free from pain. The fungous excrescence very considerably reduced, and the scirrhus mass itself not so dense and bulky.

In the local treatment of to-day, besides the usual plaister-straps, a firm shield of pressure-plates was secured by other straps, over the whole substance of the scirrhus and fungus; and the whole, with additional linen compress, firmly applied with two six-yard rollers. From the increased firmness of pressure upon the

scirrhus mass, no inconvenience or pain whatever was experienced.

The drops were ordered to be increased by five at a time, to twenty-five twice a day. The mercurial alterative to be suspended.

*Oct. 7.*—The girl quite in spirits, and her complexion healthy. The breast has remained perfectly easy. It is considerably reduced, being little more than half its former size, and the integument above the protruded part quite flaccid. Upon elevating the scirrhus mass, the fungus through the protruded integument is now scarcely perceptible; and along the surface of the former, evident lines of separation can be felt. This mass, too, has diminished in bulk, particularly at the outer side.

In the local applications, the thickness of the pressure-plate was increased, and the degree of pressure further augmented by additional linen compress and firmness in the application of the rollers. The drops to be continued.

*Oct. 14.*—The breast has remained quite easy. No trace of the fungus left; and the scirrhous lessened in bulk. The flap appearance at the inner part of the breast still remains, but the integument more natural, and under this a complete cavity is formed, which the scirrhus mass can be made to occupy, by the slightest pressure given to the outer side.

By this method, its upper part can be more accurately examined. It presents a cartilaginous, knotty, rounded feel, of some density and bulk.

The treatment by pressure increased, and the drops continued.

*Oct. 21.*—The breast has remained quite easy. The scirrhus mass more divided, and less knotty and hard at the lower edge. The general health improved.

The plan continued.

*Oct. 27.* At the Barns.—The breast has remained perfectly easy, and the girl strongly expressed her sense of the benefits she had received. The breast (from the absorption in particular of the fungus) she considers to be about half the size it was before she met with the blow in September last, which had aggravated its condition and her sufferings so greatly. This diminution, the flaccid integument of the breast itself shows. Where it was formerly distended by fungus, it can now be taken up by large loose folds, and is much thickened in its structure.

The patient states her health to be much better than it has been for years; and finds the scirrhus itself lessened, that it is softer to the touch; and she pointed out a division that

has taken place in its substance during the last fortnight.

The plan to be continued, and the pressure-shield increased in thickness.

The patient had remained some time after the applications were removed before they could be re-applied. During this time the breast began to ache, and at length got very painful. She had remained upwards of an hour in this state, and there was so marked a change in her countenance, that she was asked if she was ill; when she said, "her breast had become very painful."

Almost instantaneous ease was afforded by pressure, which was made as strong as the nature of the applications would permit.

*Nov. 3.* At the Barns. Dr. Penrose present.—The breast, from the moment of the last applications, has remained perfectly easy. The scirrhus certainly diminished in size. Dr. Penrose observed, that it had lost that warty feel which it possessed along the lower edge, when he last examined it. The general health good, and in an improving state.

The plan continued.

*Nov. 12.*—The scirrhus mass still diminishing. Free from pain, and the general health good. The drops discontinued; but the plan of pressure pursued and increased.

*Nov. 20.*—The breast has remained perfectly free from pain; the scirrhus still diminishing, divided in its structure, and the breast itself more natural.

The patient stated, that her marriage, which had been suspended for two years, in consequence of her local complaint, had taken place the day before yesterday.

The plan continued.

*Nov. 27.*—The breast free from pain. The scirrhus mass softer in many points, and its bulk certainly diminished. The local plan continued. A mercurial alterative ordered.

*Dec. 6.*—The breast easy. The plan continued.

*Dec. 15. At the Barns.*—The patient represents her breast easy, and, from her own observation, much improved within the last six weeks. Her general health good. The plan of pressure continued and increased, with the use of three rollers.

*Dec. 24.*—The breast has remained perfectly easy. The lower part of the scirrhus mass has entirely lost its hard knotty projection, and is very considerably diminished. The mass altogether is less round, and the edges much thinner.

The local treatment pursued, and the drops recommenced, fifteen twice a day.



*Jan. 4, 1815.*—The breast, to use the patient's own expression, quite comfortable. The lines of division more distinctly marked. The tumour itself is much looser, and the finger can be pushed under its lower surface. The great density and bulk at the outer side very much decreased. Formerly this part of the tumour was quite indistinct, and seemed lost and sunk in the deep structure of the breast itself.

