

**Select cases in the different species of insanity, lunacy, or madness, with modes of practice as adopted in the treatment of each.**

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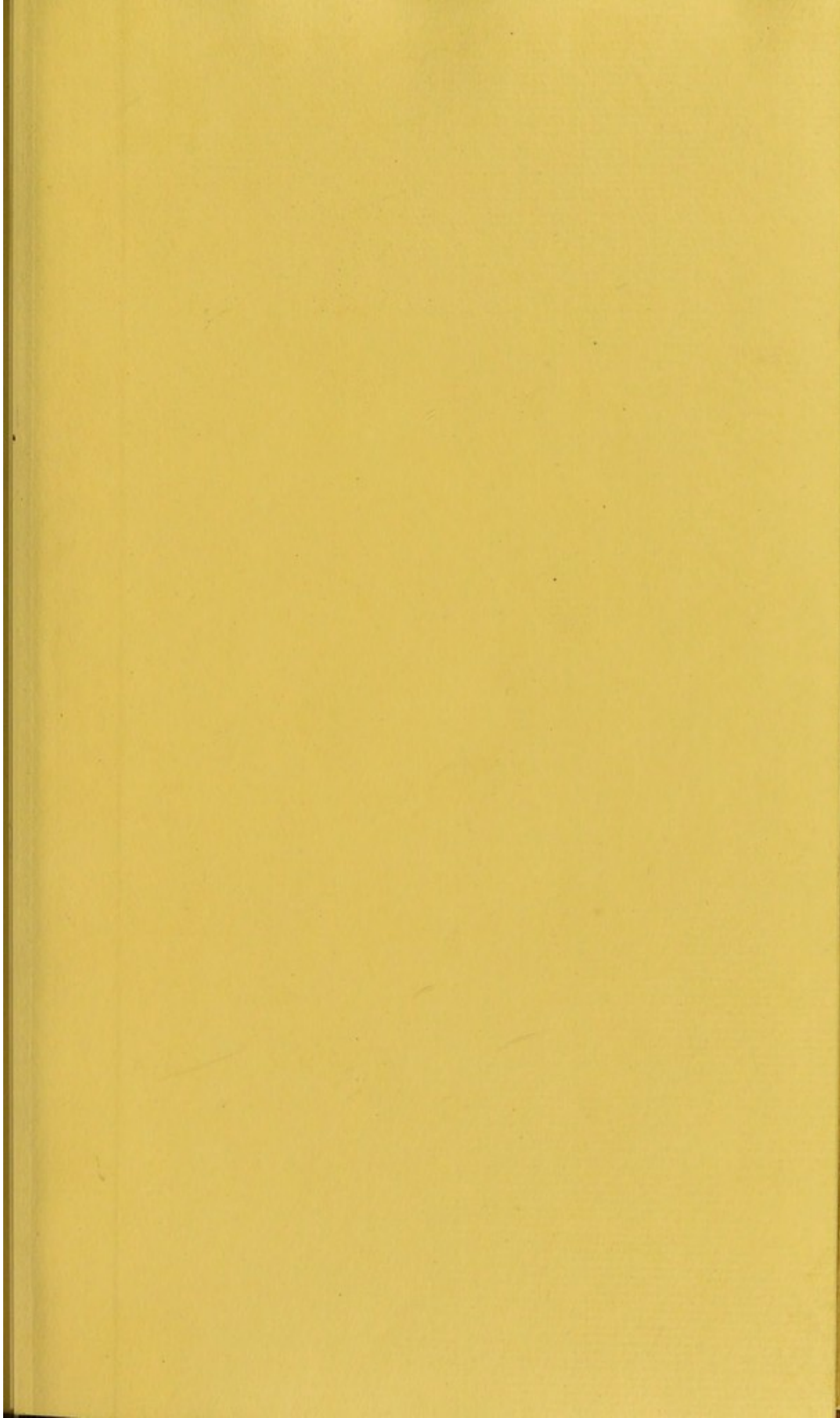
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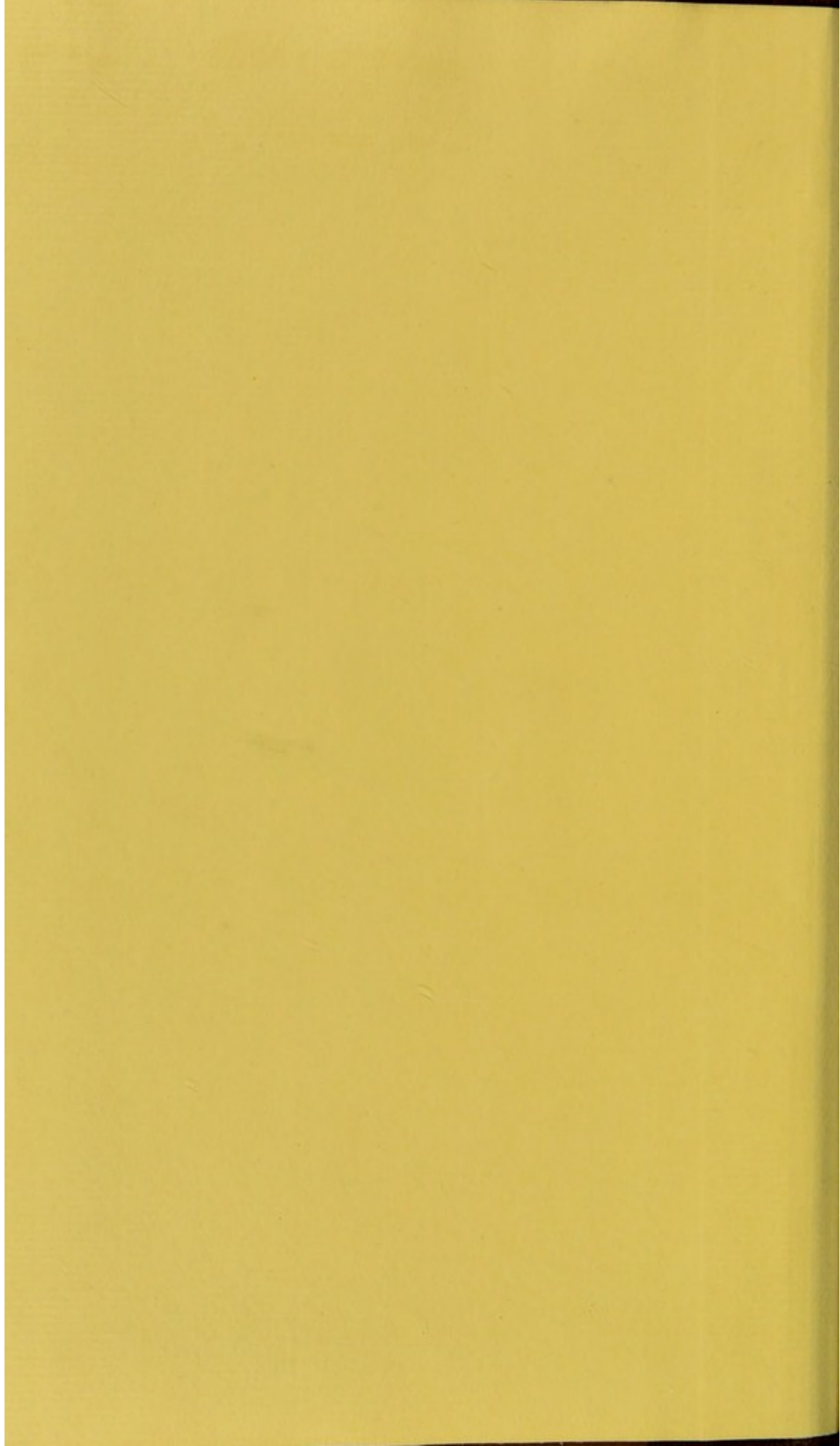


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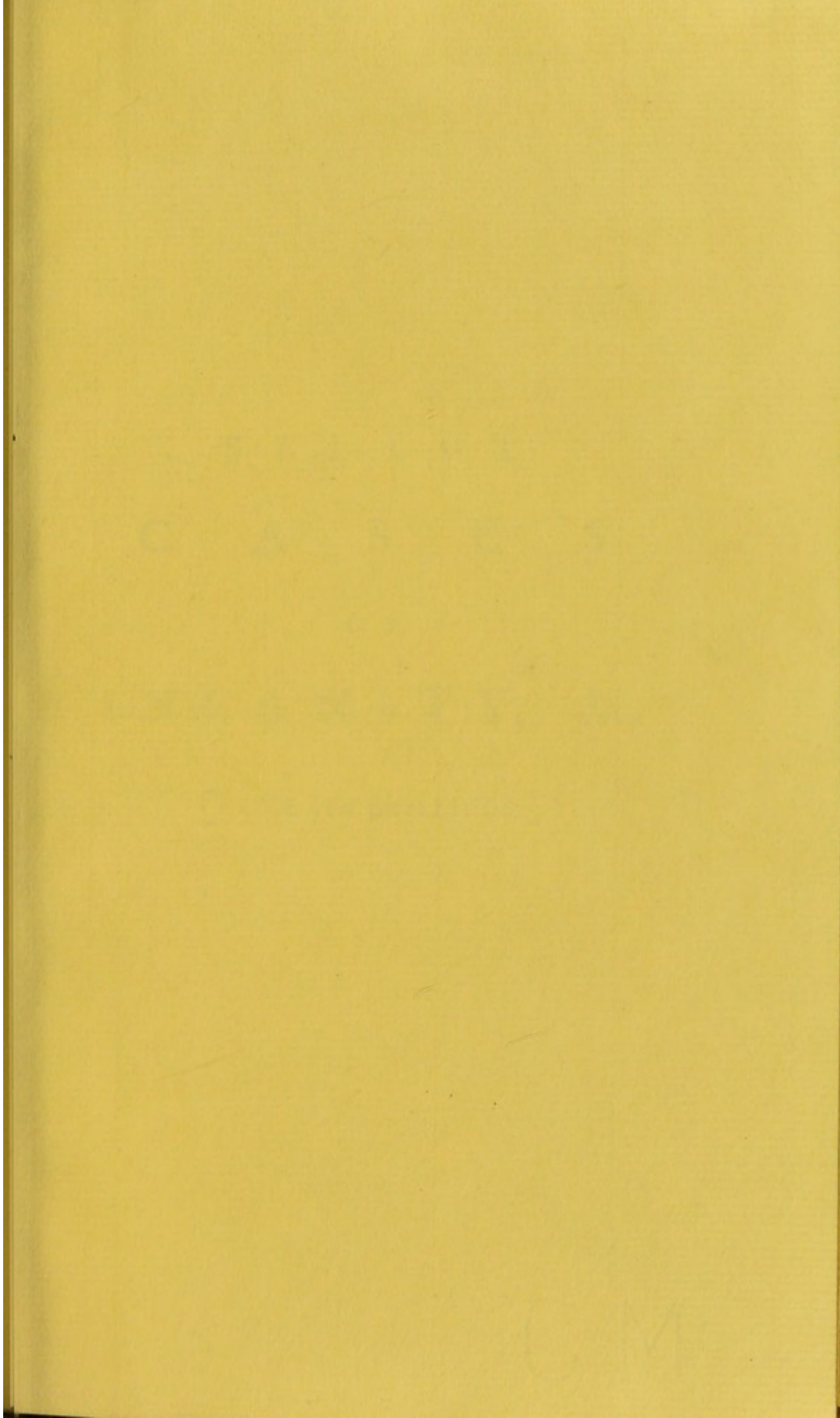


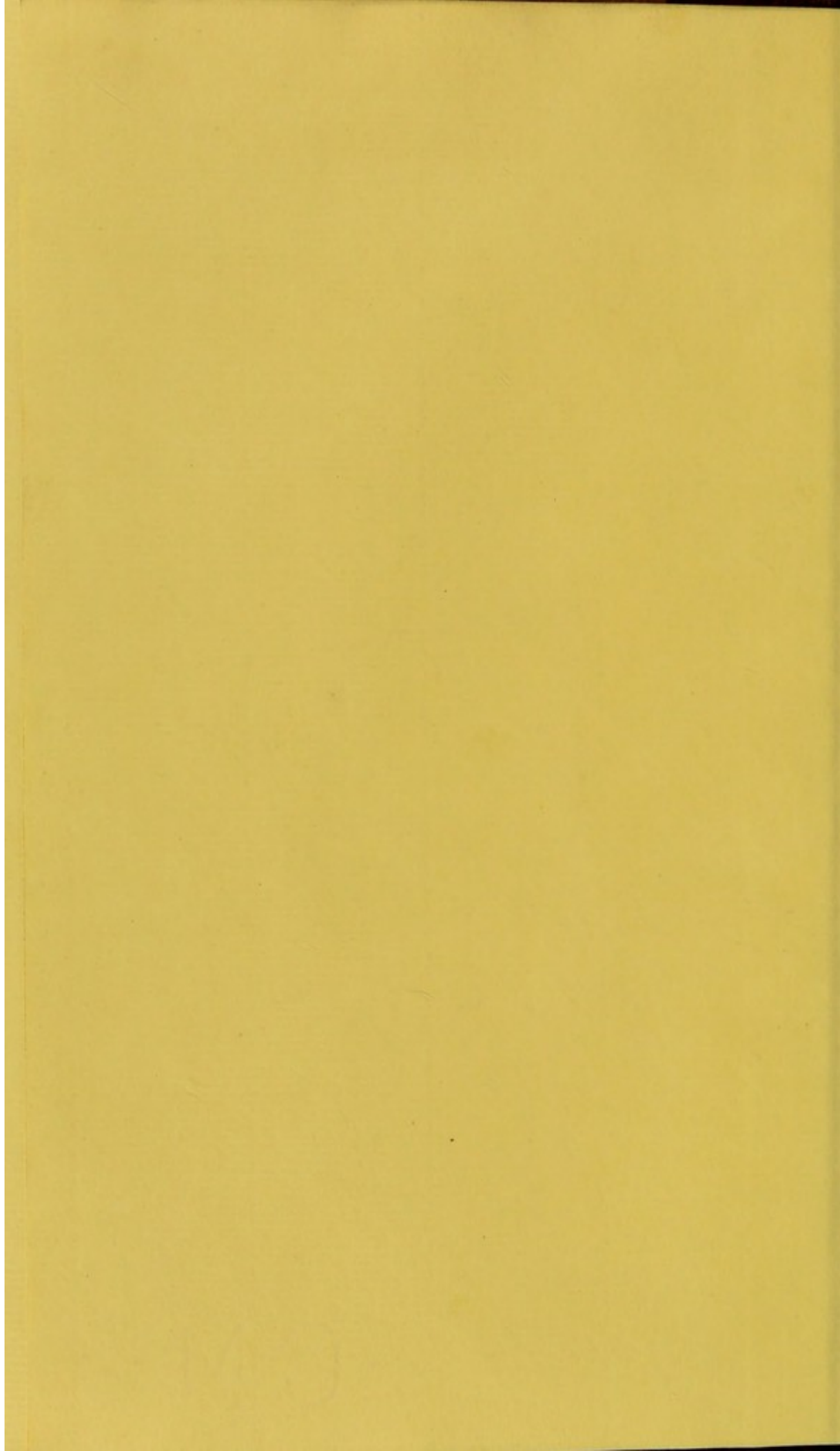














S E L E C T  
C A S E S  
O F  
I N S A N I T Y, &c.

[PRICE SIX SHILLINGS.]

S E L E C T

C A S E S

O F

I N S U R A N C E

[PRICE SIX SHILLINGS]





# SELECT CASES

IN THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF

## INSANITY, LUNACY, OR MADNESS,

WITH THE

MODES OF PRACTICE AS ADOPTED IN THE  
TREATMENT OF EACH.

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BY WILLIAM PERFECT, M. D.  
OF WESTMALLING, IN KENT.

---

*Spedemur agendo.*

---

————— O ye celestial powers,  
What is it in a torrent of success  
To overflow the world, if by the stream  
Our own enfeebled minds are borne away  
From reason, &c.

THOMSON'S SOPHON.



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1787.

150  
102  
28c  
SELECT CASES

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*BY THE SAME AUTHOR.*



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**BY** the following Cases, collected with care, chosen with a view to real utility, and reported with fidelity, it will be easily seen that the author has no design to obtrude any nostrum or specific upon the public, but merely to exhibit the result of his own practice and observations, in a malady of the greatest importance, in which a considerable number of persons are deeply concerned. He has held forth no ideal speculations, or fantastic theories, which might furnish matter of fanciful conjecture, but, contenting himself with

plain facts, unincumbered with tedious and uninteresting particulars, and divested of useless minutiae, he flatters himself that the integrity of his intention will, undisguisedly, appear to the eye of candour, and serve to palliate every degree of illiberal criticism. Be that as it may, of this he is well assured, that, should the practice of medicine receive the least accession from his experience and endeavours, he will think his time well spent, and his studies well directed; and, for the indulgent reception of his past labours, the Public are entitled to his most grateful acknowledgments.

*DEDICATION.*



DEDICATION.

T O  
JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM,

M. D. F. R. S. AND A. S.

---

DEAR SIR,

“THE permission, which you have so politely granted, of dedicating the following sheets to you, I regard, not merely as a testimony of some little professional tenderness and skill, constantly, however, to the best of my abilities, exerted towards the relief of such of my fellow-creatures whose complaints involve the last state of human misery, but as a proof of private friendship, *and a record of your own feelings, whenever humanity can be exercised or displayed.*”

“ UNDER these impressions, I will not further trespass upon your time; you will, however, be pleased to accept of my most fervent gratitude for so very respectable a sanction, and permit me to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your most obliged,

And obedient Servant,

W. PERFECT.”

CASES



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C A S E S  
O F  
I N S A N I T Y, &c.

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C A S E I.

A GENTLEMAN, aged fifty-eight, was, in the beginning of January, 1770, put under my care for insanity. The cause of his disorder was attributed to a sudden transition in his circumstances, which, from being easy and comfortable, were become doubtful and precarious; his complaints were great pain in the head; almost a continual noise



in his ears, and, at intervals, a melancholy depression, or a frantic exaltation of spirits; he was inclined to be costive, his water was very high-coloured, he passed whole nights without sleep, sometimes raved and was convulsed, and his attention was invariably fixed to one object namely, that he was *ruined, lost,* and *undone!* which was his incessant exclamation both by night and day. Strong purges, antimonial vomits, ammoniac draughts, sagapenum, steel, and both kinds of hellebore had alternately been exhibited; issues, venæsection, a seton, and vesicatories had been tried for a series of time; bathing, and, in short, almost every thing, seemed to have been done without the least visible alteration for the better. He had, however, never



been removed to a proper place of retirement, nor had he ever been sufficiently excluded from company, or prohibited the conversation of such; whose *curious impertinence* served only to heighten and inflame his malady. When I undertook the care of this person, he appeared very impatient of contradiction; and, even discoursing with him in the most easy and gentle manner, would often ruffle him into a mis-construction of all that was said: I therefore forbade all sorts of intercourse with his relations and acquaintance, till such time, as, in my opinion, it might be admitted without any manifest injury to the patient. And could the friends of afflicted *maniacs* in general, only be made thoroughly sensible



of the prejudice that is often done them by unnecessary conversation and affecting visits, they would, I think, most carefully abstain from both. The injunction, which I had prescribed, was very punctually observed, otherwise I might have met with insurmountable obstacles in the execution of my curative plan; which was begun by making a seton between his shoulders, and confining the patient to a still, quiet, and almost totally darkened room: I never suffered him to be spoken with, either by interrogation or reply, nor permitted any one to visit him but such whose immediate business it was to supply him with his aliment, which was light, cooling, and easy of digestion; at the same time his constant drink was weak and diluting; and this was the more absolutely necessary,



as his regimen, although frequently directed to be sparing and moderate, had never been properly regulated and attended to, a circumstance in itself exceedingly blameable, and only to be imputed to the mistaken indulgence of those about him. For twelve nights successively he used the warm pediluvium, by which having rested something better than he had long before done, I was induced to go a step farther, and, after two purges, to try the effects of opium, which I began in the evening of the thirteenth day after he came to me, in the quantity of fifteen drops of the *elixir paregoricum* in two ounces of a weak *camphorated julep*, which caused him to sleep an hour at a time; and, through the whole of the day



following he appeared much easier and less anxious than usual; the elixir was now repeatedly increased, till his nights became thoroughly still and composed, and his days rendered so free from perturbation of spirits and hurry and confusion of thoughts, that he talked rationally and just, seldom breaking out into any frantic rhapsodies, or passionate expressions whatever. In this course I invariably persevered for nearly four months, occasionally administering a sufficient dose of lenitive electuary to prevent too great a constipation of the bowels from the reiterated use of the paretics; his reason now returned, his imagination grew stronger, his ideas were more collected, and he spoke of things as they really were,

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and of the primary cause of his mental infirmity, with philosophic coolness, and resigned moderation. The seton was continued, but the opiate and pediluvium were gradually decreased, and entirely left off on the second of June following; when, after having been with me nearly five months, I restored him to his friends in that state of sanity, which he has happily preserved to the present period.

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## C A S E II.