*Jan. 13.* At the Barns. Dr. Penrose present.—The patient represents herself in good health, and the breast quite easy. The scirrhus mass evidently diminished, and breaking into different parts.

The pressure continued. A course of emetics ordered, in addition to the other general plan.

*Feb. 2.* At the Barns.—The applications have been renewed since the last report, and the pressure actively continued. The patient has enjoyed good health, and the breast has remained quite free from pain, or the smallest sensation of inconvenience.

This day Mr. Pulley, whose patient Frances Day had been whilst at the Bedford Infirmary, examined the state of the breast. He discovered great alteration and improvement. Mr. Pulley states, that the disease was considered

as decidedly cancerous, and the operation strongly urged. It is to be observed, that Mr. Pulley had not seen the patient intermediately since her leaving the infirmary in the winter of 1813, and the present time. The plan of increased pressure continued.

*March 5.*—The plan of pressure has been continued, and the applications renewed every eighth or tenth day. Emetics and mercurial alteratives have been variously exhibited. The patient has continued in good health, and the breast perfectly easy up to the 20th of Feb. The scirrhus still more diminished and divided in its substance. Since the last applications, an unusually long interval has taken place, in consequence of the girl's close application to business. She had a quantity of lace to make, which she was obliged to execute in a given time. Under this exigency, the breast was neglected, the applications became loose, and the scirrhus mass escaped from under the pressure plate.

In consequence of this negligence, it now presents a much greater bulk and density than it has possessed for a length of time. The tumour however has remained easy; upon pressing it with the hand, strong evidence was afforded of the existence of a cyst.

Two tea-spoonsful of a thin sanguineous

fluid were discharged from the nipple. The breast has rather more than its usual heat.

The pressure plate in this instance was laid aside, and the acetated ammoniac lotion used, upon linen compresses, and the whole breast firmly bandaged. An active emetic was ordered for three successive nights.

*March 12.*—The breast has returned to its natural heat. The pressure plate resumed, and its strength increased.

*March 30.*—The breast has remained free from any sort of uneasiness. The application of pressure has been intermediately renewed since the last report. The scirrhus mass is again diminishing and becoming divided in its substance.

The plan of increased pressure pursued. A mercurial alterative to be occasionally taken, and the sol. mineral, and foxglove drops to be taken to the number of fifteen, twice a day.

*April 29.*—Since the last report, the pressure has been actively and regularly kept up. The breast has remained throughout perfectly easy, and the health good. The scirrhus mass is rapidly falling back to its former diminished and divided state. The applications renewed with every possible degree of pressure. All the medicines suspended.

*May 10.*—Since the last report, the patient

has been absent from home, on an anxious errand after her brother, who had enlisted for a soldier. On Sunday last, she walked from Kettering, a distance of twenty-seven miles. Fortunately the applications have remained firm, and the breast quite easy; though she suffered greatly from fatigue, which prevented her coming to Bedford yesterday and on Monday.

The tumour now is completely on the left or inner side of the breast, and rests in the cavity formerly described under the projecting flap of integument.

The mass is quite divided, and the finger and thumb can be distinctly placed between three rounded knobs. These are of cartilaginous hardness, and have somewhat of an elastic feel. There is also a flat cartilaginous mass of smaller knots. These parts are connected in a bunch, by a condensed, cellular, and irregularly gristly substance.

The outer edge of this mass is now within the left side of the nipple; and the distance between the edge and the nipple, is a full inch. Formerly the outer edge or side of the tumour, extended a full inch and a half beyond the nipple on the right side of the breast: so that the tumour besides its diminished bulk, in other respects occupies a less space in

breadth, by full two inches and a half, than it did in October last. This statement perfectly agrees with the patient's own observation.

The plan of pressure continued.

*May 20.*—The breast quite easy, and the general health recovered from the late fatigue. The tumour still more evidently divided into distinct parts. At the upper and inner side one circular knot, about the size of a common marble, is quite detached, having only a thin membrane between, connecting it with the general mass.

The applications renewed; and the plan of pressure to be continued. A grain of calomel was ordered to be taken at bed-time, and two emetics to be used during the week. The report of this case is now brought to a conclusion for the present. It may however be proper to remark, that in this case throughout, a very extraordinary degree of pressure has been employed on the diseased parts, without producing for a single moment the slightest inconvenience; and that too under the constant and active employment of the hands and arms. So far from the general health under this process being injured, it has, on the contrary, been restored and invigorated, and the state of suffering wholly suspended. And these advantages have been gained, whilst Nature was

struggling against a load of fatigue and anxiety, which the reports of March 5, and May 10, sufficiently exemplify.

So situated it is not too much to conclude, that this case, placed under more favourable circumstances, would have ended before this, in an entire removal of the diseased parts; which there is not the smallest doubt will be finally accomplished.

CASE OF  
MRS. BROWN;

UNDER THE CARE OF MR. MACGRATH.

EARLY in the month of November, 1814, I was consulted by Mrs. Henry Brown, the wife of a carpenter in this place, on account of a painful lump (as she expressed it) in her breast. She is about 38 years old, has had four children, is delicately formed, but up to the period of the disease commencing in her breast, was very healthy; and also every branch of her family, without any appearance of scrofula, nor does she remember to have met with any accident.

Upon examination, I found a tumour of the size of a large Walnut in the inside, and near the nipple of the left breast; hard and unequal in its surface, and extremely painful to the touch; it had not formed any adhesion to the contiguous parts, but at one point where the unequal surface was most prominent, the skin was puckered and inflamed, and the whole breast much enlarged: her health de-

ranged, and strength reduced, from pain, want of sleep, and anxiety of mind. Had I not heard from different quarters the success of Mr. Young, and seen him myself apply adhesive plaister in a similarly diseased breast, I should have advised my patient to have the morbid part immediately extirpated; but I determined to try Mr. Young's mode of treatment as far as I was master of it; at the same time to be watchful not to lose the opportunity of performing a surgical operation, should the proposed plan not succeed.

The next morning I visited her, and applied the adhesive plaister, in the following manner. It was cut into strips of about an inch and a quarter broad, and of sufficient length to encompass the whole breast; the first strip was applied on the chest, with its upper edge touching the under part of the breast; the next strip was placed above it, with its lower edge a little over the upper edge of the first; and so on, one after another, until the whole breast was firmly enveloped. Over these was placed a compress of old linen, and the whole was well secured with a calico bandage, beginning below the first strip of plaister, up to the collar bones. The bandage was kept steady in its place, by two pieces of linen over the shoulders, in the manner of braces: and pinned to every



second circle of the bandage behind and before. The plaisters were removed every second or third day during the process.

At the first part of my attendance the bowels were constipated, for which I prescribed small doses of magnesia sulphas twice a day, by which they became in a short time regular. No other medicines were given, lest my opinion should be confused between the effects of internal medicines and external applications.

From the first she felt much relieved from pain; but the only alteration that took place in the tumour for four or five weeks, was its becoming more flattened. After that, the size of the tumour began to diminish, and continued to do so until the beginning of April, 1815, when it was reduced to its natural size: and I hope its healthy action restored; as all pain had ceased.

Since that time, the bandages and adhesive plaisters have been left off; but to keep the parts in some degree protected from accident or sudden change of weather, they have been kept covered with a soap-plaister.

THOMAS MACGRATH.

*Biggleswade,*  
May 30, 1815.

CASE OF  
**MRS. JENNINGS,\***

OF HARLINGTON, IN BEDFORDSHIRE,

AGED 56; visited at Harlington, on Tuesday, Dec. 6; first medical attendance at Bedford, Dec. 16, 1814.

Whether considered by the symptoms that attend it, the various parts affected, the extension of those parts, or the advanced and different stages of progress of the disease, this case presents one of the most extraordinary instances of complication, that ever existed, or can well be imagined. All the circumstances that have ever been enumerated as attendant on cancer, may here be seen at one view: and are consolidated in this one individual case.

The remains of the left breast, which was the first affected, is so disfigured, and lost by frightful puckerings, as scarcely to leave a

\* The name of the Lady is inserted at her own express desire.

trace of its original form. A portion of the upper part only is left a partially soft and insulated mass. Two thirds of this however is scirrhus, and deeply drawn into fixed and immovable folds. The nipple is lost in a deep chasm of stony ulceration, which runs to the ends of the scirrhus folds under the arm. From this the disease spreads widely on the chest, in little holes, or scirrhus ulcerated knobs, running one into another, and passing by a chain of deeply diseased and ulcerated structure, to the remains of the other breast, involving the whole in one continued cancerous sore.