ON the twenty-ninth of December, 1770, I was consulted by letter in the case of a gentleman of Carey-street, London; he was about the age of two-



and-twenty, and, till within about twelve months before, had enjoyed a firm, rational mind and a good state of health; but, in consequence of a disappointment in a matrimonial treaty, from a cheerful and lively disposition, he at once became sad, dull, and pensive; destitute of his usual firmness and resolution, with almost a total privation of appetite, sleep, and spirits, and fond of solitude to an excess; for some weeks together he scarcely spoke a word, and, from a florid and healthful complexion, became pale, wan, and sickly. In about three months after this change took place, he was seized with a drivelling, which continued for five or six days together; during which time he spoke with his usual facility and



ease, his appetite returned, he slept better, and enjoyed a partial return of his natural spirits and vivacity; but no sooner did this discharge cease, than he immediately reverted to his former gloomy and depressed state. The ptyalism continued periodically to return with every full moon; brought with it its exhilarating, and left its distressing, effects. After continuing in this state for the space of eight months, he was entrusted to my management and care on the fifteenth day of January 1771. Finding, upon enquiry, that many probable and regular methods of treatment had ineffectually been referred to, and supposing, by this periodical discharge of the salival glands, that Nature in self-assistance endeavoured to throw off



the peccant humours; as the patient was not altogether in such a state of laxity as to prohibit the experiment, and extremely desirous to try it, I resolved to prolong the next periodical flux by the assistance of *calomel*, exhibited, at proper intervals, in quantities proportioned to his strength; accordingly, about a week before the expected return of the salival discharge, I gave him every night at bed-time two grains of calomel, made up into a small pill with conserve of roses and rhubarb; about the fifth day afterwards his breath became offensive, and he complained of a slight soreness in his mouth and gums; on the sixth day, in the evening, the sputation commenced, which was moderately encouraged, and the patient



supported with a diet suitable to his situation; he appeared social, cheerful, and contented, and, except the soreness of his mouth and gums, made no complaint at all. I continued to promote the flux in a small degree, until he had passed the next full moon, (at which time I observed there was no visible increase of the ptyalism) when I gradually began to carry off the mercury by lenient purges; but the sputation did not entirely cease till nearly the end of the seventh week from the first day of his beginning to take the calomel. I then opened him an issue in his arm, and advised a purging draught of the soluble tartar, with a cool and sparing regimen at the approach, and till the decline of every



full moon. The ptyalism never afterwards returned, nor was he again subject to any of the complaints which used to recur upon its remission; the cortex was, for some time, exhibited to brace up and invigorate the habit, which had been much weakened and relaxed, and, being thoroughly recovered, he left my house in a state of good health on the second day of May 1771.

C A S E

## C A S E III.

MR. S. G. about forty-five years of age, after having for some years been subject to acute rheumatic pains, and the internal hæmorrhoids, on a sudden, without any apparent cause, became low-spirited, dull, and melancholy, insomuch, that he was unable to follow his business as usual; he was frequently watchful, timorous, mistrustful, and despondent, and more than once, if he had not been providentially prevented, would have put an end to his existence; he was first attacked in the beginning of September 1772, and had then tried the advice of an apothecary in the place where he lived. In



November I received a message to visit him, and found him seated in his customary attitude, his head reclining on his arm, and his eyes rivetted to the ground, as if lost in profound thought; I tried by several methods to rouse his attention, but to no purpose, and asked him several questions, but received no reply at all. I was informed he had taken vomits, purges, electuaries, and pills, and had then by him a volatile mixture to take every six hours, and a blister between the shoulders; he passed but little water, his belly was bound, and his stomach and bowels were much inflated with wind; the pulse was slow and hard, and a small hæmorrhage, which he had from the internal hæmorrhoids for some days



past, was now stopt. The day before I saw him, he had ejected, by vomit, a great quantity of dark-coloured bile, with which the stool he had that day had was also observed to be tinged.— Little or no regard had ever been paid to his regimen, and, as his appetite was but very small at the best, he had been suffered to indulge it with favourable meats and rich sauces, and other things, directly opposite to the state of his case; wine, malt liquor, and sometimes rum or brandy, had not been denied him; and his unwillingness to move, had prevented him from taking exercise in the open air, in that manner which might have been most serviceable to him. At the time when I took him into my house, he had, I



think, the most *incurious aspect* which I ever beheld, and was so nearly approached to a degree of confirmed idiotism, that a servant was always obliged to dress, undress, feed, and assist him in the common offices of nature. After a few days, I bled him, to the quantity of six ounces; the complexion of the blood proved the vessels to be loaded with a superabundant quantity of humours, which clogged and loaded the circulation so as to render depletion highly necessary. I prohibited his wonted freedom of diet, and confined him to a more slender and cooling one; he was often carried into the air, and took daily, in a basin of water-gruel, two drachms of soluble tartar. The pulse was greatly relieved,



and softened by the first bleeding; by the second, (at the distance of fourteen days) the effect was more promising; and, by a strict perseverance in the antiphlogistic plan, with repeated bleedings and a proper degree of exercise, the patient became susceptible of the dictates of propriety, sensible to the functions of nature, and entirely recovered his right senses and understanding. The regimen now was gradually enlarged; and for some time after taking a decoction of valerian and the bark, to invigorate the system, he left me hearty and well in the March following, having come to me in November *only*; since this cure, I have had several melancholics under my care who have received relief from the free use of the lancet, which,



in many such cases, seems to have been omitted from a mistaken prejudice; for, where the pulse is oppressed, contracted, and hard, and the solids not too much relaxed, to relieve and increase the circulation of the fluids, and assist the secretions, experience sanctifies the indication, and has rendered the operation justifiable. I had a very particular case of this kind from MARDEN, in this county; the patient was a woman of the name of CORNWALL, she had long been immersed in melancholy; and venæsection been reprobated by every one of the faculty who had seen her, and yet this patient recovered by repeated bleedings only, and has ever since remained perfectly well.

C A S E



## C A S E IV.

A LADY, in the thirty-seventh year of her age, of a delicate constitution, upon lying in of her second child, and about a month after her delivery, was seized with a shivering fit, succeeded by a fever, delirium, inflammation of the eyes, and watching. She was attended by gentlemen, eminent in the medical art; by whose assistance, in the space of three weeks, she was so far recovered as to be able to walk across the room; when, on a sudden, from a mistaken apprehension of her husband's conduct, she became anxious, restless, irresolute, incoherently talkative, turbulent, and so very mis-



chievous, that the attendants were obliged to confine her; spasms, raving, foaming at the mouth, involuntary laughter, or loud and shrill lamentations ensued; from a pleasing, open, and cheerful countenance, her face became contracted to a rigidly emaciated and truly maniacal appearance; and, from a decent and delicate choice of words, her expressions bordered upon the rankest blasphemy, or displayed the foulest obscenity. By the advice of the physicians, who attended her before, she had been four times bled within the space of three months; blisters had been applied to the occiput, back, and legs; a seton had been made in her neck; to lenient purges, cathartics had succeeded; the gums, and



fœtid anti-hysterics proved useles; vomits had been often repeated, and cold-bathing not omitted. All painful applications, and every method, hitherto used, had rather aggravated than lessened her complaint; and, in a state of insanity, little short of raving, she was committed to my care in May 1773; she had then a blister open on her back, and an issue in her arm; but, as no good effect had ever accrued from muscular irritation, they were both suffered to dry up, and in a few days there was no discharge from either. I placed her in an apartment the most quiet and retired; gave her magnesia, occasionally to relax the bowels; and, for the heat and quickness of pulse, two spoonfuls of a saline mixture every



five or six hours, with an addition in the evening of a few drops of the paregoric elixir were given. In a few days the spasms abated, the symptoms were mitigated, and the febrile heats allayed—the pulse, from a hundred and upwards, were reduced to near eighty; when a decoction of the peruvian bark and nitre was made use of. The intervals, from a few hours at first, were, in three weeks time, prolonged to a whole day and night, and sometimes two; from a week to a fortnight; then, three weeks; and, at length, till the phrenetic symptoms entirely subsided. During the continuance of this course, I suffered no one to visit or converse with her but myself and one female attendant, her relations and acquaintance



being strictly enjoined, from the first, not to disturb her by visits, paid every necessary attention to that precaution. And by means of the above practice and management, with a regimen suitably adapted to her situation, in five months time, I had the happiness of restoring this lady to her worthy partner and family, and to the welcome reception of a large circle of genteel acquaintance, who had experienced many anxious feelings on her deplorable situation.



## C A S E V.

A LADY, about forty years of age, from a violent fanatical affection, which had possessed her mind for some months, at length became indifferent to every enjoyment of life, unable to perform the domestic duties of her family and had given several evident proofs of insanity; her ideas, in general, were confused, gloomy, and distressed; her apprehensions misfounded, and her life such a burden to her, that she would have laid violent hands on herself, had she not been prevented. In this unhappy state she was conveyed to LONDON for advice; had several vomits, and other medicines usually



given to patients in a similar situation, and particularly the *tinctura melampodii*, the *specific efficacy* of which, as well as the anti-maniacal qualities so much ascribed to *hellebore*, (a remedy of which the ancients had a most wonderful opinion) I am persuaded, neither founded in truth nor experience: a blister had likewise been applied to the back, and ordered to be kept open; but, in much less time than it could be reasonably expected she could find relief, her relations, for the convenience of her being placed nearer to them, removed her in March 1773, to my house. A pale settled melancholy seemed strongly impressed on her features; her eyes looked wild and staring; her nights were watchful and restless; and she often talked of reli-



gion in an incoherent, timorous, desponding, and mistaken manner. It was become absolutely necessary that all books, of religious tendency, should be removed from her sight, as she only brooded over them to increase her doubts and anxieties; and, of course, a Testament, which she had been suffered to have continually in her own possession, was taken from her, and the servant was ordered, on no account, to answer any interrogations she might propose upon scripture and religion, or even to speak to her upon those subjects. She had been much too closely confined, and, as both air and exercise seemed necessary, every night and morning she was taken out for that purpose; and, as the pulse continued hard and



tense, on the sixth day after she came to me, I took away six ounces of blood, exhibited a small bolus of nitre, with equal quantities of castor and camphire, every night and morning for three weeks and between whiles, finding it necessary to keep the bowels in an open state, I ordered her the *oleum ricini*. About the close of the third week the bleeding was repeated; and, soon after, an expectoration, which was habitual to her and which had ceased from her first being taken ill, again returned, and other salutary excretions soon after following, the patient every day recovered strength of body, appetite, and firmness of mind. Being very desirous to return home, at the end of nine weeks, she was permitted so to do, to the great satisfaction of a



most worthy and tender husband and an affectionate deserving family, who have cheerfully and voluntarily confirmed the above success, much to the advantage of the practitioner, by the grateful relation of it to their general acquaintance.

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### C A S E VI.

**I** WAS consulted on the fourth of June 1773, in the case of Miss L. H. aged twenty-seven, who, from an amenorrhæa, was afflicted with lowness of spirits, violent tremors, hysterical suffocation, wandering, confused thoughts and ideas, giddiness, pains in the head



and stomach, loss of appetite, spasms, watchfulness, palpitation, and diminished perspiration; she became averse to company and conversation, and when, at any time, she did talk, it was in a vague, trifling, and whimsical manner, and the very reverse of her usual discourse; she frequently moaned, sighed, and was mopish; and at length, notwithstanding the repeated trial she had made of bleeding, cupping, electricity, vomits, anti-hysterical draughts, neurotics, and emmenagogues, fell into a deep melancholy. The pulse, when I first saw her, was small and irregular, but rather hard and quick; there was a constant throbbing in the temporal arteries, a dry convulsive cough, her urine was pale and limpid, and she



was frequently troubled with reachings and nausea; I gave her a weak antimonial vomit, and afterwards *lac ammoniacum*, with *spiritus nitri dulcis* and *oxymel scilliticum*, and invariably pursued this course to the end of the third week, when finding no good effects ensue, I tried another antimonial emetic, and put her upon a course of valerian and steel; but this too, after a trial of six weeks, proving equally inefficacious, and the patient growing rather worse than better, on the fifth of August I began to use the warm pediluvium, which was continued every evening, giving her twice a day two scruples of camphire in the form of a bolus; and, although she perspired freely in the night, the pulse was much



quicken'd, and ſhe complain'd of great thirſt; therefore, without leſſening the quantity of the camphire, fifteen grains of nitre were added to it, to be made into a bolus with the mucilage of gum arabic, which ſhe took at bed-time, and at three o'clock in the morning, the pediluvium was alſo continued, drinking a cupful of penny-royal tea after each, till the twenty-fifth of the ſame month, when the menſes which had been ſo long ſuppreſſed, appeared in their uſual quantity, for the ſpace of four days; which, I was inform'd, was the uſual time of their continuance when in her perfect health; the tremors abated, the hyſterical ſuffocation ſubſided, the pains of her head and ſtomach were gradually appeas'd, her appetite was reſtored, her ſleep was longer and more reſreſhing, and



her conversation became pure, easy, and uninterrupted. The camphire and nitre bolus was never omitted one night, till the fourth return of the menstrual flux, from their first re-appearance as above. Her diet, throughout the whole cure, had been particularly attended to, and chiefly consisted of nourishing spoon meats, and diluting liquids; but, as she grew better and the system was re-invigorated, she gradually returned to a regimen more solid, and added a mixture of wine to her barley-water, a beverage to which she had always shewn much partiality. She has not since had the least return of her maniacal complaints, and continues exceedingly well.

C A S E



## C A S E VII.

MRS. B. a married lady of about thirty, rather of a leucophlegmatic habit, naturally inclined to despondency and of an inert disposition, was in May 1774, from the loss of a near relation, deeply afflicted with melancholy, insomuch, that she passed whole days and nights without uttering a word, and seemed very indifferent to her food, of which she took but very little; she was subject to loathings, eructations, distension of the stomach, pain, and heart-burn, had frequent reachings to vomit, would often suddenly burst into tears, and cry vehemently; her countenance was pale and



swelled, her aspect dejected, and her eyes were continually in motion; her urine was sometimes reddish, with a light sediment of the same colour, and sometimes it emitted fabulous concretions; at others, and in general, it was white and pellucid; her voice was faint, and almost incapable of distinct articulation, the tongue was parched and tremulous, and her pulse contracted, hard and unequal. Under these circumstances her relations applied to me; I took away from her arm six ounces of blood, which, when cold, was covered with a thin cake of gluten, adhered to the side of the vessel, and swam in too great a quantity of saffron-coloured serum; soon after the bleeding I prescribed an antimonial vomit, with which she discharged a quantity of dark



bile; on the day following she began to take two scruples of camphire, in form of a bolus, every night and morning; on the eighth day of its continuance, an aggregate eruption of minute red pimples, resembling the *herpes miliaris*, broke out all over the surface of the body, and the day following she menstruated, which she had not done before since the beginning of her illness. In a few days she recovered her voice, the aepesia went off, her countenance became more clear and lively, and she discoursed with her usual propriety; I continued the camphire, with a small addition of nitre, to the thirty-seventh day from its first exhibition; and, at the end of six weeks, she was as well as she was ever remembered to have been for many years.



## C A S E VIII.

THE unhappy patient, of whom I am about to speak, and whose case, I believe, exhibits an instance scarcely to be found in the annals of surgery, was a game-keeper to a gentleman at Mereworth, near this town, in the forty-fifth year of his age, of a tall slender make, melancholy countenance, gloomy disposition, and vindictive temper. After labouring for some time under great discontent of mind, caused by a displeasing change in his circumstances, he became fullen, morose, disturbed in his ideas, and fond of solitude. In the evening of the fifth of July 1773, he suddenly



strayed away from home, and, not returning at his usual bed-time, filled the family with apprehensions for his safety, which, in the sequel, appeared but too well-grounded; for, about midnight, he was found by two men, who had been in search of him, lying in the hollow of an unfrequented meadow, welt'ring in his blood, with his throat cut in a most shocking manner; as the hæmorrhage had not been very considerable, and was now entirely stopped, he was capable of giving an account that he had done it himself with a razor, which he had secreted for that purpose. Being able to walk home, a neighbouring surgeon was sent for, who, with much skill and precision, re-united the divided parts by suture, and at-



tended him daily, but, as he often averred, with the most forlorn hope, of his recovery; the accomplishment of which was, indeed, in the opinion of every one, morally impossible. On the sixth day from the accident, the stitches were broken through, and partly thrown off by the digestion of the wound. A most horrible incision now appeared, of six inches in extent, dividing the *sterno hyoidei* muscles, the *coraco hyoidæus* and *larynx* immediately above the *thyroid cartilage*, and more than two-fifths of the *œsophagus*. The air, which issued from the *trachea*, was nearly sufficient to blow out a candle; but his voice and articulation was not so much altered as one might have imagined, from the appearance of the



parts. Considering the nature and dimensions of the wound, it was really surprising how the *carotid* and *jugular* arteries escaped the edge of the instrument. After a consultation of his friends, on the thirteenth of July it was judged necessary to remove him from his own house to mine ; for which purpose, I went to his residence, attended by proper assistants ; to this measure he shewed a great degree of disgust and reluctance, and, notwithstanding he was much emaciated and under peculiar pain and embarrassment from so desperate a wound, it was not till after a very hard struggle of near half an hour, with our whole combined force, that we were able to confine him properly in a strait waistcoat ; he was then



placed between two men in a chaise and conveyed to Malling; where, upon inspecting the wound, and finding a repetition of futures totally impracticable, we contented ourselves with cleansing and dressing the parts twice in a day, and applying a bandage, so as to keep the head continually bent forwards with the chin to the *sternum*, so that the lips of the wound might continue in close contact; his food entirely consisted of spoon meats, in the transit of which there was much difficulty of deglutition, and, unless a resistance was made with the hand against his throat when he swallowed, but little went down into the stomach, but ran through the divided parts, and appeared upon the dressings. Yet, asto-



nishing as it may appear, in less than six weeks, the parts were so far healed, that he could, without any impediment, swallow solids, and the opening was so much contracted, as scarcely to admit the end of a quill. At this time, from motives of œconomy, it was judged expedient to remove him to Bedlam, where he was admitted on the twentieth of August, in a state of health much beyond the expectation of every one who had the least knowledge of his case; and, I have since been informed, that the wound is perfectly closed, and the cicatrix firm, even, and complete.

C A S E



## C A S E IX.

A GENTLEMAN, much respected for the integrity of his conduct, who had been long in business, to which he had ever paid the most indefatigable attention, and who had acquired a competent fortune, at the age of fifty-eight, retired into the country, to spend a life of uninterrupted ease and tranquility, without considering, that the exertions, which he had so industriously used for the attainment of his fortune, were also the very sources from whence he derived his health and spirits; that habit is often more powerful than principle; and that the powers of a mind, which had been accustomed to an active life,



languishes for want of employment. He had not been longer than four months in the situation which he had mistakenly depicted to himself as the crowning of his wishes, when a listlessness ensued; the corpulency, to which he was naturally inclined, increased to a troublesome degree of bulk, he found himself depressed without knowing how to assign a cause for it, he complained of an uncommon pressure about the *scrobiculus cordis*, a swelling and enlargement of his breast, his appetite became depraved, his imagination bewildered, and his ideas were restless and confused; at times he complained of a violent tumultuous beating of the *carotids*, which was evident to those who were about him; the abdomen



was tense and costive, he made but little water, and that in general was thin and white; he complained of pain in his head and left *hypochondriam*, with tension and heat in the parts, he was thirsty and hot; he was subject to acid eructations, frequently laboured for breath, was often wild and extravagant in his actions and behaviour, frequently seized with tremors and dimness of sight, and, at length, fell an entire victim to a melancholy delirium, in which deplorable state, had he not been carefully watched and attended to, he must have fallen by his own hand; he was sullen and mute, frequently was seized with a grinding of his teeth, had involuntary catchings of the tendons, and seemed weary of



existence; it was with much difficulty, that any sort of answer could be obtained from him to the interrogations of the physician who attended him, and who prescribed for him with that judgment and discernment which had long marked the reputation of his distinguished medical abilities. In vain, however, were issues opened, blisters applied, emetics administered, and baths advised; he became worse, even to the heaviest pressure of melancholy, and in that state was removed from his own house to mine. His tongue was generally dry, harsh, and discoloured; his countenance of a fallow hue, dull, and dejected; his eyes fierce, staring, and prominent, their lids much tumefied, and the pupils remarkably dif-



tended; his pulse was full, hard, and oppressed, and not more than sixty in a minute; he was averse to food, and it was often found difficult to get down a sufficient quantity for his subsistence. On the third day after coming to me, eight ounces of blood was taken from the arm, the serum of which was bilious, small in quantity, and of a yellowish cast, the crassamentum, streaked with lentor, was tough and grumous; his diet, to which too little attention had been paid, was regulated with an exactness much more to be depended on in his new appointment than at his own house; a cooling emulsion with nitre was given him at least every eight hours, and every other night at bedtime, he took three drachms of *soluble*



*tartar*, in weak broth, which cooled, relaxed, and purged him; on the intermediate nights, a small pill, containing half a grain of emetic tartar, was administered and had the good effect to excite a gentle diaphoresis, to which he had shewn no disposition from the first of his illness; he passed more urine, which deposited a white light sediment. On the seventh morning after the first bleeding, the operation was repeated; when the complexion of the blood was much changed for the better, its texture was less tenacious, and the serum more clear and less loaded with bile; the pulse became gradually softer, less oppressed, and vibrated about seventy times in a minute; he replied with more facility,



and with a tolerable degree of rationality; appeared less dull and dejected, and was easy and tractable. The nitrous emulsion, soluble tartar, and emetic tartar, at longer intervals than at first, were respectively continued, till the latter end of the nineteenth week, in which time venæsection, in proportion to his strength, had been eight times repeated, and he was obviously better in every respect; his tongue became soft, clean, and moist; his countenance undisordered, rather pallid, but clear, and his conversation as ready, rational and unreserved as ever. About the beginning of the sixth month from his removal his return home was proposed to me, both by himself and friends, in which



I acceded, advising him to use such a degree of exercise, as should appear necessary in proportion to his diet, and be more sparing of the latter than he was before his illness. I have the satisfaction to learn that my documents had their due weight; he now and then occasionally loses blood and takes a dose of the *soluble tartar*, and, by temperance and moderation, secures to himself those most valuable of earthly blessings, *a healthful body and a sound mind.*

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### C A S E X.

THE young lady, whose case I shall next relate, was in the twenty-fourth year of her age, naturally of a brisk



and lively disposition, but, from an irregular flux of the menses, subject to hysteric fits, which, at length, degenerated into raving madness; in consequence, her words and actions, from decent and rational, became wild, inconsistent, and extravagant; her anxiety was frequent and extreme; her appetite was so much depraved, that she would eat paper, cinders, thread, rags, bits of wall, or any thing that lay in her way, and sometimes so unnaturally voracious, that she would swallow her food in too large a quantity and without chewing it; her breath was extremely offensive; her countenance was truly hippocratic; she was restless, hot, and complained of pains in her back, loins, and bowels, with a sensation of



heat in the *epigastric region*; she had a dry, frequent, and painful cough, without the least expectoration, and pain in her thighs and legs; her blood, as I was informed by the surgeon who attended her, and who had thought proper to take away a few ounces, to moderate her frenzy, was florid, and of a loose consistence, and not in the least coagulated in the basin; she often continued delirious three days and nights together, without any intermission and without the least perspiration, and her lucid intervals, at any time, seldom exceeded a few hours about the middle of the day; her stools were bilious, foetid, and high-coloured, but, in general, her urine was concocted, copious, and white; her flesh was flabby and



dry; immoderate fits of laughter, in quick transition, often followed involuntary crying, to which screams, yells, and horrid ravings often succeeded; her pulse was hard, quick, and small, and she was often seized with sudden fugitive spasms in her hands, arms, legs, and thighs. On the first of June 1776, she was placed immediately under my care; I began the cure with an antimonial emetic, in the operation of which she ejected a very long and broad worm, of that species which is called the *tœnia*, from the resemblance it bears to a piece of tape, and of which Dr. Samuel Foart Simmons, F. R. S. has lately favoured the world with a full and particular account; the warm pediluvium was the same evening



begun, a course of the camphire and nitre entered upon, and both were continued to the end of the cure, except that on every fifth or sixth night, I thought it right to prescribe a vermifuge, of fifteen grains of rhubarb, and four of calomel. For the space of three months, prior to my cure of her, she had shewn no signs of menstruation, and the first return of that salutary secretion was observed on the twenty-sixth of June; and on the twenty-fourth of the following month, it returned in a more copious manner; in a few days after this, her mind appeared less disturbed and confused, the symptoms gradually abated, she recovered her full mental powers, has been very regular ever since, and continues perfectly well.



It is remarkable that, during the above course of cure, an eruption, somewhat similar to that which appears in the *urticaria* for nearly a fortnight, appeared every other day on the patient's face, arms, legs, and breasts, and at such times she was observed to be most calm and collected, and least subject to pain and heat.

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### C A S E   X I.

**I**T was with the most sensible degree of satisfaction, that, from a melancholy state, in which the functions of the mind were much injured, I was enabled to restore to his rational faculties



a most worthy and valuable member of society; he was in the thirty-ninth year of his age, had long applied to intense study and rigidly denied himself those relaxations, which a mind like his so greatly stood in need of, as a temporary relief and refreshment from the immoderate fatigue of intellectual researches; his original complaints were, flatulence of the abdomen, impaired taste, forgetfulness, pain in the chest with anxiety, tension in the left *hypochondrium*, indigestion of aliments, inquietude, watchfulness, a sensation of weight in the spine of the back, and a universal lassitude of the whole body, with a real debility of system. He had recourse to a surgeon, in his neighbourhood, who bled him three times in the



space of six days, and who informed me, that the blood was black, heavy, and grumous, separated but little serum, of a greenish cast, and adhered to the sides of the basin; soon after the first bleeding, an emetic had been given, which, for some little time, he thought of service, but, finding his usual pains and anxiety recur, he desired to have it repeated, which was complied with, and the next day all his complaints returned with redoubled violence, and to use his own expression, "*he felt an anxiety and pain affect his heart;*" extreme difficulty of breathing ensuing, constrictions of the external parts, rigors, with lassitude and stupor, supervened, and a violent delirium came on; his mouth was distorted, he raved, was confined,



and my advice was thought necessary. I found the pulse full, strong and quick, the countenance flushed and inflated, and the eyes wild, fierce and protuberant; there seemed an indispensable indication for venæsection, and that, even *usque ad deliquium animi*; the blood appeared nearly in the same state as before described; fomentations were frequently used to his feet and legs; a large vesicatory was applied *inter scapulas*, and, the following night, an antimonial emetic administered, which, operating kindly, the stupor was lessened; but, the pulse still continuing too full and strong, ten ounces of blood was again taken away: it was not so black and grumous as before, there was more serum, and of a better colour;



the camphire and nitre were next given, in equal quantities, and regularly continued twice a day; the blister was kept open, the bleeding occasionally repeated, and, in the space of seventeen weeks, the patient, being thoroughly recovered, returned home, and has since continued in good health. About a fortnight after giving the camphire, an eruption of small red spots appeared on the cuticle, and continued several days, with an itching, and some degree of heat.

C A S E



## C A S E XII.

**I**N the case of this patient, there had long been a complication of affections, from neglect at that period of life, to which the sex in general pay too little attention; she was naturally of a spare, thin, and relaxed habit, and had been subject to copious discharges of the menstrual flux, a total cessation of which took place in the thirty-ninth year of her age; soon after which, she was attacked with inflammation of the eyes, and pain in the loins, translated to the head with a numbness in the hands, and ringing in the ears; her ankles swelled; she was subject to spasmodic affections in various parts of her body,



to jaundice, to a fixed redness in both cheeks, and to great inequality of spirits; by a proper course of medicine, in a few weeks, she recovered from most of those complaints, except the jaundice, which still continued with a general indolence and weariness of the whole body, a great depression of spirits, frequent sickness, and sighing. By the loss of a near relation, who died in May 1774, her condition became such as rendered it absolutely necessary to remove her, from her own habitation, to a suitable recess for such whose derangement of mind renders such a measure necessary; in this situation, however, her disorder rather increased, than abated, till towards the end of the year for which they had engaged,



when it was thought proper, by her friends, to send her to me. She appeared much emaciated, wasted with grief and continual vexation, and labouring under the usual symptoms of melancholy; her countenance was bloated and yellow; her appetite depraved; the lids of her eyes were swelled, their pupils very much contracted, and the whole system much distempered and relaxed: it was in December when she was placed under my direction, soon after which, an emetic of ipecacuanha was exhibited, which emptied the stomach of a great quantity of fordes, with which it had apparently been long overloaded; every third night, at bed-time, a stomachic purgative was administered; after four-



teen days the vomit was repeated, and the contents of the stomach were much less than before; the strength of the patient was recruited by a light nutritious diet, and, three times in a day, she took a cupful of a strong camphorated julep with ten grains of the powder of squills in each dose; and in this course, with little or no alteration, she continued till the latter end of August 1775, when, her mind being in a mild and settled state, she returned home, and has ever since enjoyed a tolerable good share of health, uninterrupted by mental infirmity of any long continuance.



## C A S E XIII.

MISS A. C. a young lady of a delicate habit, subject to nervous affections and painful menstruation, having, for some time, without any apparent cause, shewn evident signs of insanity, was, in the month of March 1776, placed under my care. She was naturally of a lively, active disposition, and remarkable for quickness of parts; under the influence of her delirium, she shewed great vivacity of imagination, and would very often express herself in well-adapted metre; though, when in her right senses, she was never known to have any particular propensity to it; she was for ever in motion,



and incessantly pouring forth a rapid succession of ideas, which she ran through with a most amazing facility, seldom giving any rest to her fancy, either by day or night; she was habitually costive, and more particularly so about the return of her menstrual period; she had long been much relaxed, and bracing and strengthening medicines had been ineffectually employed. I had, therefore, recourse to the austere and astringent vegetables; the *oleum ricini* was occasionally given her to remove her costiveness, which succeeded much better than any other aperient medicine she had tried before, and which might probably be attributed to the small degree of nausea created by taking of it, and the little tendency it has



to irritate the stomach and bowels; twenty drops of the *elixir paregoricum* was given her every night and morning, in a cupful of mint tea, from the beginning to the end of her menstruation; the camphorated julep, diluted with two ounces of water to four, was given her from April the fourth till the thirtieth of July following. On the seventh of August, at the desire of her friends, she was dismissed from my house, and has remained free from any symptoms of insanity from that time to the present, care having been always taken to alleviate the pains attendant on the menstrual paroxysm, by the soothing influence of an opiate. In Van Swieten's Commentaries, we are informed of a woman, who had been several times



maniacal, who, when her fits of insanity were upon her, always spoke in metre, and had a wonderful facility at finding out rhimes; though, at other times, when in her right mind, she not only had no skill in this way, but had never so much as attempted any thing of the kind, having been used, from her youth, to get her livelihood by the labour of her hands, and being no ways remarkable for the quickness of her parts.

C A S E



## C A S E XIV.

**T**HAT a depravity in the habitual constitution of the mind will occasion a derangement of its ideas, even to madness itself, is a fact of such notoriety, that a very small acquaintance with those who labour under mental infirmities, will sufficiently evince its truth. From an habitual indulgence of pride, I shall relate an instance, which is not altogether extraneous, although it comes not into any curative point of relation but having baffled every medical effort of relief, will prove as a deduction to this before-mentioned observation; and also an introduction to a curious case in point,



for which I am indebted to the pen of a correspondent, who, I believe, sometime afterwards gave it to the public through the channel of some periodical print, but of this, I am not certain. The patient was a middle-aged man, not tall but of an upright stature, remarkable for acrimony in his speech and answers, and for impatience in his manner and action; in his countenance he bore the traits of suspicion, pride, and moroseness, and he was naturally of a contentious and irritable disposition; from an unexpected miscarriage in his commercial affairs, he became intolerably jealous, disrespectful to his family connexions, insolent and rude to every one who came in his way, intemperately passionate, and misanthropic to



the greatest degree ; in this manner his insanity began to appear : he next drew upon his banker for sums immensely beyond what his account would afford, and, when disappointed in this respect, he became sullen, and immediately made out drafts for enormous sums upon houses with which he had not the least connexion ; these, and innumerable other actions, equally *outré*, fixed the imputation of his lunacy and determined his relations to seek for the situation of which he stood in need ; in this recess, he issued his mandates with all the arrogance and tyranny of an eastern despot, he would often draw upon the bank for ten and twenty thousand pounds at a time, with that degree of pomp and seriousness



as seemed to mark the reality of the transaction; he often insisted upon his being the Lord Chancellor, King of Spain, Duke of Bavaria, or some other great personage, and demanded reverence and respect accordingly; which, if not paid him immediately, he would become furly and outrageous, and issue orders for the punishment of those who seemed remiss in their duty and obedience, and would seemingly rest satisfied that his directions were punctually executed. He seldom expressed the sense of any bodily pains, nor was bleeding, blistering, vomits, or any other evacuants of the least visible service to him; he was uniformly vain, formal, stately, gloomy, insolent, and self-important; and at any time, however ridiculous



his words and actions appeared to others, they were supported in himself with all the dignity of excessive pride and ostentation, and an entire display of every vanity characteristic of that species of insanity under which he laboured; his imaginary greatness and self-importance, however, gradually dwindled into a total decay as he approached to the verge of idiotism, in which dark abyss I must leave him, to take a view of the communication referred to at the head of this case, its analogy to which, entitles it to a place, as an appendix not unfavourable upon this occasion. The writer premises his relation with observing, "That, in the long catalogue of infirmities to which human nature is subject, none is



esteemed more terrible, than that of madness or insanity; to be deprived of the quality which enables man to regulate his conduct, and even his desires; for his own preservation, is to be reduced below the level with the brute creation. This calamity, however, appears to the spectator even more terrible than it really is, for he judges of the feelings of the unfortunate person, by conceiving what himself, endowed with reason, would feel, if in his situation; and, by thus indulging an idea of what is impossible, and connecting reason with insanity, feels intensely for the misery of the lunatic, whilst the latter is insensible of any other uneasiness than what arises from the disappointment of his schemes, the bursting



of the airy bubbles formed by his over-heated imagination. Indeed, adds our relator, there are not wanting instances of such incoherences, so strange an assemblage of sense and madness, in some insane persons, that the beholder is forced to smile, as well as compassionate; but the tear of pity flows not less sincerely because accompanied with the involuntary laugh; the following story will serve as a proof:—Some years ago, a poor man, who having studied the art of government and the balance of the European power with greater attention than his business, grew insane and fancied himself a king, and, in this situation, was admitted into the workhouse of St. Giles's in the fields, where there



then happened to be an idiot of nearly his own age; the imaginary king appointed the idiot his prime minister, besides which post, he officiated as his barber and menial servant; he brought their common food, and stood behind his majesty whilst he dined, when he had permission to make his own repast. There would sit, the king upon an eminence, and his minister below him, for whole days, issuing their precepts to their imaginary subjects; in this manner they lived about six years, when, unfortunately, the minister, impelled by hunger, so far deviated from his line of allegiance, as to eat his breakfast before his sovereign appeared, which so exasperated the king, that he flew upon him and would certainly have



put a period to his existence, if he had not been prevented; when his anger was thought to have abated, the minister was again introduced to his quondam sovereign, but he seized him immediately, and could never after be prevailed on to see him. The degraded minister caught a fever in his exile, and when his majesty was beginning to relent, and almost prevailed upon to forgive him, he died; which had such an effect upon the fancied monarch, that, after living almost without sustenance, in a continued silence, a few weeks, he died of mere grief.— Ill-fated monarch! thou couldest not as can the illustrious monarch of the present day, if his minister were to “ pay his tribute into the treasury to



which we must all be taxed," appoint another, who would guide the reins of empire with as much prudence and success as the present one hath done: throughout thy whole territory there was not found one hardy enough to engage in the arduous task; and, equally unable to support the weight of government alone, as to descend to the peaceable, but unhonoured, vale of retirement, thou didst quietly yield up thy life and sceptre together! Perhaps it may afford some satisfaction to the reader, to be informed, that this anecdote is founded in fact, the name of the king having stood in the books of the parish, with the addition of "the lunatic king," for several years, the first entry being January 1st, 1727. Some-



thing of a similar instance of arrogant  
insanity we find in Wier de Præstig.  
Dæmon. lib. 13. de Lamiis, cap. 7.  
§ 2. Operum, p. 180. and is in En-  
glish as follows:—I knew an Italian,  
troubled with melancholy, who be-  
lieved he was monarch and emperor  
of the whole world, and that he alone  
had a right to that appellation; in  
other respects he was quite rational,  
was eloquent, and did not labour  
under any other disease; at the same  
time he was wonderfully amused in  
composing verses in Italian, relative  
to the state of Christianity, to the  
differences and to the putting an  
end to the war which then existed  
between France and Holland, all  
which he delivered as so many di-



vine oracles. He every where made known his title by means of these letters, R. R. D. D. M. M. or Rex Regum Dominus Dominantium Monarcha Mundi, that is, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Monarch of the World. And Cœlus Aurelius, in his first book of Chronic Disorders, chapter the 5th, page 328, speaking of madness, says, “ Thus one in his raving has imagined himself a God, another an orator, another a tragedian, or a comedian, another, carrying a straw in his hand, has imagined that he held the sceptre of the world.”

C A S E



## C A S E XV.

A. N. aged thirty-one, of a bilious and plethoric habit, by great uneasiness and violent agitations of mind, became insane; she raved almost incessantly, with short, and those not lucid, intervals; she would frequently pray, shout, laugh, scream and weep, and paid little or no attention to exterior objects around her; she had menstruated in smaller quantities than usual for three or four months before; her countenance was florid, her features distorted, her eyes protuberant, brilliant and constantly moving, their lids were tumefied and inflamed, and the pupils much expanded; her voice was hoarse



and hollow; she had great and extreme heat, and the pulse was hard, strong and quick; under these indications the lancet was freely used, and repeated to five times in the space of as many days, within which time she had lost upwards of seventy ounces of blood; between the operations, two antimonial emetics had been administered, and one draught, containing half an ounce of soluble tartar; and, notwithstanding the very small quantity of nourishment which she had taken for ten days past and repeated venæsection, the pulse continued uncommonly full and strong and her bodily strength was incredible; the insane symptoms were not in the least mitigated; the blood had uniformly from



the first appeared of too dense a consistence, and, when cold, resembled melted suet; nor was this appearance much more lessened in the last than in the first operation, so that a correction of the vicious construction of the humours was but little to be expected from venæsection; however, the depletion of the vessels had made way for attenuating medicines; lenient purgatives, at stated times, were repeatedly administered; and the camphorated julep, with a strong infusion of the *Radix Raphani*, was given three times a day for nearly six weeks, when she began to have lucid intervals of three and four hours in the twenty-four; these intermissions, by a continuation in this method, with a suitable



diet, were gradually prolonged to whole days and nights, till at length they became so permanent, that, at the end of four months, she was able to return to her service, has continued well ever since, is now married and the mother of a family.

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### C A S E   X V I .

**T**HE son of a respectable and worthy magistrate in the city, had, in his seventeenth year, been suddenly, and without any previous symptoms, seized with a spasmodic complaint in his right arm, leg and lower jaw, with remitting pains on that side of the



thorax, which continued for six weeks, without being in the least relieved by blisters, sinapisms, electricity and antispasmodics of various kinds. About the end of the seventh week from the beginning of the paroxysm, for some days together, the contractions and pain were thought to abate, and, as the faintest ray of hope was followed with the eager expectations of a fond and indulgent parent, so, in a few days after, when they recurred again in a more violent degree, attended with a partial *paralysis* of the tongue, which rendered the voice, at first, incapable of continued distinct articulation, and, afterwards, totally deficient, his feelings were rendered more intensely keen; and, in this trying situation, the best



and most approved medical advice and assistance was employed, but with so little advantage, that, at the end of seventeen weeks, little or no alteration for the better could be perceived; he could neither write, read, nor speak, so as to be understood, and with difficulty received his food from the hand of an assistant. On the seventh of September 1775, I received a sensible and well-written letter, describing the case with the nicest exactness, and soliciting my thoughts and opinion upon it; in my reply to this application, “ I expressed my diffidence of being serviceable in the case, “ but observed, as I had been thought “ worthy of a consultation, if his removal was practicable and consistent



“ with the inclination of his relations,  
“ I desired to have him immediately  
“ under my own care ;” to which requi-  
sition they most obligingly acceded,  
and, on the 25th of the same month  
he was brought to me. He appeared  
to be naturally of an extenuated form  
and make, was much reduced by his  
illness, looked pale and wan, with a  
yellowish colour in his cheeks ; he  
was totally deprived of speech, wasted  
and extremely weak, at times slightly  
convulsed, with a costiveness and  
nausea, and his intellects so much  
impaired as to impel him to behave  
and act in a very absurd and ridiculous  
manner. A blister, which for many  
weeks had been kept open between  
his shoulders, was suffered to dry up,



and on the sixth day after his removal, a seton was made in its room in the direction of the spine; the joints of both arms were much enlarged and tumefied, leeches were applied to these parts, and afterwards warm attenuating cataplasms, until the tumefaction had entirely subsided; the *vinum aloeticum alkalium*, warmed with spirits of lavender, was used to keep the body in a proper state of laxity; and an apozem, of equal parts of camphorated julep and *aqua pura*, with two scruples of nitre and ten drachms of *vinum antimoniale*, was given in the quantity of three large spoonfuls thrice in a day, when the stomach was most empty. The seton discharged exceedingly well, and he so far recovered



his bodily strength, that, in less than two months after he came to me, he was able to amuse himself upon the violin, which, before his illness, had been his favorite instrument of music, and in a little time, was able to hold a literary correspondence with his father. Replete with gratitude to myself and family, and being thoroughly recovered in health and spirits, at the end of six months he returned home, has continued well ever since, and is now capable of carrying on the business, to which he has been admitted a partner, with the most regular attention and confidence.