The right breast presents morbid change exactly similar to the left; only that the decay or ulceration at the centre, has not proceeded to such a length; and the retracted mouldered remains of what might formerly have served as the base of the nipple, may still be seen in the deep fissure formed between the puckered scirrhus, and ulcerated masses.

Except a small cushion-like protuberance, (the only thing left of natural structure), the whole of what remains of this breast is also firmly drawn in, and fixed to the side.

The integument of the chest, is one immovable plate of disease; thickly studded by hard glandular knobs. On either side of the throat

a diseased mass of absorbent glands exists; but on the right side they are considerably the largest.

Both arms have been long and deeply affected; but the glands of the left axilla are those that exhibit longer established morbid alteration. The right arm and breast, notwithstanding, have always been the most painful. The right arm in particular at this time is greatly enlarged; and from the elbow upwards, is hard and tense. The left arm also is considerably increased beyond its natural size.

Extending down each side, from the sores of the breast, the integument is much diseased, full of knots, drawn up in folds, or quite changed, and lost in scirrhus masses. But the morbid alteration of the left side is the more strongly marked. Here the diseased integument is drawn and puckered in a most extraordinary manner, affording the appearance of a claw, firmly grasping the side.

On each side, from the breast to the axilla, the whole space is occupied by hard knobs, deep scirrhus puckerings, and folds in a most curiously confused state. On the left side it is inveterately marked. One fissure or fold is at least an inch in depth, and four or five inches in length; at the bottom of which a

deeply imbedded scirrhus ridge of glands may be felt, leading to the back of the shoulder, where also there is a large mass of diseased glands. This fold is in a state of partial ulceration.

On the inner side, within two inches of the right fissure of the breast, there is a remarkable deep pea-like sore; which forms the centre of a scirrhus circle, about an inch in diameter, which is remarkably diseased, and of impenetrable hardness. This sore, it is supposed, was occasioned by the application of a leech. All the ulcerated and contiguous parts are discoloured: mostly of a livid purple hue, and of stony hardness.

The sores have been dressed with some simple ointment on linen, twice a day; and large bleedings have frequently, indeed commonly, attended their removal. On the day I attended at Harlington, upon the removal of a small part of the dressing, a sudden gush of blood followed; which Mrs. Jennings observed was trifling, when compared with what often took place. The character of the discharge is that of a thin fœtid ichor.

In recapitulating this case, as it now presents itself, it may be observed, that the whole of the chest is cancerously diseased, including both breasts; extending down the integuments, al-

most to the abdomen, and comprehending on either side a large mass of surface, reaching from the breast to the axilla.

In the axillæ, the glands are so deeply diseased, that their morbid extent is beyond the power of any examination to define; and so complicated, as to defy every attempt at description.

The left breast is almost obliterated, and the nipple and surrounding parts degenerated into a deep, destructive sore; from this, reaching over the sternum, and including the other breast, is one sore and cancerous mass. Both arms are swelled, hard, and painful. The neck almost fixed by diseased glands. The circumstance even of the bleeding cancer, is not wanting to fill up the catalogue of those evils which the experience of centuries has selected, as attendant symptoms of the disease: selected however from a great variety of cases, and fortunately for suffering humanity but rarely, if ever, before found centred at the same time, in one individual. But it is a great consolation to add, under the pressure of such a mass of foreboding evils, that extreme or even violent pain has been hitherto unknown. The state of the arms has occasioned the greatest uneasiness. At this time, *Dec. 16*, considerable fever and general irritation exist; and as this state

was still more aggravated a few days back, it is not thought advisable at present to commence the plan of pressure. The following alterative has been ordered.

℞. Calomel. ppt. gr. vj. Pulv. Ant. gr. x.—fol. Digitalis gr. viij. Ex. Sarsæ 3 ss. M<sup>c</sup>. ft. Pil. N. 8.—Capt. j. h. s.

The saline draughts to be taken occasionally through the day, and the foot warm-bath at night, and other ordinary remedies employed. It may be proper to remark, that when I made my first visit to Harlington, Mr. Green of Woburn, the medical gentleman attendant in the family, was present, who declared the case very much worse, and the sore greatly extended since he had last seen it. He also represented to me that no regular attendance had been given, as the case had been considered quite out of the reach of relief. That for some time steel had been exhibited under the direction of Mr. Cooper, and continued till the fever it induced obliged its suspension.