## C A S E XVII.

A YOUNG man, naturally of a sanguine and robust constitution, yet of feeble intellectual faculties, after drinking to excess, had his body covered with phlogistical blotches, which, by using the usual means, were after some time thrown in and, as they disappeared, he was observed to become more dull, heavy and pensive than usual; he complained of an obtuse pain in the chest, and a swelling and tension in the region of the heart, for which he was blistered, lost blood, and took some purgative medicines, but found no relief at all from any thing that was done; he had restless nights,



slept little, was subject to rigors, with lassitude and stupor, was very little feverish, and had given many instances of an insane state of mind. On the eleventh of May 1778, he was entrusted to my care; he appeared under much anxiety, his aspect was wild, his countenance florid, there was a redness and inflammation in the *tunica albuginea* of the eyes, whiteness of the tongue, a difficulty of deglutition, he complained of the head-ach, was thirsty, hot, and had but little appetite; the pulse was strong, hard and above the natural standard, and he had not been at stool for many days; these symptoms were accompanied with distressed thoughts and a frantic manner of behaviour; the in-



dications of a febrile inflammatory disease being thus evident, venæsection was used, and the discharge of twenty ounces of blood not being sufficient to bring on a *deliquium*, the quantity was increased to nearly thirty, which fully effected that purpose: the complexion of the blood afforded little or no information; an emetic was administered on the day after the operation, and repeated at the distance of five or six days for three times, and on the intermediate days the following draught,

℞. *Tartar. Solubic.* ʒ iij.

*Mannæ* ʒ ss. *solue in*

*Aq. Fontan* ʒ ij. *Aq. Cin. ten* ʒ iss.

*m. f. haustus.*



But, although the bodily symptoms were much relieved by this treatment and the pulse considerably lowered, the functions of his mind were yet much impaired, and he continued in a kind of torpid state till towards the end of the fourth month, when, after the free use of the camphorated julep and *Tinctura Fuliginis*, he began to recover his reason, and, for six days together, there were hopes of its continuing; but a relapse followed, and his maniacal symptoms recurring, it was not till nearly a month afterwards, that a second lucid interval took place, when, an eruption of minute pustules, resembling the itch, broke out on his arms, hands, neck and breast, from which time he



continued to mend, without any relapse at all, till he was able to return home and follow his usual occupation.

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### C A S E   X V I I I .

**M**ARY, the wife of JOHN INGRAM, of Chipstead, in this county, had the misfortune to catch cold in her lying in of her third child, which brought on extraordinary commotions in the body, and terminated in actual insanity; she was furious, restless, turbulent and raved incessantly; her body was costive, her pulse quick and hard, her eyes distorted and inflamed, her



tongue rough and parched, without thirst, her skin harsh and hot, and her countenance red and bloated; it was with difficulty she was restrained from doing any mischief to herself or others, and, after continuing some weeks in this state, it was concluded by her friends to consult me. I found upon enquiry, that the *lochia* during their period of evacuation, had been but small, she had secreted but little milk, and had not perspired since her lying in; some medical assistance had been ineffectually administered, and, being in indigent circumstances, she had been too much exposed to that idle curiosity which the vulgar too often exercise in these unhappy cases, to the extreme aggravation of the delirious sufferer



and to the shame of every tender emotion of humanity. As circumstances would not allow of her removal from her own habitation, the first thing advised, was, proper restraints over her person, an assistant to direct them accordingly, and a strong injunction that all impertinent visitors should be totally excluded from the sight of her; a proper quantity of blood was taken away, the texture of it was fizy and the serum yellow and turbid, and the following emulsion was then prescribed,

℞. *Emuls. Comun.* ℥j.

*Mannæ* ℥j.

*Tartar. Solub.* ℥iij.

*Sp. Nitrī* d. ℥ij. *fiat apozema*

*Cyathum summend. secunda qua que  
hora donec satis purgaverit.*



A seton was made between the shoulders in the direction of the spine, which, after a few days, began to discharge in a very copious manner; as the emulsion was not found quite strong enough to answer the purpose, six drachms of the soluble tartar, with an addition of half an ounce of manna dissolved in water, was given her every third day for six times, and the following apozem and drops took place on the intermediate days,

*R. Sp. Vol. fætid*

*Lavend. c. a. ʒss. m. f. Guttel*

*Cap. Gutt. LXX. ter in Die vacuo Sto.*

*mach ex Cyatho Julep. sequentis.*

*R. Julep. e Camphora*

*Aq. Fontan. a. ʒiij. m. Julep.*



A spare regimen, with a total abstinence from animal food, was advised, and diluting drinks; in a few days the poor woman was much calmer, got some refreshing rest of nights, accompanied with gentle sweats, and, in seven weeks time, the cortex being found necessary as a tonic, the cure was finished. It is somewhat remarkable, that the menses did not return for two months after her recovery, although, before this illness, she had always been very regular, and when that period did return, she was for sometime after troubled with nervous affections, which, by the assistance of the cortex and valerian, were soon subdued and her health thoroughly restored.

C A S E



## C A S E XIX.

**T**HE subject of the following recital, was a poor woman of the name of BROOKER, in the thirty-fifth year of her age; she had borne three children, and, in the lying-in of the last, from some improper treatment, was attacked with rigor, with sickness and vomiting; she had complained of an acute pain in the head and in the region of the womb, with some degree of tumour, heat and tension; she had taken a vomit and used some other means, notwithstanding which, her complaints continued to such a degree, as slightly to affect her intellects, but, without any farther medical assistance, her



complaints at this time gradually wore off of themselves, and she remained pretty well for some weeks afterwards, when the pains, heat, tension and vomiting suddenly recurred, and she became possessed of absurd and whimsical fancies, suspicions and fears, attended with vociferation and slight ravings, in which state she was consigned to my care. Evacuations by stool and antiphlogistic medicines were tried without effect, the pediluvium and an emetic were next thought of, from the former she received much relief, but, although the stomach was foul and she threw up a great quantity of bile, the pain in her head was much increased by its operation; her diet being regulated, according to the indications



of the case, a blister was kept open between her shoulders, and the camphorated julep and common emulsion, with the foetid volatile spirits were given her at bed-time, and also three times a day when the stomach was most empty, the good effects of which were never more apparent. The maniacal symptoms gradually abated, and, in two months time, the patient being in every respect recovered, except a nervous weakness, for which the usual remedies were advised, was dismissed from my house, and has remained in better health than she had enjoyed for some years before, without the least return of her disorder.



## C A S E    X X.

**H.** G. a native of Folkstone, had, from the time of the cessation of her menses, which occurred soon after she had turned of her forty-fifth year, been slightly affected in her senses; she was rather of a sanguine habit, had lived well and been accustomed to copious evacuations; the menses ceased very suddenly and she suffered much from plenitude; for, besides the effects this cessation produced upon her intellects, she was attacked with the piles to a great degree, had fugitive spasms in her arms and legs, was costive, had a deafness with a sense of weight in the fore part of her head, frequently an obstruct-



ed deglutition and an universal erysipel-  
las, attended with an acute fever, which  
for some time threatened her life, and  
it was several weeks before she was  
thought to be out of danger. About  
twelve months after her recovery from  
this illness, without any apparent cause  
and after a slight head-ach, she was  
attacked with an *Hæmorrhagia uterina*  
to so excessive a degree, that her life was  
again despaired of, and, it was not till  
after six weeks from its commencement  
that the flux was totally checked; after  
which, the solids were strengthened  
with tonics, she recovered her bo-  
dily strength, but, from that period,  
became obviously more deranged in  
her senses than ever she had been  
before. In the month of April 1776,



eleven months after the disorder above spoken of, I was consulted by her relations, who soon afterwards resigned her entirely to my care; she was flighty and inconsistent; in the day-time talkative and loud, pensive, crying and melancholy, or as the poet finely describes it,

“ *In moody madness laughing wild*

“ *Amid severest woe.*”

And in the night-time noisy, turbulent and watchful; the remains of a good constitution were very visible, and as the state of the blood justified bleeding, eight ounces of blood were taken from her arm on the third day after her admission to my house; the fizy inspissation of the blood induced me to put her under a course of the volatile



and neutral salts, with now and then a lenient purgative, as occasion required. From a mistaken tenderness she had been intemperately indulged, as it will too often happen that, where the patient has been used to command, to obey is generally done with much reluctance, and, although reason no longer discriminates between right and wrong, proper and improper, yet the friends and relations too seldom interpose in these cases till mischief arises from the omission, by the unruly violence of the disorder, or the patient is prejudiced by indulgencies, which are substituted instead of restraints; this had been exemplified in the present case, for scarcely any thing, either to eat or drink, which she had asked for, had ever



been denied her ; and to suppress her desires, however inordinate and extravagant, would have been thought a neglect of duty in those about her, so very absurd are, in general, the ideas of relative attention, when extended to persons under the pressure of mental disorders ; and this woman had manifestly been made worse by cordials, wine, visitors and a plentiful diet, from all of which it was now become absolutely necessary, that she should rigorously abstain, as the only probable chance to remove the cause, and enable her in some degree to recover her senses. A cool and sparing diet was enjoined her, a seton fixed between the shoulders in my usual direction ; a purging draught of glauber salts and manna



was given every third day, and, on the intermediate ones, the camphorated julep, in proper proportions, three times in the four and twenty hours, and, after some time, she became evidently better both in body and mind; after this, however, she was suddenly seized with rigors, nausea and thirst, which terminated in an intermitting fever, for which we had recourse to emetics and the cortex, and every usual method adapted to the different indications which ensued, till the complaint degenerated into an acute continual fever, which, by phlebotomy and antiphlogistic remedies was soon reduced to its former type, when the bark and nitre, in conjunction, were administered for some days, till the patient was in a convalescent



state. During the whole time of her illness she had never once been delirious, and, as her intellectual faculties were at best but feeble and limited, the share of reason which she now possessed, though not in any elevated degree, was thought a sufficient inducement to her relations to remove her to her own home, where, for some months, she was subject to a slow nervous fever, but continued free from the return of any maniacal symptoms till the time of her death, which happened about a year afterwards.



## C A S E XXI.

**M.** P. a lady of a constitution naturally scorbutic, soon after a critical change of life, which happened in her forty-eighth year, was seized with spasmodic affections in various parts of her body, great anxiety, dejection, swelled ancles, faintings, and a difficulty of breathing; by proper medical assistance she was in a great measure relieved from these complaints, but, her intellectual faculties, which had before been susceptible of gentle, delicate and tender affections, were soon afterwards discovered to be much impaired and deranged; at first she was perpetually pensive and thoughtful,



and afterwards, without any regard to decency, she talked incessantly, or raved, first on one subject and then on another, in sudden transition, as different images struck her imagination; she had seldom any appetite, and would sometimes with obstinacy totally abstain both from meat and drink, with a view, as she declared, to starve herself; but this resolution lost its force after two or three days severe abstinence, and she would take any kind of nourishment that was left within her reach, but never either eat or drank before any one, and always denied that she had had any food, although, when left, it was very plain that no one but herself could possibly have dispensed with it, and after she had re-



tracted the idea of destroying herself by starving, she seemed as obstinately bent upon destroying herself by some other means, which she would easily have effected in some way or other had not the most strict guard been always set over her. When I first saw her, I think there never was a countenance more deeply impressed with grief, horror and melancholy; her breath was foetid, she had livid, and in many places, particularly on her legs, large black spots; her feet and ancles were swelled, her countenance was bloated and fallow, there was a general weakness of the whole body, her tongue was white and rough, she had a redness about her nostrils and eye-lids, her skin was squalid and dry,



and although she did not complain of thirst, by the eager manner in which she drank, it was very obviously so; she spoke quick and incoherently, had made but little urine for some days past, had not perspired in the least and was very costive. A very long uninteresting and historical detail of her case was given me by her husband, and, although it appears unnecessary to follow him through every particular of his narrative, yet I shall take the liberty to remark, that, from his own testimony, many parts of his conduct in regard to the unhappy sufferer, appeared to the greatest degree reprehensible; justified some reports which had been propagated to his disadvantage, and which, if faithfully repeated, would



reflect but little credit on his conjugal feelings; but, as remarks of this kind are not within the circle of my present design, I shall return to the melancholy object of my recital, who had been removed from a moist to a dry pure air, and was now wholly under my care and direction. That the solids and fluids were affected by the scorbutic taint, was evident in full point of view; therefore, the antiscorbutic juices, with antiseptics, were employed to good effect, and the excretions, both by perspiration, urine and stool, were promoted; her nights were soothed by fifteen grains of the saponaceous pill, which had also the good effect to pacify her in the day-time; her diet, in general, was of easy digestion and con-



sisted chiefly of a due mixture of animal and vegetable substances; by this process, in about six weeks time, the patient had a very different countenance and was much relieved in her intellects, but the remembrance of former troubles seemed to rankle in her mind, and although she spoke with consistency and endeavoured to conceal it, yet the latent thorn of heartfelt woe was not unperceivable; the regimen and medicines were continued till the end of four months, when, as the putrefactive diathesis of the fluids seemed sufficiently corrected, we had recourse to chalybeates and the cold bath, by which means the cure both of her body and mind appearing for the present in a great measure effected, the



patient was rescued from the grave and restored to her family. I say for the present, because, in a few months after, by ungentle treatment and shameful neglect, she suffered a relapse, which terminated in suicidism.

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### C A S E XXII.

**I**N the beginning of the year 1777, Mrs. E. about forty-two years of age, was seized with a rigor, with restlessness, lassitude and pain in the loins; to these symptoms succeeded internal excessive heat, with great thirst and an eruption of the erysipelatous kind all over the face, neck and breast, which,



after a few days, were subdued by the antiphlogistic plan; but an alienation of the mind took place, and the patient talked and imagined improbable things with much fear and distress of imagination, which induced her relations to send her for advice and assistance to London, where, after continuing four months under the care of an eminent physician, she returned home apparently much relieved, and without the least symptom of maniacal affection. But, in the autumn following, she was attacked with an intermitting fever, which was, at that time, very frequent in the neighbourhood where she lived; her complaint, however, was attributed to the total cessation of her menses, the evacuation of which had never been



very considerable, but had now ceased for four months; she complained of pain and tension of the tonsils, with loss of strength and sensibility, and great anxiety, all which symptoms had been much aggravated by the officious zeal and instructions of one of her own sex, who considered it as *religiously* necessary, that she should take *Hierapicra* steeped in gin, and that frequently; an indiscriminate practice with women in general, and to which persons of irritable constitutions frequently fall victims: a violent inflammation of the tonsils, an erysipelas and the piles succeeded, but with little or no delirium, or any apparent distress of mind. At this period, I was consulted, and finding a full hard pulse, heat and the



Other symptoms described, contrary to the opinion or approbation of the patient and the practitioner, who had before been employed, took away six ounces of blood from her arm, which, with the help of nitrous medicines and gentle laxatives, in a few days relieved the patient in every respect, except the intermitting fever, which continued regular, but which soon gave way to a decoction of the bark and nitre; and now the patient relapsed into her former dejection and distress of mind, and it became necessary to place her more immediately under my care. She was costive, sick at her stomach, very yellow in the face and hysterical; an emetic was given her, which brought off from her stomach a very great



quantity of bile ; magnesia and sulphur were combined as a constant remedy for her costiveness, the warm pediluvium was used every night and morning, she was kept quiet, her diet was light and nutritive, an issue was opened in her leg, and in a few weeks she was restored to the full possession of all her mental faculties, which she has retained uninterruptedly ever since, but the nervous influence had been so much impaired by her disorder, that she is still troubled with affections of the nerves, and is at times subject to slight pains in her head and stomach.



## C A S E    XXIII.

**M**RS. E. H. of a florid complexion, full habit, and about the age of forty-eight, had, for some time past, paid so strict an attention to a favourite system of religion, which, like a kind of epidemic contagion, has long spread its baneful influence through so many ranks of people, to the excitement of the most daring outrages and wildest extravagancies, that at length she became insane. And if it be true, that instances of insanity, are at this day more numerous in this kingdom, than they were at any former period, we have great reason, not only to attribute the cause to the present universal diffusion of wealth and luxury through almost



every part of the island, but also to support the opinion, that so humiliating a degradation of our reasoning faculties owes much to its accession to the absurd tenets and ill-founded notions of an epidemic enthusiasm, whose type is absurd and gloomy notions of God and religion derived from vulgar prejudices, which excites the attention of weak understandings to points of religion, which they contemplate without comprehending, to the entire subversion of their rational faculties, within which description was the unfortunate lady of whom I speak: religious objects had so far gained the ascendant of her mind, as to impel her to words and actions of the most maniacal kind, and she had imbibed a fixed belief of the manifestation and



interference of the Deity in her behalf, although her conduct was ever so reproachable or criminal. In this dangerous state of fanaticism, she was submitted to my care; she had been used to a pretty liberal table, and, as abstemiousness had not been in the number of her avocations to salvation, she had indulged pretty freely in the use of spirits and malt liquors; a total suppression of the menstrual evacuation had, I was informed, taken place about two years prior to my acquaintance with her case, when, by the judicious treatment of her apothecary, she had experienced but very little interruption of health from a critical period, often pregnant with danger, and to which many an amiable woman, for want of



proper advice and direction, has fallen a victim. In my curative plan, if it be asked why I considered depletion as a necessary appendix, having apparently no bodily complaint to contend with, I answer, that it is ever a proper rule to be enjoined, when the vessels appear fuller of humours than what are agreeable to a natural state of health; besides, in this case, the manner of her living had obviously served to inflame and exalt her mind to a greater pitch of enthusiastic madness than it otherwise would have been, which was manifested in less than two months after she had been reduced to a scale of abstemiousness, had been twice bled, and taken five doses of soluble tartar at suitable intervals; for, as the



blood flowed in a cooler channel, her wild antics and religious fervor and frantic declamations began to abate, and, as no one of her religious sectaries were admitted to see her, and no one suffered to speak to her or to pay the least attention to her extatic reveries, or enthusiastic raptures, they gradually lost their seat in her mind, and, at the end of eight months, seemed entirely annihilated; and the state of her mind being consistent and rational, at the end of twelve months she returned home to her family, who carefully guarded against her relapse by a total prohibition of the zealous devotees to whom she owed the first impressions of her disorder.



## C A S E XXIV.

MISS A. S. who had always been remarkably healthy, one evening, after over-heating herself, imprudently took a large draught of cold water and sat down upon a cold seat in the open air; early the next morning she was taken with a pain in the head and back, with rigors, restlessness, and intense heat; after which, she became speechless and lost her senses; the family physician was immediately consulted, and, by bleeding, blistering and proper remedies, in a few days she was brought to herself, but the attack was too severe to be entirely subdued, and it left a train of nervous complaints, the



enumeration of which is needless. About the usual time of her menstruation she complained of violent pain in her head, loins, back and legs, with pain and palpitation about the navel; and soon afterwards began to shew many antic tricks and gestures, displayed an uncommon propensity to talk, and was bewildered with so many strange whims and fancies, as to leave no doubt of the brain being in a disordered state; the period above-mentioned was passed over without its usual salutary effects, nor could all the advice and management in the power of her friends to procure, relieve or assist her; she continued in this state near seven months, at the end of which, I received her into my house as a patient.



The disease itself appeared obviously to have been the consequence of a contraction in the uterine vessels, from cold; to relieve and relax the parts, the steams of warm water, as well as the warm pediluvium, were used for nearly five weeks before they had the desired effect; the internal medicine, employed on this occasion, was, as follows:

*R. Calomel. gr. iij.*

*Extract Sabin. gr. iiij.*

*Syr. papaver. errat. q. s. ut fiat*

*Bol. omni tertia Nocte h. s. superbibend.*

*Infusi Radiciis Raphani poculum &*

*Ibidem repetatur ter in Diebus inter-*

*mediis.*

Upon this plan we had not proceeded longer than the time before-mentioned,



when the *Catamenia* returned, her ideas became less deranged, and she gradually recovered the use of her reason; which, by proper care and attention to the menstrual periods, she has ever since retained.

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### C A S E    X X V .