In the hopeless state of the case I quite agreed; but strongly urged the adoption of a plan of pressure upon two grounds: first, for the suppression of the hemorrhage; and, secondly, to suspend for a while, if not permanently to check, the rapid progress of the disease, which was fast advancing to involve the

whole surface of the chest, throat, and sides, in one wild and ravaging sore.

When I gave this advice, it was under the impression, that the plan would be pursued under the immediate regulation of Mr. Green; and that I was only called upon to give advice. It was however soon decided, that the patient should go to Bedford, and be placed under my management. Previous to the undertaking, I thought it right distinctly to state my opinion of the case, to a lady then present; and who had taken a very leading and anxious part in the business. In this representation it was frankly declared, that no promise more than of relief could be held out; but that if the patient still persisted in placing herself under my care, so far from shrinking from any effort, I would apply myself to the case with as much zeal and vigour as if an ultimate cure could be reasonably contemplated. The following is Mrs. Jennings's own statement of the origin and progress of the disease.

*(Mrs. Jennings's Statement.)*

“ In the year 1809, I first perceived a small lump in my breast, but thought little about it until the spring following, when it appeared



somewhat enlarged, continued increasing in size, and became rather painful until June, when leeches were applied, which appeared to afford transient relief.

“ In 1811, the lump having become larger, though with little pain, I consulted Mr. Cooper, who ordered a frequent application of leeches, which appeared to occasion a contraction of the parts affected. After some months the drawn parts (under the nipple) began to ooze, and a few large red pimples appeared near the middle.

“ In 1812, I again shewed it to Mr. Cooper, when upon saying I should not like to undergo an operation, as the arms appeared to be affected: he answered, it is very fortunate when the patient and surgeon agree; and added, he thought, from the breast being much lessened, it would probably quite disappear, when the complaint might cease. He ordered leeches to be applied whenever the pain was troublesome, and gave me a prescription, which I followed until the last half year. In the autumn of 1812, the red pimples broke, and have continued in a state of ulceration ever since.

“ About two years and a half since, the other breast became affected; and has gone on in the same way as the first, except that it has been

attended with more pain. In the summer of 1814, I shewed it to another surgeon in Town, who said *nothing* could be done; but added, when it was in great pain, I might put scraped carrot to the sores; and upon my saying, it never had been in much pain, he answered, perhaps not; but I must expect the pain to be extremely violent.

“It should be observed, that I had a very severe milk abscess of the left breast with my first child, now thirty-two years since. The whole breast was greatly diseased and swelled. The eschars, that were left, were deep and large. About nine years since, I had a violent blow on the same breast, from a butcher’s boy in Leicester Fields. This at the time affected me so much, that I was obliged to go into a shop for relief. The pain however soon subsided, though at night it was again so painful as to induce me to rub it with brandy.

“In this state, I have remained with this only consolation in my mind, that some fever might release me; or that the bleeding from my breast might carry me off, before the threatened and multiplied horrors of the complaint overtook me.”

*Saturday, Dec. 17.*—The symptoms of the fever being somewhat abated, and considering the very great urgency of the case, the plan of

pressure was attempted. For this purpose long plaister-straps were used, commencing from either side, and covering the whole surface of the chest. Linen compresses were only employed in the first instance, and the parts firmly bandaged by two six yard rollers.

Before these applications were made, the various holes and cavities were filled up, from the bottom, with chalk finely levigated, and all the surface thickly covered with hair powder.

*Dec. 19.*—The fever diminished, but great drowsiness has supervened; and on the removal of the applications, the front of the chest was found to be smartly attacked by erysipelas. This part, to the great surprise of the patient, shewed some degree of softness and mobility in the integument. In short the chest is not quite so like a plate of iron, studded with knobs as it was two days ago.

The discharge from the different surfaces of holes, knobs, and fissures, is thin, spare, and offensive. No hemorrhage took place upon the removal of the applications. Though here and there a great disposition to bleeding was shewn.

There is some ulceration at the bottom of the deep side fold, under the left axilla. This fold having been well filled with chalk powder, was

still further kept from contact by plaister-straps. There is such complication of disease and scirrhus puckerings ending in the deep sore of the left breast, and such depth of disease running up and occupying the axilla, that every day threatens the whole of this mass becoming one entire sore.

The same observation applies to the whole front of the chest, as well as the cancerous remains of the right breast, with the side and axillary puckerings, folds, and scirrhus masses in connexion with it. The neck is less stiff, and the arms somewhat reduced.

The various cavities, folds, &c. being now filled up, and defended by the powder, the pressure was re-applied, as on the 17th instant. The saline in effervescence, and the alterative pill as before. The warm foot-bath every night.

It is to be observed, that the patient was attacked with erysipelas, in a similar way, late in the autumn of last year.

The bark could never be taken, in consequence of the thirst, irritation, and fever it invariably produced at every attempt to exhibit it.

*Dec. 21.*—Although the erysipelas is rather intense upon the chest, yet the whole integument at the upper part has become sur-

prisingly looser, and the discharge somewhat more free. A hard, projecting, and deeply diseased scirrhus mass, at the upper and inner part of the retracted remains of the left breast, seems violently affected by erysipelas. To defend it from the discharge, besides the use of the absorbent powder, the surface is covered with gold-beater's skin. From this part across the chest to the deep cancerous fissure of the opposite breast, including the sore occasioned by the leech, as formerly described, a range of impenetrably hard, and extremely diseased structure, exists.

The ulcerated scirrhus knobules and holes forming, between the breasts, more properly the sore of the chest, have run still more into one another, and there is some appearance of general slough.

The two stone-like sores on each side, the deep fissure through the right, and the large oblong excavation of the left breast, remain the same, surrounded by their hard, immovable, cancerous, and variously contorted masses.

The plan of pressure pursued, and the general medicines continued. No hemorrhage has taken place.

*Dec. 24.*—The erysipelas is shifting from one part of the chest to another. The whole integument most surprisingly improved, both in

colour and structure; and though full of hard knots, yet moveable and loose. The integument also far reaching down the sides, and over the region of the stomach equally improved; but that in immediate connexion with either of the breast-sores, and reaching across from the bottom of the chest, presents a large surface of confirmed cancerous ulceration; some scirrhus knobs of which have broken into distinct sores.

Over the sore of the chest, a large expansion of brown coloured slough seems to be spreading. The complicated scirrhus folds of the axillæ are improved, particularly the deep fold of the left axilla. No hemorrhage. The plan of pressure increased, and the sheet-lead employed. The discharge thin and offensive.

*Dec. 27.*—The improvement noticed in the last report still continues. A large defined slough is now formed over the sore of the chest. The scirrhus masses of the left breast somewhat less hard; but the chain of disease and sore leading from the upper part of the chest to the right breast, seems to be unchanged; and this, as well as the fissure and scirrhus masses of the right breast, with the stone-like sore of the left, exhibit all the morbid intensity of the most inveterate and confirmed disease.

The plan of pressure continued, with the use of tin plates to the sides and chest.

*Dec. 29.*—The erysipelas still lingers. The integument of the chest wonderfully improved. The deep-seated disease leading from the breasts to the axillæ very much softened, and a good deal of their scirrhous compacted masses loosened or dispersed. The deep fissure or fold of the left side in particular more shallow, and its ulceration in part healed. The diseased lumps extending far down the sides, and reaching across, greatly dispersed; and the integument, both in its colour and structure, very much recovered.

Although the cancerous sores and scirrhous masses forming from one breast to the other the centre of this extraordinary disease, seem still to present an uniform and unchanged state of morbid inveteracy, yet the rapid advance of their progress appears to be checked.

The slough formed on the chest is beginning to loosen about its edges.

Active pressure kept up with the use of the tin plates. No hemorrhage. The discharge more free.

*Dec. 31.*—The parts noticed in the last report still continue to improve. The slough of the chest looser. The discharge very much increased. No hemorrhage. The plan of pressure actively kept up.

*Jan. 2, 1815.*—Throughout, the erysipelas has proved a great annoyance, and the plaister-

straps have been in consequence occasionally suspended. This attack now seems on the decline. All the parts reported in a state of improvement, still retrograde from disease. No hemorrhage. The discharge greatly increased. The pressure actively kept up. It is to be understood, that in every instance previous to the application of pressure, after the parts have been well cleaned, every cavity, every fold and fissure have regularly and firmly been filled up from the bottom with chalk powder, and the whole surface of the chest and sides defended by a thick layer of hair powder. To give some idea of the extent, complication, and difficulty of this disease, three hours have been sometimes taken up in performing the necessary duties of each dressing, and never less than two.