**T**HE epidemic catarrh, more generally known by the name of the *Influenza*, which raged with such violence in different parts of the kingdom in the year 1782, prevailed almost universally among the inhabitants of a town, where the patient, of whom I am now about to speak, was one of the number of



the sick ; there was something extraordinary in her case from the first attack, a strange alteration in her conduct and behaviour, with a slight alienation of mind and depravity of judgment, were observed to accompany the common symptoms of the disorder ; she had a fever, with an acute pain in her head and pit of her stomach, with total loss of appetite, and almost a continual micturition ; her respiration was short and somewhat difficult, she had a short, dry and slight cough without expectoration, pinching pains in her bowels, attended with a diarrhæa ; she had also a palpitation of the heart, with pain, anxiety and frequent fainting ; she was bled, had small doses of antimonial powders, chiefly composed of tartar



emetic; the *spiritus minderereri* was administered, and the case treated with every degree of medical skill and perspicuity: on a remission of the febrile symptoms the cortex was used, but not proving effectual, and great lowness of spirits and the cough continuing, recourse was had to chalybeates and balsamic medicines, from which she derived much good effect; but her mind was not clear and collected, and at intervals slight and transient deviations from reason were observed for some months, till at length, the symptoms of insanity were confirmed by deranged and confounded ideas, ridiculous aversions, unreasonable marks of disgust; hatred, fear, distress and terror succeeded, and became a patient to me



in the beginning of August 1783; her menses for six months before had recurred in much smaller quantities than usual, her eyes were dull and heavy, their lids swelled and slightly inflamed, the pupils unusually distended, and her countenance was pale and sickly; she talked much and incoherently, and bestowed but little attention to the objects around her; besides the cough which still continued, she breathed with some degree of pain and uneasiness, and had several yellow spots in different parts of her body; pain and anxiety had wasted her very greatly, and, for a time, prior to that in which she came to me, she had got but very little sleep — the humours appeared to be in the most vitiated state. Her



complaints had for some time been considered as arising from the scurvy, for which she had drank plentifully of a decoction of the water-dock, and used other means but without any relief; her regimen had not been properly regulated, she had been too much indulged in drinking such liquors, as rather had a tendency to increase her disorder than otherwise, and the place she had lived in was of too moist an air and a temperament inclining to the adust; her diet was now made chiefly to consist of vegetable substances and milk, and her general drink was small white wine whey; to promote the excretions by the skin and urine, the *sal diureticus* and *æthiops vegetabilis* took an equal share, and, by invariably pursuing



this plan for the space of five and twenty weeks, the patient was restored to her pristine health and mental consistency, and has remained well to this present time.

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C A S E XXVI.

**I**N the year 1776 the parish officers of Friendsbury applied to me for my advice in regard to a maniacal man patient they had confined in their work-house; this unhappy object had been very desperate and committed many acts of violence before they could secure him, which they had now effected in a very extraordinary manner; he was secured to the floor by means of a



staple and an iron ring, which was fastened to a pair of fetters about his legs, and he was hand-cuffed; the place of his confinement was a large lower room, occasionally made use of as a kitchen, and which opened into the street, there were wooden bars to the windows, through the spaces of which continual visitors were pointing at, ridiculing and irritating the patient, who was thus made a spectacle of public sport, and, by several feats of dexterity, such as threading a needle with his toes, and many other strange and uncouth tricks and antics, he had so far attracted the notice of the neighbours, that he was seldom without a croud of idle spectators at the door and windows, and frequently from the



hands of this unthinking group obtained beer, gin, and other liquors, which served to aggravate, inflame and to keep him in a continual ferment and agitation; I was requested to take him home immediately under my own charge; but, as the poor wretch was in a violent frantic state, and that in a great measure occasioned by the impropriety of his situation, my advice was to take off his shackles and secure him in a strong strait waistcoat, either made of leather or the strongest ticking; but, as I was informed this kind of security had been tried and found ineffectual to the purpose, by his gnawing holes in the shoulders and by that means getting his arms loose and the waistcoat off, I gave directions to have those parts of



them, which immediately covered the shoulders, quilted over on some sheet lead with wire thread, and to keep the external parts continually moistened with a brush dipped into a solution of aloes; it was my advice also, to build him a small hovel at a distance in the most retired parts of the premises belonging to the workhouse, and to strictly prohibit any one from going near him, or conversing with him, upon any account whatsoever, except such, who should be appointed to watch and attend him; besides this, I directed the apothecary to bleed him, give him an emetic, and to keep his body cool and open with half an ounce of soluble tartar repeatedly, as occasion might require. These instructions, with proper attentions to his person and diet, were punctually carried



into immediate execution; and, in a few weeks the patient entirely recovered his reason, and quietly and regularly returned to his employment as a husbandman, and I have not heard of his having had any relapse since that time.

C A S E XXVII.

FROM some original fault in the constitution, the subject of the subsequent case, had, from her infancy been subject to cutaneous diseases; this affection of the skin was partial, sometimes patches or spots of an irregular appearance, and chiefly of a dark colour had appeared in some parts of the body and



sometimes on others, and were always attended with a great degree of heat and itching, and she had more than once been removed from school upon the supposition that these breakings out were infectious. When I first saw these blotches, she had several of them upon her arms, legs, face and neck, those on the latter parts had somewhat the resemblance of a raspberry or mulberry, and those on the former were mostly of a whitish colour, scaly, dry and rough; mercurial and antimonial medicines had been given her for some time by a regular practitioner, but they served only as palliatives, and the disorder disappeared and recurred so often, that at length recourse was unfortunately had to an *itinerant Empiric*, and for



some weeks he had the credit of having wrought a most miraculous cure; but unhappily for the poor patient, much mischief lurked under this flattering appearance, for, on a sudden, her imagination was disturbed, and a strange alteration was perceived in her manner and behaviour; the first signs of her alienation of mind were discovered about the usual return of her *Catamenia*, she was at first furious and audacious, afterwards pensive, dejected and timorous; she complained of pain in her forehead, pharynx, neck and *Scrobiculus Cordis*, which continued violent and without intermission; her countenance was gloomy and overcast with sorrow, her eyes wild and distorted, their pupils much dilated, and



her face fallow and cachectic; she was bled, had one blister between the shoulders, and another at the pit of the stomach; the pulse was hard and small, the respiration deep and slow, she apparently grew worse, refused all kinds of food, and shewed an obstinate propensity to suicide, from which she was with difficulty restrained. In this state of the case I was first consulted; ten weeks had now elapsed since the last return of her *Catamenia*, every thing she said or did betrayed the most violent agitation of mind, which it was not in her own power to correct; she was always intent upon one and the same thought, delirious without a fever, and fully determined upon her own destruction if she had had it in her



own power so to do: it was therefore highly incumbent upon those about her, to exert the utmost vigilance and care to prevent it. To dissolve and attenuate the thick glutinous crasis of the blood and humours, the soluble tartar was given in the quantity of three drachms every second or third day; a thin diet and diluting drinks were ordered, with the use of the warm bath every night and morning; a seton was made between the shoulders, and, to recover the menstrual evacuation, a teaspoonful of the *Tinct. Mart. in Sp. Sal.* and *Elixir Aloeticum* in a cupful of the *Decoctum Raphani*, was given every morning at eleven, and afternoon at five o'clock; and every night at bedtime a small draught of the camphorated



julep with ten drops of *elixir paregoricum* was given her, which measures being continued for a few days, she began to pass easier nights, and, in little more than five weeks, the menses returned, her appetite was restored, and her countenance, from gloomy and contracted, became more open and easy, the eruption to which she had before been subject, made its appearance again on her forehead, cheeks and breasts, but of a more florid hue than usual, and, having recovered her reason, was unwilling to make farther trial to cure an eruption which seemed inherent to a constitution from which it had proved so dangerous to expel it.



## C A S E XXVIII.

SUNK into a deep melancholy, which had produced an universal muscular decay, Mr. B. B. was put under my care in the month of July 1777; his eyes were bright, full and protuberant, he was subject to flatulencies in the abdomen, his anxiety was inexpressible, his appetite was sometimes totally lost and depraved, and at other times unnatural and increased, his aspect was grim and gloomy, he had much constipation in the bowels, his breath was hot and offensive, he was surly, morose and dogmatical in his carriage and behaviour, his eye-lids were puffed up and swelled, at times



he was very unruly, restless and turbulent, and he had an aggregate eruption, something like the *herpes miliaris*, which extended all over the back, neck, face and arms; his pulse was quick, strong and hard, with preternatural heat, and his urine was very high-coloured. As but very little attention had been paid to his diet, it was now regulated upon a plan that was at once cooling, light and nourishing, at the same time, that the liquors which he had been used to were allowed him in a less liberal manner than they had been for some time past; the soluble tartar was given him, occasionally, as a gentle laxative, and, as he daily got better, recovered his flesh and spirits in four months, after en-



joying a lucid interval of some weeks, he was judged by his relations to be well enough to return home, the consequence of which was, a relapse, and he was brought back to me again in less than six weeks, when I had the same ground to go over again as I had before, and, in a few months, was equally successful; when, at the pressing instance of his relations, another trial was proposed and made, the consequence of which, as it might reasonably have been expected, was a second relapse, with this difference however, that I totally disclaimed having any thing farther to do in a case where the friends of the patient had themselves so little reason and consideration on their sides, and the unfor-



tunate man, I was informed, was sent to St. Luke's, where he died soon after his admission. This case furnishes another to the numerous proofs I could deduce from the practice of a series of years, to demonstrate the inutility and impropriety of removing the *convalescent Maniac* too soon to his former situation, the least favourable of any to the re-establishment of weakened and relaxed intellects; domestic concerns and particular circumstances of business too hastily present themselves to his imagination, not sufficiently strong and collected to bear the impressions, and digest the influence of those ideal associations, naturally attached to such situations; the animal



spirits are hurried, the mind deranged, and a relapse of the most dangerous consequence too often ensues.

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## C A S E XXIX.

F. B. in the seventeenth year of her age, had the misfortune to lose a very near relation, which so deeply affected her mind as to throw her into an acute continual fever, in which she was delirious and raving; a blister had been applied to the head, stimulating applications to her feet, evacuants and antiphlogistic medicines had been used; and she had scarcely recovered from the fever, when she broke out into a peevish, angry, discontented



mode of behaviour, very far from her natural manner and disposition; she would often throw herself into violent fits of groundless rage, and was almost ever flaming with resentment against those about her. Thus noisy, vindictive and contentious, she was disposed to every kind of mischief which violence and despair could urge her to; and on this account, for the security of herself and others, it was thought requisite to secure her in the usual manner: in this state, she almost continually raved, menaced, screamed, swore, or replied with the most vehement anger to all about her, insomuch, that, wearied out and tired with the noise and trouble she created, she was committed to my charge. I found she had an abscess in



the back part of her neck, with signs of coction; her appetite was depraved; the abdomen was tense and hard, probably from the long constipation she had endured, which had been for the space of ten days, so that, it might be reasonably supposed, the putrid contents of the abdomen had generated a great quantity of elastic air; she had frequently spasmodic contractions of the joints, with convulsions of the whole frame and violent periodical pains; her deglutition was difficult, she discharged her urine involuntarily, she had frequent eructations, her eyes were inflamed, her face was contracted, she had great heat equally over the whole body, she had a hoarseness, with a peculiar hollow and dismal voice,



the cuticle was tinged with a yellow die, and she had often a palpitation of the heart, attended with pain and extreme anxiety. To remove her obstinate co-tiveness, an emollient clyster was administered, but, not having the desired effect, one of a more stimulative nature was injected and answered the desired purpose; I then gave her an emetic, which brought off a great quantity of crude bile; a seton was made between her shoulders in the direction of the spine, and below the basis of the abscess; she was occasionally purged with soluble tartar, and thirty drops of the *Tinctura Fuliginis* were given her, three times in a day, in a cupful of the camphorated julep. Due attention was paid to her diet, and in this method she persevered.



for nearly the space of four months, when her health and reason being entirely re-established, she returned to her friends, and I have never heard that she has since had the least return of insanity, although the seton has been dried up and all kind of medicine long since laid aside.

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### C A S E   X X X .

**A**LADY of the most distinguished literary eminence, and who will most obligingly, at all times, be ready to bear testimony to the truth of these premises, applied to me on the 5th of March 1779, concerning her brother, a dignified cler-



gyman in this county, who, for about twelve months before, had laboured under a deprivation of his speech and senses, icterical affections and nervous debility. He had been attended by a physician and an apothecary from the first beginning of his complaint; he was about eight-and-forty years of age, had once, in the earlier part of his life, been attacked with the gout in his feet, and, for some time before he became so very bad, had laboured under symptoms of indigestion, complained of obtuse pain in the left *hypochondrium* under the left short ribs, sometimes in the region of the heart, extending to the loins and bladder, and frequently recurring with pains in the head and neck, stomach and bowels, accompanied with almost



a continual nausea and acid eruptions, for which he had taken an emetic, and, becoming partially relieved, stomachic medicines and warm purgatives had been given. It was conjectured that the symptoms he laboured under, were occasioned by the gout; and, in consequence of this opinion, the proper methods had been pursued to bring on a paroxysm of that disorder, but this not being effected, and no substantial benefit being derived from this treatment, saponaceous and aloetic medicines succeeded; from which, for some short time, it was thought the patient received relief; but all the symptoms, with some additional ones, recurring to a greater degree than ever, I was desired to visit him and give my



opinion of the case to his relations; he was then at a village in the vicinity of the metropolis, attended by two assistants, who never left him by day or night. From the gentleman of the house where he boarded, I received the following relation, “ That he never offered  
“ to dress or undress himself, that he  
“ would not eat without being fed like  
“ a child, that he would sit whole days  
“ together with his eyes rivetted to the  
“ ground, that he sometimes appeared  
“ dejected and timorous, and, at others,  
“ so furious in his gestures and man-  
“ ner, as to render the strait waist-  
“ coat absolutely necessary; that his  
“ eyes were in general heavy and fixed,  
“ their coats tinged with yellow and  
“ often looked red and inflamed, that he  
“ was subject to troublesome flatulencies,



“ inexpressibly anxious in the day-time  
“ and restless of nights, but never utter-  
“ ed a word; that he was costive, often  
“ fetched deep sighs and drew his breath  
“ with difficulty; had sometimes a flush-  
“ ing in his cheeks, at others, a livid co-  
“ lour, with a dull, grim and stupid aspect,  
“ with sudden starts and shaking of the  
“ whole body, and that his excrements,  
“ in general, were round, hard and red,  
“ and sometimes covered with yellow  
“ bile; that if spoken to, he appeared in a  
“ state of torpidity, his eye-lids were puf-  
“ fed, and, in sitting, he inclined to the  
“ right side as if he felt pain in the left *hy-*  
“ *pochondrium*, which, upon examination,  
“ felt hard and tense; and that a yellow-  
“ ness was diffused over the whole surface  
“ of the body, which would often almost



“ totally disappear for four or five days or  
“ a week at a time and then appear again,”  
a circumstance not very uncommon in  
hypochondriacal and maniacal cases.  
To this account was added, “ that his  
“ urine was made in small quantities, at  
“ long intervals, appeared to be passed  
“ with difficulty, and was, in general  
“ thin, limpid and pale, nor had ever  
“ any sediment been observed in it at  
“ any time, but once, which was soon  
“ after the operation of an emetic, and it  
“ was then said to be loaded with bile ;”  
the pulse was hard, strong, quick and  
full, he appeared of a truly atrabilious  
habit, and as senseless as a statue ; under  
the influence of this sullen taciturnity,  
his figure and situation reminded me of



those truly beautiful lines of the poet's,  
descriptive of a melancholy maniac:—

——— When, gloomy, the black bile prevails,  
And lumpish phlegm the thicken'd mass congeals,  
All lifeless then is the poor patient found,  
And sits for ever moping on the ground;  
His active powers their uses all forego,  
Nor senses, tongue, nor limbs their functions know;  
In melancholy lost, the vital flame  
Informs, and just informs the listless frame.

Not attempting an investigation of  
a case, which, from its very nature  
was so abstruse and intricate, that it  
were impossible for any practitioner to  
draw any conclusion whatever, that  
might be either certain or satisfactory,  
I ventured only to point out such a one  
as might be probable, and in this pi-  
tiable and unpromising situation of ap-  
pearances was desired to render him



every medical assistance in my power; a trial in which I engaged with the greatest diffidence, and the most forlorn hope of success. To awaken and rouse him from his torpid state, and give a brisker motion to the fluids, seemed to be the most obvious indications of cure; phlebotomy, vesicatories, the warm pediluvium, fomentations to the feet and legs, emetics at stated periods, the *Oleum Ricini* as an aperient, the camphorated julep at bed-time, James's powder, and such other medicines as bade fairest to assist the natural secretions, were ineffectually tried for the space of eighteen months, without producing any sensible alteration in his complaint; the emetics consisted of three grains of tartar emetic and one



scruple of the *pulvis Ipecacuanha*, and never failed to bring off from the stomach a large quantity of black bile; the steams of warm water, in which rosemary, myrrh and camphor were infused, were two or three times in a day constantly thrown up to the head and face; friction was also used to the extremities, as well as warm and spirituous fomentations, without the least favourable prognostic of success; and, at the end of the above space, the restoration of his health and spirits seemed to be at as great a distance as ever. Tired by so long and fruitless an attendance, I desired to resign my appointment and to be dismissed, and that a trial might be made of such practitioners, whose skill and judgment were sanctioned by longer practice and



observation than my own, which, though easily found, it might have been difficult to have procured one, whose endeavours had been more unremittingly employed to serve his patient; of this, my employers were gratefully sensible, and it was judged proper that I should continue my advice and attendance for some time longer, when I contented myself with giving him an emetic at the distance of every third or fourth week, and, laying aside every other medicine, was determined to try the *vitriolic æther*, sixty drops of which were given him in an ounce of camphorated julep and simple peppermint water three times in a day, and it was continued four months before its efficacy was apparent; the urine then first began to



emit a favourable sediment, his aspect was unbent, and became more natural; he could walk out with an assistant without attracting the notice of passengers by any singularity in his gait or manner; his nights became calm, easy and refreshing; he could feed himself, and, in a little time, converse in his usual manner. To exercise of body were added the stomachic bitters; he had regular stools, recovered his flesh, and, in the beginning of February 1782, went to Bath, where, having drank the waters the usual time, he returned in a very good state of health, and by a letter, with which I have been very lately honoured, I have the satisfaction to know that he has continued perfectly well both in



body and mind, and has ever since been able to perform the duties of his function with every degree of propriety.

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C A S E XXXI.

**A**BOUT seven years ago, Miss E. T. about five-and-twenty years of age, naturally of a tender and delicate constitution, and extreme sensibility of mind, without any apparent cause, suddenly complained of a strangulation of the *fauces*, from which time she became low-spirited, costive, and subject to flatulencies; anxiety, with a slight alienation of mind, succeeded;



her appetite was depraved, she had eructations, distension of the stomach, pain and heart-burn, and was, at times, subject to a kind of epileptic syncope, in which sensation was for a few minutes totally suspended; her urine was sometimes suppressed for five or six days at a time, and was always made with pain; she had a dry frequent cough, which was increased during motion or eating, and more particularly so in the period of irritation; her eyes were wild and projecting, her face, for the most part, bloated and florid, and her actions were, in general, absurd and extravagant; she had seldom any febrile heat, but constantly complained of an excruciating pain in the back part of her head, and pain and tension



in the left *hypochondrium*; the menses were suppressed, and hysterical faintings frequently superfeded. In this state, the best medical advice was obtained; but no relief being found, after many repeated trials, she was sent to me, emaciated in body, and, in a state of mind, little short of raving madness. Her respiration was quick and short; the pulse weak, quick and hard; she had frequent rigors, with restlessness, pain in the loins, distortions of the features, and spasm of the muscles along the spine, bending the body backwards; her voice was weak and scarcely articulate, and her whole system such, as to threaten the most fatal consequences; yet, she revived from this dangerous state, and was so much better in



every respect, that, for some weeks together, we actually began to entertain hopes of her entire recovery; but, on a sudden, one morning, soon after getting up, her cough returned, she complained of a straitness in her breast, and a great difficulty of breathing ensued, with œdematous swellings in her face, arms, hands and feet; she passed little or no urine, and had constantly a nocturnal febrile spasm. But all these complaints, in a few days, appeared entirely removed by the free use of the powder and oxymel of squills; but, at a time, when, to all appearance, she seemed in every respect much better than she had been for some time past, she died suddenly from suffocation. This was truly consistent with her own desire, which



she had frequently in her lucid intervals expressed; and, with the concurrence of her friends, and with the joint assistance of another practitioner, I proceeded to the operation of opening her head, by sawing through, and lifting up the bones of the *cranium* as usual, and the appearances were as follow:—

The right temporal muscle was very much enlarged; on taking off the upper part of the skull the contents were found so turgid as immediately to expand, nor could we again compress them into their former dimensions as before within the limits of the *cranium*; the *septum nasi* appeared elongated and enlarged; the *dura mater* adhered to the skull in several places, but more particularly on the right side



to the inferior part of the right *parietal* bone, over the lambdoidal future on that side, and over the greater part of the occipital bone on the same side; the vessels which run along this membrane appeared varicous, its substance was thicker than usual, and the sinusses were much distended with blood; the *pia mater* on the right side was rather of a dark livid colour, and somewhat enlarged, and the surface of the brain itself bore the same complexion; in the lateral ventricles there was a quantity of a turbid yellow fluid, from which the other ventricles were entirely exempt; the *plexus chorooides* was in its natural state; the *pineal* gland was rather more enlarged than common, and remarkably soft in



its texture, and, the carotid arteries and internal jugular veins were much larger than ordinary; the *septum lucidum* was preternaturally thick, and, on opening the thorax, a large vesicle was found adhering to the left ventricle of the heart containing a quantity of an atrabilious fluid; the *pericardium* adhered to the right ventricle of the heart, and, on being opened, contained a quantity of rusty-coloured water; the spleen was very large, but appeared of its natural complexion; the liver was of a pale lead colour, and in its convex part covered with hydatides; the *omentum* was of a livid colour, its vessels turgid and it partially adhering to the anterior parts of the peritonæum; the mesentery was of a dark red colour, and in vessels turgid, and the



*gastro epiploic* vessels appeared also turgid, and in some parts varicous; the parts to which the *cæliac* and *mesenteric* arteries and veins are distributed, were in a state of inflammation; the intestines appeared in a natural state; the stomach was distended with wind, which emitted a disagreeable smell, and its coats appeared much thickened; the *pylorus* was *scirrhous* and its passage closely shut, and the lungs, pancreas and kidneys were in a natural state. As appearances upon the contents of the skull, in persons who have died maniacal, have hitherto thrown but little light in the way of the curious investigator, perhaps it might be some improvement to our knowledge of this dreadful malady, were those gentlemen,



who have frequent opportunities so to do, not only to describe the appearances of such morbid bodies upon dissection, but carefully and accurately to take out and weigh the *cerebrum* and *cerebellum* of patients, whose skulls they have opened, and, from thence, draw such comparative inferences, as might appear interesting and singular.

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## C A S E    X X X I I .

*Communicated in a letter from Mr. B.*

*Spinluff, Surgeon of South Heddingham,*

*in Essex.*

S I R,

“ I AM requested to write to you the case of a lady in this neighbourhood, whose melancholy turn



of mind has rendered her unfit for society, and given the greatest anxiety to her friends and relations. She is about sixty years of age, or rather more, was affected with depression of spirits forty years since, which settled into a fixed melancholy; she was at that time conveyed to some public hospital, I think St. Luke's, where she caught the small-pox; the pustules were pretty numerous, but distinct, and her former complaint very happily terminated with the latter and she remained in a tolerable state of health till within the last two years; when, as I am informed, the medical gentlemen declared the fever and complaint in her bowels, with which she was then seized, was of a bilious nature, and she



was treated accordingly. It is to be remarked, that, during her indisposition, she had a slight salivation, and was perfectly free from every distressing idea; no sooner did the spitting cease, than she became low-spirited and embarrassed with a continual train of the most anxious thoughts: I am not able to say how far the salivation was occasioned by mercury, exhibited during the bilious complaint, but am inclined to suppose it was the effect of it. I was desired to visit this unfortunate lady, about a year since, and found her mind filled with horror, fear and solicitude; her pulse quick and full; she was thirsty, and indulged in an unlimited use of meat, good ale, wine, &c. the urine sometimes pale, sometimes high-coloured,



and never depositing any kind of sediment; her appetite good and memory perfect as ever, had several hours sleep in the night, yet apparently more miserable after it. I have taken blood from her arm repeatedly, and given her purgatives and antimonial vomits at due intervals; at the same time insisting upon a cooling diet and diluting liquors, with which she has complied, though reluctantly, since my first attending her; I have given calomel in small doses, with a view of producing a slight spitting again, but was never able to obtain what I thought so desirable a purpose; the *fauces* became a little sore, and her breath offensive, in consequence of the mercury, but not the least spitting, I therefore laid it aside,



and had recourse to the former treatment; she remains rather more composed, but still in an unhappy state, and her friends would be happy to do any thing in their power likely to contribute to her recovery, and they beg you will inform them, by letter directed to me, whether you think, at her time of life, there is a probability of cure, or, if you choose to order any medicine, they will be ready to make a proper acknowledgment."

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant, &c.

*S. Hedingham, Essex,*

*Nov. 19, 1781.*

*M Y*



## MY ANSWER.

S I R,

“THE case you mention is a very singular one indeed, but forty years having elapsed, since her melancholic complaint first took place, is a long space of time; your conjecture, in regard to the mercury, is very probable and founded upon much rationality. As the calomel does not take place by internal doses, and its effects, thus administered in the present state of the case, may not be the most friendly to the *primæ viæ*, suppose we were to rub a few grains within-side the cheek every night and morning, according to Clare’s method: a salivation



is easily to be raised by this means, for which I must refer you to his book. It is very probable that a fresh discharge from the salival glands may be attended with relief, and, if you approve of it, would advise a trial; should it not succeed, a seton, I presume, might be the next thing to be thought of; her liberal manner of living must be a great impediment to the cure, therefore, a slender and cooling regimen should be complied with, and the body kept open with the soluble tartar. What was the general complexion of the blood? I think there is a great probability of our doing the patient some service, and, with your approbation, we will direct our joint endeavours to that end, for I have no



medicine that you have not, and *nostrums* I despise, therefore, as no good has accrued from either venæsection, purgatives, or antimonial vomits, let us lay them entirely aside, raise a ptyalism with the calomel as a topic, keep the body laxative with either the soluble tartar or *Oleum Ricini*, as either best suits that purpose, in such doses as may appear to you most proper; at bed-time let the patient use the warm pediluvium, and immediately afterwards take a draught of the *Fulepum Camphora*, which may be repeated as often as you please, so as not to interfere with the aperient medicines. At any time, when the anxiety is most intense, reclining the head over the steams of hot water, not only amuses,



but has been found to have a very good effect; frictions with a coarse towel, or a flesh brush, are in such cases very often serviceable. These matters I submit to your consideration, and, should they meet with your concurrence, may be reduced to immediate practice; if thought necessary, I can make it convenient to visit the patient, as speaking often conveys more than writing; but this I shall leave to the decision of yourself and, the friends of the afflicted lady, and in the mean time,

Remain,

Your's respectfully, &c."

C A S E



## THE REPLY.

DEAR SIR,

“THE uncertainty of our profession is ever an apology for us in the line of our correspondence, and you need not be reminded, that, in this respect, we are in general the least to be depended on, yourself only an exception to this remark. I beg your pardon for not sooner answering your obliging and very polite letter, but, now beg to inform you, that our patient has conformed, beyond expectation, to your advice; and, I think, has received considerable benefit. A gentle spitting took place by means of absorption, according to Clare’s direction, in



a very agreeable manner, and continues as I could wish; she seems much composed by immersing her feet in warm water; takes a draught of *Julepum e Camphora*, as you desired, every night, which agrees well. I am this morning writing to the gentleman who *heirs* the estate, recommending in the strongest terms that you might pay her a visit upon the subsiding of the salivation, and, as he is a sensible good man, and would do any thing for her advantage, as soon as I am favoured with his answer, shall give myself the pleasure of writing again to you, and find a singular pleasure in subscribing myself

Your most obedient

*S. Hedingham*, humble servant,

Jan. 9, 1782.      B. SPINLUFF."



## C A S E XXXIII.

**I**N March 1779, my advice and assistance was requested by letter, in the case of J. O. who had been several times in a very unhappy way indeed; his spirits were unaccountably high in summer, and as much depressed in winter, owing to a free way of life, and frequent excesses, to which he had been too much addicted from his early youth; he was now turned of three-and-forty, and his disorder, which it was hoped would have gradually decreased, appeared in the summer before with double violence, in consequence of the hurrying life he was engaged in, previous to and at the time of the en-



campment; he was very indifferent the spring before, and was attended a few times by a physician in London, who thought his case highly nervous, as others of the faculty had done; and some had conjectured that the use of mercurials had been of disservice to him in early life; various causes had been assigned for his disorder, and as it was not hereditary, none of his family having been troubled with any thing of the kind, his relations imagined it must have been brought on by his manner of life, and hoped that it might be removed, or at least relieved. Notwithstanding his cruel disorder, he was much beloved by his acquaintance and, to strangers, he generally appeared perfectly well; his appetite was small



and weak, he was either rigidly collicive or extremely lax in his belly, dejected, drowsy, with loss of memory, and subject to acid eructations; he often complained that his eyes saw objects indistinctly, was forgetful, at times ridiculously timid and fearful, and, complained of a head-ach, like that which arises from a crowded playhouse; had pains sometimes in the right, and, at others, in the left *hypochondrium*, but without any perceivable tension in either; his digestion was very bad, he suffered a general debility of the whole frame, had distressing ideas, was sensible that the functions of his mind were much impaired and that he laboured under a slight phrenzy, which he was fearful would end in a con-



firmed mania ; his pulse was flow, weak and often irregular ; he would frequently fetch deep sighs, and fancy his life in imminent danger ; he passed restless nights, and seldom complained of thirst ; his urine, was, in general, almost colourless, forming no cloud and depositing no sediment ; the disordered state of his mind, as well as his body, appeared to arise from the same cause, therefore late hours, morning drinking, and unbounded dissipation were absolutely necessary to be entirely laid aside ; moderation of diet and temperate regulations of every kind, seemed to promise him the greatest relief ; to relieve and assist the alimentary canal, a gentle emetic was given ; his costiveness was relieved by an occasional ex-



hibition of the *Oleum Ricini*; his nights were rendered easy by the influence of an opiate; he made use of the cold bath; and the bracing, strengthening medicines, most conducive to the cure of a relaxed state of the solids, were administered with success; and, by temperance in food, drink and sleep, he recovered his mental vigour and bodily health and strength, in a space of time, not exceeding four months; and, by continuing in this course with manly resolution and perseverance, he soon acquired such an habitual line of self-regulation, as secured to him that health of body and soundness of mind, which every rational man would think it both his duty and interest to attain.



## C A S E XXXIV.

A LADY, about thirty years of age, of a gloomy, morose temper, was put under my care in the year 1781. About seven years before, she first made an attempt to destroy herself; after which, she continued well for three years, and then, some little disturbance happening in the family, which no way concerned her, but in which she chose to take a part, she became ill again and made the like attempt; upon which, her father put her to board in a family where she was an utter stranger, and unconnected with any one; she continued well in this place for two years, but, about two months before she came



to me, had a nervous fever, became deranged in her manner, had a wild appearance in her looks, and was so agitated in the night as frequently to get out of bed; by proper assistance she got the better of this, but soon relapsed into the same way again, and again made an attempt upon her life. She was a person, whom, in her best reason, was little susceptible of gentle, tender or delicate affections, and very narrow in the range of her own ideas; when I first saw her, she had the most forbidding aspect I ever beheld, and the picture of her body was an exact emblem of the state of her mind; a sullen taciturnity possessed her, and she scarcely knew or attended to any external objects; her skin was pale, fallow, squalid and dry;



her pulse was hard and full, and her feet and ancles much swelled and puffed of an evening. To give a brisker motion to the fluids, electricity was used, a vein was opened, and the warm pediluvium used every night at bed-time; the *Julepum e Camphora* was given every night at bed-time, and, in the course of the night, generally repeated; the body was kept moderately lax with an aperient electuary, and the menstrual discharge, which had been suppressed for some months, was promoted by the use of proper emmenagogues; at the end of three months she menstruated freely, but rather painfully to which she had been always subject; she now began to speak and ask for her food and medicines, and,



after a continuation of the above methods about five weeks longer, she recovered the functions of her mind to the same degree as before her illness, became well enough to return to her friends, and has not since relapsed.

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## C A S E XXXV.

**M. M.** a very sensible woman, suffered much anxiety on account of the cessation of her menses, a period, which, from her time of life, she had every reason to expect; the practitioner to whom she applied, though in other respects able and judicious, rather supported, than repressed the distressing



notions she entertained on this head; a regimen was proposed to her, and a medical plan laid down; but having unfortunately imbibed the most dreadful ideas from such a change in her constitution, and being prepossessed with the belief of its proving fatal to her, it operated too powerfully on a too susceptible mind; in consequence of which, she was continually terrifying herself with apprehensions of the worst nature, and, by a continued course of anxiety, gradually impaired her mental powers; as yet, however, she had suffered but little interruption in her health, but, on a sudden, was attacked with the most genuine signs of a plethora, spasmodic affections of various parts, swelled ancles, dry cough, extravagant dreams,



inflammation in the eyes, heat, flushings and head-ach, with stupor. In this state of the case, an eminent practitioner in town was applied to, and, as she had been accustomed to copious evacuations, she was ordered to be frequently bled in small quantities; the diet was moderated, and the bowels kept in a laxative state, by means of aperients; in this manner she proceeded for some months, always about the time of menstruation being subject to profuse sweats and violent heats, during which time, her reason always appeared much clearer; but afterwards, her wild and frantic manner recurred, till, as the above period came round again, the same symptoms recurred with the same effects. As the vehe-



mence of the symptoms required it, at first she continued to lose four or five ounces of blood every month, but as her strength apparently decreased with the frequency of this operation, the occasion also seemed to decrease; and, as her mind still continued in a state of perturbation, it was put off to much longer periods: she continued to take gentle laxatives, was carefully watched, and, except some nervous affections, which were always observed to be more violent at the time of menstruation, in point of health, she remained tolerably well for some weeks; when, on a sudden, she was attacked with an immoderate flux of the menses, when *Rest, Anodynes,* and proper astringents, successfully took place; but she was



extremely enfeebled by the violence of the hæmorrhage, and had hardly recovered a moderate degree of strength, at the end of six weeks from the first attack, when it recurred again. The relapse was attended to with the same means of cure as the former, which were equally effective; and, when it ceased, such medicines as allay irritation, and produce rest, together with a light nutritive diet, were prescribed to prevent its return, and she continued pretty well till the middle of the autumn following, a period of eleven weeks, when she was seized with an intermittent, and a return of the uterine flux; and, as both these complaints obviously arose from debility and relaxation, the bark was judiciously given, and had the desired effect. After this



recovery the patient became every day stronger in body, and more consistent of mind; and, at her own request, and with their approbation, returned to her relations in the country, where, through the officious care of a female dabbler in phyfic, who was often consulted in the management of her sex at the cessation of their menses, she was induced to take some strong aloetic medicines, by the heating qualities of which the piles, strangury, and racking pains in the loins, difficult respiration, imbecility and derangement of the mind, pain in the bowels and uterine hæmorrhage occurred. In this emergency I was desired to prescribe for her, and, upon enquiry, became acquainted with all the parti-



culars which I have recited above. The patient did not seem much debilitated by the present discharge, and, as the state of the pulse allowed of it, I ordered four ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, which, when cold, was covered with a thin gluten; the pulse appeared low and much sunk by the operation; an emollient clyster was administered, and, by a course of antiphlogistic medicines, anodynes, rest and a sparing diet, the patient was thoroughly recovered in three weeks from this dangerous relapse, into which she had been precipitated by the extreme ignorance of her lady-doctor. Upon enquiry, I found that the patient, in early life, had been subject to small ulcers on the head, discharging a



humour which dried into a white friable crust; also, to pain in the eyes and forenefs and tumefaction of the eyelids, which gradually disappeared soon after the first commencement and regular return of her menses; and, as she had often complained of fugitive pains in her breasts, and other glandular parts, I advised an issue in her arm, which, after some degree of opposition on the side of the patient, was agreed to. I recommended the most strict attention to diet and exercise, and besought her most religiously to abstain from such pertinacious, precarious and dangerous advice, the bad effects of which she had so painfully experienced. The alienation of her mind, which had been perceived upon this last attack, receded



with the symptoms which had occasioned it, and her rational faculties returned with her health; for a year and a half she went on very well, and seemed disposed to corpulency, but, by staying too long at an assembly, she was seized with an inflammation of the tonsils, attended with an erysipelatous eruption upon the left side of her neck and face, a spasmodic affection of the bowels, a nausea and sickness at the stomach, a flux from the uterine vessels, with much hurry and confusion of thought and many frantic actions; she was bled to six ounces, the symptoms were entirely suppressed in about ten days by the same means as before, and the patient has continued in good



health, for more than three years past, and entirely free from mania.

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### C A S E XXXVI.

THE late happy and providential escape of his majesty from the horrid attempt of affassination, from the hand of an infatuated maniac, appears in itself sufficient to determine all those persons under whose care and protection such unfortunate persons are, not to let them venture at large; many of those disordered people, may, for years, appear perfectly innocent and harmless, but, from a strict and intimate acquaint-



tance with such unhappy beings for a series of years, I am fully persuaded to think there is no security or dependence at any time, in any place, or under any circumstance whatever, to be placed in them; and, as no one can say how suddenly the disorder may increase or return, it behoves every one who has any care over them, to be upon their guard; nor should the friends and relations of such patients be too hasty in forming a judgment of their recovery, as to the safety of their return to their accustomed manner of life; for, after a recovery from a state of insanity, the mind is, for some time, as weak as the body after any of its violent disorders; and, as in the one



turn to the exercise and diet usual in the time of health, without the utmost danger of a relapse, so can they not, in the other, return to their former objects, and to the business and hurry of life, without running the greatest risk of having their minds overset. A relapse in this disorder is as much to be apprehended and guarded against, as in any other whatever; and it should be remembered, that such convalescents, either from temporary feelings of distress, sudden prejudices, from an extravagance of superstitious notions, or the momentary impulse of a disordered imagination, are much to be feared, and should be re-admitted into society with a particular degree of caution and circumspection, which may be gathered in general from the many



instances that have occurred to exemplify and strengthen this remark, in authors, who have professedly written on the subject of insanity. From my own observations in particular, I shall here only select one, the melancholy effects of which are still deeply felt by the survivors of the worthy and respectable family to which the unfortunate lunatic belonged:—he held a commission in the army in the year 1748, and retained it upon half pay till the time of his death, which happened in the year 1782; he was the eldest son of an ancient family in Cambridgeshire; naturally of an imperious and arrogant disposition, whimsical and suspicious, but no very extraordinary singularities became observable in his



manner and behaviour till about the year 1776, when he suddenly became troubled with an hypochondriacal disorder, and soon after fell into a deep melancholy, but, at that time, did not attempt any violence to himself or others; by proper care, and with the assistance of medicine, after a few months he recovered from this disorder, and, for some weeks, appeared in every respect as well as usual; when, on a sudden, he became possessed of the most whimsical and absurd fancies, suspicions and aversions; he was timid, irresolute, and weak in his judgment; but this was the less observable, as he was a man never remarkable for the most lively feelings or the brilliancy of his imagination; at length, by his



disorder, being impelled to speak and act in a most ridiculous manner, he was sent to a house, destined for the reception of insane persons, in the vicinity of the metropolis; in this situation he had not continued many months, before his mother and another near relation, impelled by desire of seeing him, paid him a visit; he appeared exceedingly glad to see them, and making use of the most specious and plausible pretences, with all that craft and cunning, in general so closely allied with lunacy, to induce them to a belief of his perfect sanity, and at the same time appearing very cool, consistent and rational, they, without farther deliberation, concluded upon giving him his enlargement, and the next day abso-



lutely sent for him home, where, for nearly a week, he appeared in every respect, both in words and actions, the same as before his illness; but one morning, getting up earlier than usual, and coming home wet and dirty after a frantic excursion of some hours, he walked into the parlour, where his mother was sitting by herself, and she inadvertently remonstrating with him on his behaviour, and interrogating him as to the reason which could induce him so to do—most horrid to relate! the maniac, without the least ceremony and before she could possibly call for or receive the least assistance, caught up a poker which was standing in the fire-place, and dashed her brains out about the floor; he did not offer to



escape, or to commit any farther violence, nor appeared then or ever afterwards to feel the least pain or regret for this shocking action, soon after which he was delivered for life into my care, and died at my house about three years afterwards of a hydrops pectoris, in the 51st year of his age.

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### C A S E XXXVII.

**T**HE subsequent case, as well as another, almost of a similar nature, which I shall not at present recite, I owe to the obliging communication of a correspondent on whose authority I can rely. In the beginning of the month



of February, 1777, a poor man was bitten in the calf of his leg by a dog that was mad, he was immediately bled, blistered upon the part, dipped in the salt water, and took a nostrum of some celebrity in the parts where he lived; after which he underwent a course of metalline antispasmodics. The part that had been wounded, was entirely dried and a cicatrix formed, in which, however, on the eighth of March following, being just a month from the time the accident happened, he began to complain of pricking shooting pains, attended with heat, and became pensive, tremulous, watchful and drowsy; these symptoms were looked upon by the surgeon who attended him, as the indications of an incipient *hydro-*



*phobia*; he complained of a tingling in his ears, loss of hearing, was weary, inactive and torpid, had no sleep, and every attempt to swallow liquids excited painful convulsion, together with the greatest horror and aversion at the sight of them; he was still capable of making rational answers, and frequently recovered from the convulsive paroxysms, which were renewed upon every fresh attempt to swallow liquids; and, although he was parched and burnt, with an excessive desire to drink, yet, no sooner had any fluid touched the tip of his tongue, but he was instantly seized with the most terrible stricture of the jaws, followed by universal convulsions of the whole body, by which he was totally deprived of



ſenſe for two days together ; there was a moſt remarkable dilatation of the pupils, he could not ſee, he had frequent reachings to vomit, but ſeldom vomited any thing up, yet had often regurgitations of the ſtomach ; his eyes had been fierce, and his aſpect threatening, but on the third day, from the firſt attack, they became more fixed ; a coldneſs of the extremities ſuper-vened, with an irregular and intermitting pulse ; the convulſions returned at ſhorter intervals, a conſtant delirium, with extreme anxiety, took place ; there appeared not in the patient, at any time, the leaſt deſire to bite, and, on the evening of the fourth day, the unhappy ſufferer reſigned his breath without a ſtruggle. Dry cupping, mercury,



scarification, the warm bath, and sea bathing, as well as in two other cases of which I had some knowledge, proved fallible, and the unfortunate persons both died hydrophobic; the one about five weeks after the injury received, and the other in less time. It is therefore highly necessary to recommend to every person, who is so unfortunate as to be bitten by a mad dog, or any other rabid animal, as the only sure means to obviate the fatal consequences which may arise therefrom, the *timely total excision of the wounded parts*, as this has been incontrovertibly proved to be the only sure *prophylactic*. No dependence whatever ought to be fixed on any one of the numerous nostrums, which are fallaciously called specifics and preventatives, for



not one of them all, but, upon a careful and judicious analyzation, have, in their compound parts, been found trifling to a degree, and totally inadequate to oppose the evil for which they are intended. The warm bath, sea bathing, dry cupping, musk, mercury, metal-line antispasmodics, nostrums of all kinds, and even caustics themselves, have too often proved fallible for any certain dependence to be fixed on either of them. And, therefore, *the excision of the parts bitten*, by a mad dog, appears to be the only safe and efficacious *prophylactic*; for, as the authors of the Monthly Review, in their notes to correspondents, very justly observe, “to flatter people with security from other more gentle methods, would



be to deceive them in a matter of the utmost consequence, and might in the end prove no less prejudicial to them, than unworthy of us."