*Jan. 3.*—The discharge so great, that application of linen compresses and rollers was necessary.

*Jan. 4.*—All the applications removed. The pressure continued.

*Jan. 6, 8, 10.*—On each of these days the applications were removed, and the pressure actively continued. Part of the slough of the chest has come away, leaving irregular and deep excavations. The discharge much increased, thin and fœtid. The parts formerly



reported as greatly improved, still keep their progressive course. The erysipelas still shews itself in patches on the chest; but no extension of sore has taken place in consequence.

The general remedies prescribed to be continued, with an alterative pill twice a week.

*Jan. 20.*—From the increased discharge, which has been ill conditioned and offensive, the applications have been renewed daily.

The integument of the chest presents a wonderful state of improvement. The upper part has lost all its diseased knobs, and has returned to a natural state. The same also has taken place throughout the integument over the region of the stomach, and reaching far down the sides. The side and axillary folds present a much less scirrhus state of disease, and even some of the cancerous and rigidly fixed masses of the breast on either side, afford some symptoms of the appearance of yielding. Happily none of these parts have sloughed. The slough over the chest is still cleansing, leaving various bottoms of ulceration, evidently divided into different compartments, presenting a jumble of surface and structure, either in hard elevated parts, or deep excavations.

The deep stone-like sore of the left breast, with its surrounding disease, remains unmoved. The chain of disease leading from the upper

part of the chest-sore to the right breast, still retains its character of morbid change; and the mouldering fissure of the right breast has gone still deeper into decay, and all the remains of what was formerly considered the base of the nipple are perfectly lost.

The plan of pressure actively pursued.

Since its adoption, no bleeding has occurred. This symptom is therefore considered as removed. If hemorrhage should at any time recur, it will be noticed.

The general remedies continued.

*Jan. 31.*—The plan of pressure has been actively and daily kept up, with the occasional use of the plaister-straps and tin plates. In every application, the cleansing of every cavity and fold, with the use of the powders, has been attended to. The side folds and scirrhus masses very much lessened, both in complication and disease.

The fissure of the right breast has begun to discharge more freely, and the surrounding scirrhus masses are somewhat less hard. An impression also seems to have been made upon the chain of disease leading from this part to the upper margin of the sore of the chest; the slough of which still continues to clear away, leaving various depths of sore. Some of the longer exposed surfaces have continued a par-

tial degree of sloughing, and have mended in their appearance. These parts afford something of a better discharge.

The deep sore of the left breast feels somewhat less stony on its surface, and does not present to the touch the same impenetrable depth of disease. Both in the right and the left breast many scirrhus masses have softened, and begin to form new folds, exposing in consequence new surfaces of restored integument. A curious progress of change has attended this restoration. An uniform scirrhus mass, for example, is presented. In process of time, it loses its deep stony hardness; and in a few days after, a superficial line is perceptible. But this is soon found to be of considerable depth, and shortly develops itself into a large fold. Some masses will thus expand themselves into two, three, or even four folds, some of which will be more than half an inch in depth.

These scirrhus masses, suffered as they have been to slough in complicated cases, account for the various and extraordinary surfaces so frequently presented in cancerous sores.

The discharge great and offensive.

The plan of pressure, with the general remedies, continued.

*Feb. 8.*—The slough of the chest-sore still

cleansing. The discharge great and offensive; but from those sores where the slough first cleared away, the discharge is getting somewhat purulent. The sore of the left breast has very much softened, and the slough in continuation from the chest-sore is spreading over its surface. The diseased state of the right breast less intense. The scirrhus masses and folds, both of the side and the axilla, much improved.

Although the integument in more immediate connexion, is deeply diseased, and to a considerable extent, yet the surrounding and formerly diseased skin is most astonishingly restored to a healthy state. These improvements have been so evident, that they have come under the daily observation of the patient and her attendants, whose report alone would form a very interesting and accurate detail of the remarkable progress of amendment in this disease.

The plan of pressure actively pursued, and the general remedies continued.

*Feb. 16.*—The applications have been removed, and the pressure actively renewed daily, as heretofore. The chest-slough still clearing. The sore putting on a better appearance. The immediately surrounding parts losing their impenetrable hardness, and their discoloration

less intense. The discharge from the sore great, and very offensive; although good pus is beginning to be formed, by those parts that have become cleansed.

The slough more confirmed over the sore of the left breast. The state of the salival glands has become very relaxed, and some cough attends.

This day the Decoct. Serpent. with Tinct. Columbæ was ordered, with small doses of Zinc. Sulph. made into pills with myrrh and aloes.

The pressure continued.

*Feb. 17.*—The discharge immense, and extremely offensive; yet the sore improves. The cough violent. Fits of it during the night, described by the patient to have been excessive. Twelve drops of the following used occasionally.

℞. Tinct. fol. Digitalis ʒij.—Opii—Hyoscyami a.a. ʒi. M<sup>c</sup>.

The pressure continued.

*Feb. 18.*—The chest-sore very much cleansed, and looking more healthy. The slough over the left breast coming away. Various puckerings of scirrhus folds still opening, and the scirrhus deep-seated ridge at the bottom of the great fold on the left side most strikingly diminishing.

A good night has been passed. The cough much relieved.

The pressure and general remedies continued.

*Saturday, Feb. 19.*—A good night, cough abated, and the pulse natural; yet the spirits very unequal, and often greatly depressed. The secretion of saliva very great. The discharge from the chest excessive, and highly offensive; still no spreading of the sore—no giving way of the surrounding parts. Indeed all the diseased parts progressively improve, and fold after fold of the different scirrhus puckerings and masses still continue to open, affording new surfaces.

All the plans continued. Over the slough of the left breast some powdered charcoal was used.

*Feb. 20.*—The symptoms much the same as yesterday. The plan continued. Neither lead-plates nor tin shields have been used for some time. For the last three weeks, the whole of the pressure has been made of linen compress and the rollers. Not that the general pressure has been less, but from the improvement of particular parts intense in disease, the specific pressure of the plates was not requisite. It ought to have been noted, that from the first commencement of the treatment, a milk and vegetable diet, with a portion of fish twice a week, has been adopted.

*Feb. 21.*—The appearances altogether better. The diseased structure both of the right breast and side clearing away most rapidly. The sore of the chest contracting, and though deeply marked with the cancerous character in its centre, by confused structure and action, evinced by abrupt projections, holes, and still deeper excavations, yet still, about the edges, where the slough has long been detached, and new actions progressively succeeded, a healthy appearance is established.

The parts in immediate connexion, and forming particularly the chain of disease leading to the right breast, losing their morbid hardness.

The diseased and complicated structure leading from the sore of the left breast round the side, and up to the back part of the axilla, most astonishingly improved. The discharge excessive, but not so violent as the last two days; and its offensiveness checked by the use of the charcoal. The night good. Some severe fits of coughing; but, upon the whole, tolerably quiet. The spitting still continues. The pulse and general strength, under all these circumstances, very good. Spirits low, but not so irritable as yesterday. The general medicine continued, and the saline in effervescence occasionally taken.

The pressure pursued.

Unceasing, laborious, and anxious as the at-

tendance on this case has been, yet, in a practical point of view, it is necessary to observe, because so much of its success has depended upon it, that the treatment throughout has received every aid from strict adherence to rule, and the cheering and grateful confidence afforded by the patient herself.

*Feb. 22.*—A good night has been passed. The cough very considerably abated. The secretion from the throat and salival glands still continues. Spirits rather improved. Pulse natural.

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*Mr. Young's Note on Mrs. Jennings's Case.*

*June 12, 1815.*—The bulk of the minutes prevents their further publication at the present period; but it may be satisfactory to add, that this extraordinary and interesting case has now arrived so nearly to a completion of cure, that in the course of a week, in all human probability, there will not be a point of sore which is not covered by perfect and healthy cuticle.

Throughout the progress, the astonishing provisions of nature have been established beyond all former record: and now, over the original sore of the chest, as well as that of the left breast, a large sheet of complete skin is spread, which has been formed and



forming for the last three months. Mr. Short, one of the Surgeons to the Bedford Infirmary, has had the satisfaction of witnessing the progress of this extraordinary cure, the detail of which is circumstantially continued in the minutes of the case, yet to be published,

Being requested to state my own opinion of the improvement of my case since I have been under Mr. Young's care, I have only to say, such has been the wonderful change, and I am now so nearly well, that my return home is fixed for Monday in the next week.

M. C. JENNINGS.

*Sunday, June 11, 1815.*

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

*P. 37, l. 21, for veins of stone, read rims of stone.*

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