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C A S E XXXVIII.

AFTER long and very severe fits of the intermitting fever, not regularly carried off, a tradesman near Jewry-street, Westminster, aged thirty-four, applied to me on the 22d of October, 1780; about six weeks before, as he informed me, he had an abscess formed in his leg, which had suppurated, and, after a copious discharge of near three weeks, had suddenly dried up, since which time he had been subject



to great anxiety, with a sense of weight and coldness in both his legs; his appetite was depraved, he had a tension in the belly, with constant slight pains; his breath had been extremely offensive; his spirits were depressed; his hearing not so good as before; he also complained of a head-ach, in a single small spot over the left orbit, as if a nail was driven into the head, of ringing in the ears, debility, thirst, and a frequent dimness of sight; his pulse was weak and irregular; the pupils of his eyes was much dilated, but more particularly so the left, and his aspect unsettled and wild; he was costive, and informed me that his urine was almost colourless, forming no cloud and depositing no sediment; that he was



naturally timid, irresolute, prone to sudden and excessive passions of the mind, and had, for some time past, paid too serious an attention to the noisy and dangerous harangues of a methodist preacher in the neighbourhood where he lived, through which he had frequently concluded in his own mind that he had lost all chance for salvation, and the favour of his Maker; which had such an effect upon him as frequently to throw him into tremblings and spasms. As his habit appeared much debilitated and weakened, I advised him to a more nourishing diet, to encourage more comfortable ideas, and entirely relinquish the false doctrines of the enthusiastic preacher; also to have an issue immediately opened in the leg where the



abscess had formed, and was dried up; and, to brace and strengthen him, I recommended a course of the pyrmont waters; after which I heard no more of him till I received an order to take him into my house as a lunatic, the 13th of December following. When committed to my care, he laboured under the most dreadful depression and bashfulness, complained of the most uncomfortable bodily feelings and mental perplexities, and every trifling occurrence seemed an object of inquietude, anxiety and vexation; he was costive, still complained of the same pain in his head as when he first saw me, with stupor, tumefaction of the eye-lid, and inflammation of the eyes. The warm pediluvium, and a seton



between his shoulders, in the direction of the spine, was ordered, the camphorated julep administered thrice in twenty-four hours, and his body was kept properly relaxed with the *Oleum Ricini*; which practice, (with the difference only of a fumigation of rosemary and camphor to his head and face every night and morning) was sanctified by the concurrent opinion of an eminent physician, who was consulted in the case at the particular instance of his friends, in conjunction with myself; and, at the end of eight weeks, the patient was so thoroughly recovered in his intellects, as to become consistently conversant and sociable; and, as his complaints were now entirely of the nervous kind, he was



advised to visit Bath, and, by the efficacy of its waters, in a few weeks, he was so entirely invigorated and recovered as to be able to return to his business, in which he has continued ever since uninterrupted by any disorder either of mind or body. As this patient's insanity, as well as that which I shall next mention, happened after a fever, I shall here quote the opinion of the celebrated Hoffman, who mentions insanity, of every species, as frequently occurring after most sorts of acute fevers, and especially if they have been protracted to a great length; and accounts for this circumstance, from the dissipation of the animal spirits, by the violent and long-continued febrile heat and watching; from a defect in



their secretion, in consequence of the injury done to the fibrous texture of the brain, and of the whole animal system.

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## C A S E XXXIX.

M. O. was of a thin hectic constitution, and had laboured under a troublesome pulmonary cough for some years; when I first saw her the pulse was remarkably quick and sharp, her eyes were in continual motion, and her face of a florid hue. She had enjoyed the advantage of a polite education, and had always been remarkably brisk and lively till soon after her



recovery from a long protracted acute fever; she then became torpid and lost in an unthinking joyless inactivity, from which, if at any time she recovered, or was roused, every degree of delirium, of fear and terror, supervened, until she reverted into her wonted torpidity; and, in one of these intervals of horror, she had once attempted to put an end to her own life, but was happily prevented; gentle opiates, with balsamic medicines, had been given her to palliate the cough, which was slight, short and frequent, without expectoration; the warm pediluvium, or fomentations to the feet and legs, were used every evening at bed-time; a perpetual blister was also opened between her shoulders, and the camphorated julep administered thrice in a day;



but these means proving ineffectual, an expression of the millepedes, the balsamic pills, and an infusion of the *madder* root were next tried. Air, exercise, and the Bristol waters had also their respective shares in our attempts to cure, but all to no kind of purpose, for the poor young lady grew worse and worse, and, in three months time, without ever recovering one ray of intellectual reason, died insane and tabid.

C A S E



## C A S E   X L.

ABOUT five years ago, M. S. about eighteen years of age, of a sanguine complexion, and till then very healthy, suddenly complained of a strangulation of the *fauces*, pain and hardness in the neck and spasm of the *maxillæ*, with frequent fainting and excessive menstruation; a practitioner, of some eminence, was called in, through whose assistance, in a few days, she recovered; but her mind, from that period, became very much disturbed and confused, there was an unusual fierceness in her eyes, and her prevailing symptom was anger, which often exhibited itself in such violent and groundless



rage, that it was become absolutely necessary to confine her; she was naturally of a meek and amiable disposition, and not in the least prone to be irritable; but she was now much altered, became peevish, contentious, and disposed to mischief of the most violent desperate nature, and replied in an angry tone to every one who spoke to her; she slept but very little, and was not perceived to perspire at all; sometimes she raved aloud, and at others, spit at, and endeavoured to bite those about her; she foamed at the mouth with anger, and whistled, sung, shouted and swore, alternately. In this state I found her on the 12th of March 1781, the *tunica albuginea* of the eyes was streaked with red, the



countenance was florid, her head was hot, her pulse quick and full, her tongue was white and furred, there was a fordes upon the teeth and lips, the eye-lids were puffed and tumefied, a kind of an inspissated lymph abounded about the mouth, throat and *trachea*, which was much increased by the vehemence of her actions and gestures; her skin was dry and harsh; her features had rather a greasy cast; she had no appetite, did not seem eager to drink; her breath was extremely hot and offensive; she had frequent eructations; her respiration was difficult by paroxysms; she had rigors, with restlessness and watching; she had but one stool for the last three days, which was remarkably high-coloured,



billious and offensive; she often ground her teeth, passed her urine involuntarily, groaned, yawned and sighed. Upon opening a vein in the arm, scarcely four ounces had been taken away before the pulse flagged and sunk from eighty strokes in a minute to sixty, and, a syncope coming on, the orifice was closed; when cold, the blood was covered with a thin cake of gluten: the evening, following the operation, the tartar emetic was prescribed in such doses as gently to puke the patient, and it was repeated at the distance of twelve hours, but as no stool was procured by this means, the belly was opened by an emollient laxative clyster; a seton was made between the shoulders in the direction of the spine,



and an emulsion, with soluble tartar, was given occasionally, to keep the body sufficiently lax; the camphorated julep was given in proper doses every six hours; in the intermediate spaces, to abate the increased oscillatory contractions of the vessels, fomentations of poppy heads and chamomile flowers were applied to the feet and legs, and, the symptoms gradually abating, the patient, after fourteen days, became consistently peaceful and rational, and, in less than a month, was capable of expressing herself with propriety in a letter to a female acquaintance, to whose house, after recruiting her strength with a course of aromatic bitters and Bath waters, she made a visit; and, remaining in a good



state of health, she soon afterwards entered into the matrimonial estate, much to her advantage.

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## C A S E XLI.

**T**HE Rev. Mr. R. of relaxed fibres and of a scorbutic temperament from his infancy, but naturally of a cheerful cast of temper and an open and generous mind, till he sustained the pressure of a particular affliction, which occurred to a near relation, when he became subject to the most anxious and distressful affections, by which means his body was gradually weakened, and his reason impaired; had afterwards the most



harrassing and dismal train of ideas continually before him, and he was almost ever under the influence of lamentation, grief and despair. In this state he had continued for some months, in which time antimonials and strong purges, sagapenum, hellebore and valerian had all been repeatedly given him; but still his imagination was deranged, and his judgment vitiated. In April 1782, I was consulted on his account; depression and melancholy were deeply impressed on his features, and the dreadful anguish of dejection and internal uneasiness had overwhelmed his mind; his face was pale and fallow, his hands were swelled and red; he often hiccupped, and spoke with a peculiar hollow voice; his pulse was hard and chordlike, with frequent palpitations



of the heart; his respiration was deep and slow; he was wakeful in the extreme, and his skin felt squalid and dry; he had not perspired in the least, and, when he spoke, there was a particular tremor of his tongue; he had no fever, and there was a visible wasting of his flesh; and this specific state of his body was apparently caused by the exceedingly distressed situation of his mind, the agonizing influence of which gave me very little reason to hope, or even imagine, that the usual means of cure would prove efficient; and, in this respect, I was very sorry to find myself not disappointed, for, after he had been under my care a considerable length of time, and the warm pediluvium, emetics, cephalic steams, the



camphor, a seton, the æther and various cephalics and antispasmodics had been repeatedly and respectively tried, every expectation of relief vanished, and the unfortunate patient has ever since continued in the most pitiable state, consigned to proper management alone.

### C A S E XLII.

**I**N remote causes of insanity it is usual to attribute the complaint either to some affection of the brain, its vessels and membranes, such as distension, enlargement, inflammation, induration, &c. or to some mental cause, as intense



application of mind, study, business, or schemes of any kind that require great and unremitted attention, or much exertion of genius; or to sudden, violent or habitual passions of various kinds, and here our disquisitions generally terminate. Whereas, I must ever be of opinion, that, were we oftener to extend our enquiries, by tracing them back in a lineal direction to the progenitors of the maniacal patients, we should generally adopt the maxim, that the much greater number of mankind, who become insane upon any particular change in the constitution, have an hereditary pre-disposition to madness: nor is this mere hypothesis; for the assertion is founded upon observation and experience. For, out



of the great number of maniacal patients which have fallen under my care, in the course of near twenty years practice, I have been able to trace an hereditary pretension to this disorder, in by much the greatest part thereof; and have preserved an exact genealogical register, to demonstrate the force of my enquiries. A gentleman, of some commercial consequence in the city, after much close and intense thinking, was suddenly seized with a pain in the calf of his leg, with pain and palpitation above the navel; he, at the same time, complained of a pain in his ear, and had some slight degree of febrile heat; these symptoms were at first attributed to the effects of a stoppage of the cutaneous excretion by cold, and,



as the means of relief, bleeding was prescribed, and afterwards, the *reguline* preparations at proper distances, and the saline draught in the intermediate times were exhibited; but it soon afterwards appeared that the functions of his mind had been injured by too intense an application to business, and he now exhibited a disposition of mind entirely repugnant to his natural feelings; he railed at, and quarrelled with all who approached him, spoke with furliness and ill-nature, suspected every one of sinister views and nefarious intentions, even those, in whom, but a few days before, he had reposed an implicit confidence in matters of the first moment not excepted, and wore in his countenance the strongest



traits of suspicion and rancour; he seemed anxious to avoid all conversation to fly from the society of mankind, and the very appearance of the human species filled him with scorn and disgust; if he was spoken to, he would frown and look contumeliously, turn away with silent scorn, or mutter malice and dislike; and, to use the words of Shakespeare, "*his wits seemed lost and drowned in his calamities.*" In this highly insane and misanthropic state, he was entrusted to the care of a physician, as much distinguished for his honour and integrity as for his skill and experience in his profession; management was allowed to be of the first moment in this case, to which was added such medical treatment as was



thought proper; but after every thing of this kind had been tried for upwards of three months, the latter was laid aside, and the former entirely submitted to. At this period the patient was entrusted to my care, the character of his case, as above recited, was a just representation of it as to his manner and behaviour at the time I saw him; his appetite was natural, but he would not eat a morsel of any thing, unless it was left in his room by him; his features were contracted, his eyelids puffed up, the pupils distended, and his eyes very strongly indicated the state of his mind; he was costive, his pulse was weak, undulating and soft; his skin pale, harsh and fallow, and he passed his nights in a wakeful



state; after trying a seton, the warm pediluvium, cephalic steams and camphor, and repeated emetics, to no apparent purpose, and every medical effort had been relinquished for upwards of three months, the patient at once recovered his senses and his reason, and, continuing so for four months together, at the end of that time was permitted to return home, when he had scarcely renewed his applications to business, before he reverted into his former state of insanity, and continued so for nearly the same space of time as before; and then, as suddenly and spontaneously, as it were, recovered, the lucid and insane intervals following each other alternately, and nearly in a periodical manner to the present.

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time. Upon enquiry, I discovered that the grandfather of this unfortunate man was afflicted with a similar species of insanity for three years before his death.

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### C A S E XLIII.

J. C. of Buxted, in Suffex, aged about thirty-six, of a fanguine habit and scorbutic temperament, had been afflicted with lunacy for many months; he had taken several vomits, been blistered, and used many methods without success. January 9, 1783, he was sent to my house, in a condition, little short of raving madness; his



appetite was voracious; his breath offensive; he was costive, had a particular difficulty in deglutition, his eyes were bright, fierce and wild, the lids tumefied, and the pupils much distended; he often put his hand to his head and complained of pain in his forehead; his pulse was strong, and his countenance red and bloated; he had little or no heat, the right hypochondrium was swelled and tense, and his breathing was rather difficult; he had been subject to the hæmorrhoids, before he was attacked with *mania*, but they had entirely disappeared for several months; he had slept but little, and the skin was dry and harsh; his urine was generally high-coloured and deposited a copious branny red sediment;



he often exhibited sudden transitions of mind and rapid flights of imagination; was noisy, impetuous and turbulent, furious, mischievous and audacious, would laugh, sing or talk vociferously, with quick transitions from one subject to another, as different images and fancies struck him. He was bled on the third day after coming to me; the blood, when cold, indicated some degree of inflammation, sixteen ounces had been taken away, but, as he appeared not in the least weakened by its loss and continued as furious as ever, on the fourth morning after the operation, it was repeated in a sufficient quantity to induce a *deliquium*, which, in this, and every other case where phlebotomy is prescribed, *usque ad*



*deliquium animi* is best, and most speedily effected by keeping the patient in an erect posture during the hæmorrhage; the same evening he had an antimonial vomit, for his costiveness, the *Oleum Ricini* was occasionally administered, and the warm pediluvium was used every evening; the camphorated julep with nitre was given him every five or six hours; and in this course, with a due regard to his regimen, he continued for several weeks, but without any apparent benefit; the difficulty of breathing seemed rather to increase, but was always relieved for a few days by an emetic; and now the squill pills were advised, also a seton in the neck, in the direction of the spine, and half an ounce of soluble



tartar in weak broth every third morning, which seldom failed of procuring him two or three motions; the seton drew off a most prodigious quantity of matter; in less than a month, his anxieties, ravings, flights and vociferations, were moderated, but he was still very incoherent; but, between whiles, was more intelligent than he had been at all since the beginning of his disorder, and, at those times, would attend to what was said to him, and make pertinent replies. On a sudden the piles appeared again, and bled to a most profuse degree, and, at the same time, his sanity returned in its full force; gentle cooling purgatives were now administered to keep the belly open, which, together with the use of repel-



lent liniments and fomentations, soon relieved him in respect to the piles, after which he underwent a course of mercurial alteratives, and the beginning of July returned to his family, so well established in body and mind that he has not since had the least relapse.

C A S E    XLIV.

**MR. F.** an eminent attorney in London, consulted me concerning his wife, December 2, 1781, she had borne several children, was in her forty-fifth year, naturally of a susceptible, lively and amiable disposition, but had long been



subject to a desponding species of insanity, for which she had taken the advice of a physician, but to no effect. Her anguish of mind was tormenting to an extreme degree, and her feelings exquisitely severe; she was so much subject to flatulencies of the stomach and viscera, as to occasion a tumour in the abdomen, of a globular form, as large as a child's head, with great pain and tension, which made her cry out as if she had been in labour; this, in her depraved state of mind, she would often positively aver to be the case, and to require immediate assistance to receive and save the child; this symptom never failed of palliation from a warm stomach purge, of a carminative quality, and proper topical applications.



It was observable, that, when she suffered most pain from this preternatural distension of the abdomen, her intellects were much more clear, and she would speak and act with more consistency than at any other time of her disorder, and, upon the remission of this complaint, she never failed to declare that she had been delivered of a child, about which, however, she never expressed any very tender feelings, or made any anxious maternal enquiries. An entire cessation of the menses had taken place about six months prior to her becoming my patient; her pulse was, in general, hard and quick; her eyes were dull and opaque, and her voice slow and mournful; I ordered six ounces of blood to be taken from



her arm, and an aperient electuary, to be taken occasionally, to keep her bowels in a regular lax state; her nights were apparently rendered calm and easy, by the camphorated julep; a blister was rendered perpetual between her shoulders, and the warm pediluvium was made use of every night at bed-time; the vitriolic æther was given her, in small quantities, in draughts of simple pepper-mint water, every forenoon at eleven o'clock, and afternoon at five. By this kind of treatment, at the end of three months, she was judged well enough to be taken home, where she soon afterwards experienced a relapse, and, after a variety of subsequent changes, died

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of a *Cholera Morbus*, in about twelve months after her removal.

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C A S E   X L V .

AMONGST all the active substances taken into the stomach, which immediately affect the circulation and have a tendency to work a change in the constitution, perhaps mercury demands our first consideration; and, amongst all the remote causes imputed to insanity, the improper use and abuse of this powerfully singular mineral, may, with great propriety, be considered as a principal, which will evidently appear from the subsequent



cases in point. Carried away by the impulse of the passions, at a time of life when rational conduct and sound judgment seldom predominate, a young gentleman, of a thin habit and slender constitution, found it necessary to apply to a surgeon of his acquaintance in town who treated him in a manner suitable to recent disorders of that kind for which he applied; after six weeks, from an irregularity in drinking, and a life of dissipation, some symptoms of his complaint still remained, and he was suddenly attacked with an ulceration of both tonsils, and there was not the least doubt of the blood's being tainted with the venereal *cacoethes*, so as to render it necessary to



have recourse to mercurial alteratives, with a decoction of the woods; but, although contrary to his usual custom, he continued very regularly in this course for ten weeks, he found himself in no respect better, and therefore was advised to stronger mercurial preparations, by the same gentleman to whom he had first applied, till, his complaint being apparently relieved, he was induced to discontinue the medicines, and, contrary to the advice of his surgeon, go into the cold bath, which he had only used twice, before he complained of a pain in the head and chest, with great anxiety, and a sensation of heat under the sternum; this was succeeded by vomiting, an obstinate constipation, and a remitting



fever, whose exacerbations returned once in twelve hours, from all which symptoms, by means of the most judicious medical treatment, in less than a fortnight he was entirely recovered, but now complained of some internal pustules on the internal surface of the mouth, and became partially insane; a solution of the sublimate was prescribed twice a day, with a proper gargle for his mouth; he was ordered a light nourishing diet, with the use of the warm bath; but, although after some considerable time, there was every reason to suppose that the primary disorder was removed, and he had never had any relapse to shew to the contrary, yet, notwithstanding every care and precaution that could



be used by his friends, who foresaw the impending evil, he grew quite melancholy, stupid and inactive; continued under a total privation of the mental faculties and dwindled into a downright state of idiotism, in which pitiable state he has continued for more than eight years, and from which there is not the least probability that he will ever emerge.

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### C A S E XLVI.

**A. C.** a man of a robust habit of body, used to an active life, late hours, too much irregularity, dissipation and drinking, in the forty-fourth year of



his age, contracted a disorder, for which he had found it necessary to seek advice of a surgeon in London, who gave him some medicines suitable to his case, and in a few weeks he was concluded to be perfectly cured, but, in about a month afterwards, he complained of excessive deafness, and of foreness and ulceration in his throat; he now returned to London and was put upon a mercurial course, which, with a decoction of the woods he had continued nearly six weeks in the depth of winter, when the season happened to be remarkably intense and severe; and, by staying out to a very late hour, an obstructed perspiration was the consequence; he was the next morning attacked with a sense of



coldness and shivering succeeded by heat, a nausea and vomiting, thirst, anxiety, and comatous affections; the cure was effected by evacuations, epispastics and antiphlogistics. But there remained a stupidity, not any ways natural to him, which was obvious to all his acquaintance, and his attentions were with difficulty removed from one object to another; his friends consulted an eminent physician in London, who did not hesitate to pronounce an incipient madness and was but too right in his prognostication, for, notwithstanding all the usual means were tried to prevent it, a confirmed delirium came on, his mind became agitated with various ideas, notions and affections indiscriminately; he sometimes



raved loudly and was very turbulent, was sometimes cheerful, at others melancholy and sad, and his hand was almost ever fixed on his forehead, as if in pain; a branny eruption on the skin broke out, soon after which it was observed he much seldomer lifted his hand to his head; an abscess formed on the tibia of the left leg, which terminated in a large spreading ulcer. On the 25th of August, 1782, he was recommended to apply to me, when I ordered a seton between the shoulders, and a solution of the sublimate and camphor, by which means, in about six weeks time, his reason returned, the ulcer healed, and the branny eruption disappeared; but, upon his discontinuing the solution, in less than a



month the eruption re-appeared and his mind seemed as much deranged as ever; but, upon repeating the medicine, the symptoms, both of body and mind, were much palliated, and the patient seemed again tolerably well for some time, but all the symptoms again recurred, and his mind, from that time to the present, has never been clear and undisturbed.

C A S E    XLVII.

J. T. a young gentleman of family and fortune, of a slender constitution, and inclined to be scorbutic, in the year 1777, contracted a disorder, for



which he put himself under the care of a surgeon, who plied him liberally with mercury and strong purges, which had rather aggravated than alleviated his complaint, and several other remedies were internally and externally administered, but without the relief that was expected from them; it was therefore thought adviseable to salivate him, which was accordingly done, and he afterwards was proceeding in a course of mercurial alteratives for a small ulcer, which still remained in his throat, when he accidentally received a fall from his horse and sprained his ankle, for which he was told to put his leg in cold water, which he had not repeated very often, but extreme loss of strength and inactivity succeeded,



together with disquietude of thought and anxiety; he swallowed with difficulty and pain, his taste was imperfect, his voice feeble and indistinctly articulate, he sunk into a state of torpid insensibility, and must have perished for want of food, had he not been nursed and fed with the same care as is shewn to a babe; he often flavered from his mouth, stood like a statue, with his eyes immoveably rivetted to the ground, and could not be easily roused; his extremities always appeared livid, and felt cold even in the hottest day of summer; the pupils of his eyes were much contracted, and the whole of the eyes themselves appeared as if covered with thin varnish; his cheeks were drawn in and hollow,



but his nose, particularly at its tip, was red and burly, and covered with carbuncles. As his constitution had suffered much from the immoderate and frequent use of mercury, by the action of which, the mass of blood must have suffered a considerable degree of dissolution, and he was naturally of weak nerves, when he was first committed to my care, I put him under a mild alterative course, assisted with nervous medicines, enjoining a proper degree of attention to management and cleanliness; by which means, within a few months, I was just able, by repeated interrogations now and then, to extract from him a word or two, by way of answer; for the fixed humour in his face, a seton was made between his



shoulders, and other remedies were tried, but to little or no purpose, for he still continues pretty nearly in the same state, except, that he can now walk about and sometimes feed himself; and, although he has recovered enough of his reason, so as to be able, after much deliberation, to make a pertinent reply to any question that is asked him, yet, from being a sensible, accomplished and well-educated young man, of a lively imagination and the most acute and promising parts, which was the case before he unluckily fell under such rough and injudicious treatment at the beginning of his disorder, he is now reduced to a melancholy spectacle of half-animated human existence, nor has he the most



forlorn hope of ever again being capable of tolerably well fulfilling the ordinary duties of life, or even going through the common and familiar forms of social intercourse. Such are the terrible consequences of mercury, when misapplied, or given in too liberal a manner to persons of a lax habit, and numberless are the dangerous consequences which accrue from taking cold when under a course of mercurial medicines.

C A S E



## C A S E XLVIII.

A YOUNG gentleman, of a thin delicate habit of body, from a sudden fright in his fifteenth year, was seized with a coldness, a quick and difficult respiration, tremblings and a contraction of the features of his face, and, although the cause of his fear was removed, yet it had made so strong an impression on his mind, as almost to cause an entire privation of his intellectual faculties; he was, at times, under great anxiety, sighed and shed tears; his hearing was depraved, he often reeled about with his hand to his head as if he was giddy, and, febrile symptoms coming on, he was treated



accordingly, and recovered, but never since has been able to regain his reason, his mind having never been sufficiently capable to free itself from the excessive agitation which it had undergone; and, although it is a great while since the accident happened, his memory and imagination continue in such a state of derangement and debility as to preclude all hopes of recovery. I have had the management of this unfortunate young man for upwards of six years, and all the assistance I have ever been able to render him has been by repeated vomits, as he is apt to abound with a prodigious quantity of phlegm. And, indeed, in the general treatment of mania, it must be readily allowed, by those under whose care it has



particularly fallen, that emetics, are, in general, capable of rendering the patients more essential service than it is in the power of cathartics to do, and that they will be found much less debilitated by their operation than by those of the latter.

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### C A S E   X L I X .

**A**S the preceding is one of the most obvious causes of insanity, so an obstruction of the menstrual discharge, either from affections of the mind, or from any other cause, must be allowed equally so, which the two subsequent cases will particularly serve to



demonstrate:—P. T. a young lady of a delicate constitution, in her eighteenth year, on catching cold at a particular period, by sitting too long in her damp cloaths after having been accidentally exposed to a heavy shower of rain in the evening of the same day, was attacked with a rigor, restlessness, lassitude and pain in the loins, which was soon after succeeded by great heat, a frequent and full pulse, pain in the region of the womb, with swelling, heat and tension; an inclination to vomit, dry skin, redness of the eyes, and pains in the legs, with great anxiety and depression of spirits. The practitioner who was consulted ordered a vomit in the evening, and, the following morning took away ten ounces of blood;



at night an opiate was given her, an emulsion of almonds, with the addition of nitre and gum arabic, and a blister was applied between the shoulders; but on the third day, from the first attack, great thirst, restlessness and delirium coming on, the case was apparently dangerous, and the best medical assistance was procured, by which means the acute continual fever was brought to a favourable issue on the thirteenth day; but the patient still complained of pain and weight in the head, was subject to loss of memory and recollection, and the functions of her mind were obviously impaired; and, as she recovered her strength, she was often impelled to commit many impertinent, ridiculous and absurd actions,



grew impatient of controul, and on every slight and trifling occasion flew into passions unusual to her; would often involuntarily shed tears, laugh or sing; was very sly, and, in her expressions uncommonly profane and obscene; her appetite and digestion were bad, and she had œdematous swellings of the feet. Proper means, for seven months successively, had been tried to restore the menstrual flux, but to no purpose, and in the latter part of the month of November, 1778, she was consigned wholly to my care and management. Her pulse was weak, slow and soft, the circulation apparently languid, her countenance white and bloated, and she was subject to tremors and spasms; I advised a gentle emetic,



which operated very well, and brought off from her stomach a large quantity of chocolate coloured bile and much phlegm; the warm pediluvium was used every night; the camphorated julep was administered every morning early, an hour before dinner, and at five o'clock in the afternoon; besides which she took every night, and morning, a bolus, as follows:

*R. Conserv. Rorismarini ʒss.*  
*Limatur. Chalyb. gr. xv.*  
*Spec<sup>m</sup>. Aromatic gr. iij.*  
*Syr. e Cortic. Aurant. q. s. fiat Bol.*  
*superbibend. Bal. singul. Cyathum Infusi*  
*Raphani.*

In this mode of practice she continued from the 23d of November, 1778, to the latter end of April, 1779, an



emetic being given at the period of about nine or ten days at farthest, and now and then an omission of the night bolus, on account of the turbulent and outrageous manner in which she acted which occasioned an impossibility of giving it her. The menses re-appeared on the 27th of April, soon after which she visibly recovered her strength, and, as that returned, her reason became less clouded, and she was less violent and mischievous in her manner; the derangement of her mind evidently lessened, and, upon the fourth reflux of her menstrual discharge, which occurred pretty exactly at the stated period, she was so well as to be admitted to the company of the family at meal times, and continued to associate



with us in unremitting decency and decorum of behaviour for upwards of three years; and, except an ophthalmia, occasioned by an obstructed perspiration, from her getting wet in the feet, which, after a few days, gave way to bleeding, and antiphlogistic remedies, she had no sort of complaint till she returned home to her friends in Norfolk, where she has ever since remained free from every maniacal symptom and is at this time in good health.

C A S E



## C A S E L.

A WOMAN, aged thirty-one, of a plethoric habit and strong constitution, from a suppression of the menses, occasioned by a particular disposition of the mind which agitated her to sudden fits of the most violent anger, in the year 1780 became insane; she was extremely violent, and expressed the most vehement abhorrence to persons with whom she had before lived in habits of the most friendly intimacy; but the strong and rooted impressions made on her mind, by that fit of anger which first laid the grounds of her complaint, evidently appeared at all times to be predominant;] and,



for three years together, she had not been able to get the better of it; nor had she once, in all that time, menstruated, although, for several years before, she had always been unremittingly regular in that respect. When she was first sent to me she had the hæmorrhoids to a very violent degree; she had been always suffered to have her own way, never been under proper restrictions, and had, in general, lived upon gross and viscid food. In short, not the least check had been given to her unruly appetite, nor had she even been kept decently clean, nor taken any medicines properly adapted to her complaint, and her conversation always ran upon one and the same object; she was costive, had a dry cough, her face



was florid, she was loud and loquacious, the pulse was hard and strong, she was wakeful of nights, and her skin was harsh and dry. To deplete the vessels and attenuate the circulation I directed ten ounces of blood to be taken from her arm, lenient purgatives were given occasionally, and a seton was made between her shoulders; after a fortnight, the bleeding was repeated; her regimen was the reverse of that to which she had been accustomed; the pediluvium was used every night, and I put her under a course of mercurial alteratives, in which, after having continued about two months, the bodily symptoms vanished and evident signs of sanity appeared; she menstruated, and having continued so to do



at regular periods, for twelve months successively, she returned to her former habitation, and having strictly adhered both to the medical advice which was given her at the time of her going away from me, as well as the rules laid down to her for the better regulation and government of her passions, she has ever since continued well, and without any relapse.

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### C A S E   L I .

A GENTLEMAN, who, for more than nine years before, had been subject to hypochondriacal infanity, under the dominion of which he had been subject



to a variety of disagreeable and painful feelings, and almost without intermission for that whole space of time, for the major part of which he had been under my care, was, in July 1785, suddenly seized with a pain in the head and loins, weariness of the limbs, shivering, coldness of the extremities, stretching, yawning and sickness, with vomiting, to which, heat and thirst succeeded; his skin became moist, a profuse sweat broke out, and a confirmed intermittent was the consequence; which, after eleven successive paroxysms, which returned every third day, by the assistance of emetics and the bark, was entirely overcome, and he was both cured of his fever and insanity at the same time, and has



remained free from either ever since. In Doctor Monro's Remarks on Dr. Battie's Treatise of Madness, he has mentioned three instances of intermitting fevers coming upon madness of long standing, two of which, he affirms to have seen himself, where the relief of the one proved the cure of the other.

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### C A S E LII.

**A.** M. a gentleman of fortune, remarkable for his intemperance of diet, subject to regular fits of the gout, and an hereditary asthma of the humoral kind, after having had not the smallest



appearance of his usual gouty paroxysm for two years, became subject to an uncomfortable state of the bodily feelings; every trifling occurrence became an object of the most intense distress and inquietude; he was disgusted at every thing and totally dis-relished all those enjoyments and recreations of life which had before given him pleasure; and, by a constant habit of anxiety, his mind, at length, became totally sunk and depressed into a constant distressful dejection and melancholy, and, what was very extraordinary, from the very first appearance of insanity, his asthmatic complaints totally disappeared, and continued so to do from about the 5th of February, 1784, till the ninth of November of the same year, two days



after which he had been seized with uncommon drowfiness, wind and sickness, and in a few hours afterwards he was attacked with pains in the ancles and calves of his legs, when he at once became clear in his imagination, and as reasonable as ever he was in his life, and continued so for nearly nine weeks, a period the same as the gouty paroxysm; but during that space his asthma returned, and upon his becoming again insaen, receded as it had done before; he now expressed the most violent resentment and indignant design against himself, and would have committed some act of personal violence against himself, had he not been carefully guarded against it; he continued without the least lucid interval under



the influence of the most desperate insanity, till the latter end of April following, when he had a regular fit of the gout, and his asthmatic complaints returned with the same degree of intellectual clearness and perspicuity as before, again receded upon the going off of the paroxysm, and left him again in the same melancholy situation as above described ; in which state he was removed from my care, and, the last time I heard of him, I was informed that he had had no return of the gout at all, that his lungs were in a very weak state, his aspect pale and sickly, that he was much emaciated, and had every symptom of a deep decay.

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C A S E



## C A S E LIII.

G. H. a man in the 38th year of his age, by trade a brass wire drawer, of a low stature, thin, bilious, and of a fallow complexion, was, at times, affected with violent pains in the bowels, particularly about the navel; which were attended with a considerable distension of the abdomen, and often with contractions of the muscles of the belly. In the beginning of this complaint, as the cause was supposed to be wind, he had carminative medicines given him, but seldom without any other effect than increasing the pains and uneasiness, which, after a continuance of about an hour, gradually



decreased and went off of themselves; he was seized with an attack of this kind every day, generally about the same hour, and it was usually preceded by a violent itching of the nose, with a sensation of heat and tension in the right *hypochondrium*; during the paroxysm he complained of thirst, was giddy, and sometimes very sick at his stomach; he had consulted an eminent physician in town, who partly attributed the complaint to the business which he was obliged to follow, and partly to the hypochondriac affection, and, from what I could learn, the basis of his prescription was the *Pilula Gummosæ*, the *cortex* and *opium*, preceded by an emetic; but from these medicines he derived no sort of service,



and in a short time his ideas were, at times, perceived to become sluggish and interrupted, and, at others, unconnected, and passing into a rapid succession a confirmed hypochondriac melancholy soon after took place, and he would often assure the by-standers that he was made of glass and was fearful of moving unless he should instantly break to pieces, and after continuing in this state for some weeks, without either the assistance of proper medicines, such a regimen as was suitable to his case, or that kind of management so apparently necessary. I was consulted on his account the seventeenth of May 1783, and found he had had but little sleep of nights, the faculties of his mind were much



impaired, his memory almost annihilated, he had frequently a palpitation of the heart, with anxiety, sighing, indigestion, and much hypochondriac languor; he was subject to congestions of viscid matter in the stomach, had chilly sweats, was subject to flatulencies and eructations, was pale, emaciated, weak, and inclined to be costive; there appeared a vacancy in his looks, he obstinately retained the idea that he was made of glass, and that, upon the least motion, he should be shivered to pieces; this opinion made him almost motionless, and often gave him a cataleptic appearance, he moved neither hand or foot without the greatest caution and deliberation; his voice was small, timid and indistinct, and his position, in



general, was supine, with his legs and arms stretched out; his pulse was slender and intermitted every third or fourth stroke; his respiration was somewhat difficult; his urine was very variable, sometimes turbid and milky, sometimes was observed to have fine threads suspended in it, resembling bits of spiders, and at others deposited a white light sediment; his stools were sometimes frequent, bilious, loose and foetid, and at others costive, and of a clay-like colour; there was a continual tumour and tension of the abdomen, with a rumbling of the intestines; his eyes were hollow, the pupils much distended, and the eye-lids puffed and livid; his breath was unusually foetid and offensive, from which, as well as the almost



continual nausea under which he laboured, and many of the above recited symptoms, I was induced to believe that worms, from the irritation they might occasion in the intestines, produced the debility in the first passages, and primarily contributed to the disorder in question; upon enquiry, however, I could not find that the patient had ever been suspected to have had worms, or to have voided any either upwards or downwards; but, strongly possessed with that idea, from the recollection of having often seen children affected with delirium and coma from the irritations occasioned in the stomach and intestines from those pernicious insects, I directed the fol-



lowing ointment to be applied to the umbilical region :

℞. *Fellis Taurin. Alöes fing. ʒj.*

*Ung. alb. camphorat. ʒij.*

m. f. *Unguentum cujus pauxillo inungatur ter in Die Locus Umbilici.*

I likewise ordered him a decoction of quick-silver in water, an ounce to a pint, to be given him for his common drink, and the following draught to be taken every morning :

℞. *OL. Ricini.*

*Aq. Font. fing. ʒij. m. f.*

*Hauft. omni Mane jejun. Ventriculo exhibendus*

In the evening of the fourth day, from the beginning of this course, he voided by stool two worms of the broad, or *Teretes* kind, and the next day a third,



much larger and longer than the two former. As it was now plain, to a demonstration, that his delirium most probably owed its excitement to a *vermicular* affection, and, as his strength would admit, more efficacious anthelmintics took place, with now and then a gentle mercurial cathartic till he entirely recovered his health and the free use of his reason, and was able to return to his business; although the medicines were not totally left off for some considerable time, I did not hear of his voiding any more worms than those which I have mentioned, therefore it is clear that the *vermicular sac* was totally destroyed by the specific force of the medicines, as he has ever



since continued free from any of the foregoing symptoms, or any mental complaints whatsoever.

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### C A S E L I V.

**I**N the year 1782, I was sent for to a gentleman of some eminence, in the commercial line, of a habit somewhat rather scorbutic, and of a constitution, if we allow diseases to pass from parent to offspring, with a natural pre-disposition to insanity, and, in his forty-first year, I was informed, by the gentleman who attended him, that in the autumn of the year above-mentioned, when the scarlet fever and sore throat proved



epidemic in the town where he lived, he was seized with a sickness at the stomach, lassitude and shivering, complained of head-ach, pain and tension in his throat; his skin became hot, his pulse was quick, strong and hard, with preternatural heat, and the functions of the brain were much disturbed; his deglutition became painful and exceedingly difficult; the tonsils and *Uvula* appeared inflamed, and white sloughs and ulcerations were soon discovered; the mouth and *fauces* were covered with mucus, and there was much tumefaction of the throat; the scarlet efflorescence appeared on the third day and tinged the skin of a dusky red colour, and was universally diffused over the whole body, with an œdema-



tous swelling of the hands and feet. The pediluvium was used, emetic tartar exhibited, both as an emetic and a purge; the *fauces* were cleansed by the use of detergent gargles made warm; by which means, and a subsequent course of tonic medicines, intermixed with proper laxatives, the patient recovered from this disorder; but, his manner and conversation was soon afterwards observed to be very unlike what he was before his illness, his ideas were apparently incoherent, and his imagination flighty and perverted. In this incipient state of his insanity, a blister was applied between the shoulders, an emetic was given him, the warm bath recommended, and some other means made use of, but to no



fort of purpose ; he grew worse and worse, till he became the victim of various and opposing passions and scarcely ever appeared to know or attend to any external objects whatever, he slept little, raved, and was so very turbulent, that it became necessary to set a watch continually over him. At this period of the disorder I first saw him ; his breath was hot and offensive, he had a rumbling in his bowels, a catarrh, with frequent sneezing, and a dry cough from habitual indigestion ; he was ridiculouſly timid and fearful, at times extremely loquacious ; his urine was either pale and in small quantities, or turbid and very high-coloured ; he was obstinately costive, appeared deaf and inattentive when



spoken to; there was either a stupid vacancy in his manner and appearance, or an unnatural briskness of the eyes and then the most volatile utterance of unconnected jargon; he was subject to frequent eructations, often foamed at the mouth, and spat indiscriminately about on all sides of him, upon any thing, or any body that stood in his way; his pulse was hard, strong and quick, and his respiration tolerably free and easy; I ordered twelve ounces of blood to be taken away, which was bilious and covered by a cake of gluten; a seton was also, by my direction, made between the shoulders, and the following prescription left with his apothecary:



*R. Tartar. Emetic grana quatuor. Ho  
 Sacc. alb. ʒij. misceantur optime. &  
 fiat pulvis cujus capiat grana octo. Mane  
 & Vesperis.*

*Capiat Cyathum Fulepi camph. inter-  
 mediis Spatiis quinta vel sexta qua que  
 hora & Decocti Furfuris bibat ad Libitum.*

His regimen was ordered to be cooling  
 and laxative, and, upon my next visit  
 I found him considerably better in  
 every respect, and advised a conti-  
 nuance of the medicines and regimen;  
 the seton discharged exceedingly well  
 and had an amazing good effect, he  
 grew more and more rational, and be-  
 came quite so at the end of six weeks,  
 when he was attacked with the gout in  
 his hands and feet to a very severe  
 degree indeed, which was totally carried



off for the present by promoting perspiration and a suitable regimen; but his mind was in too feeble a state to conduct his affairs as usual, nor as he since been capable of so doing; since its first paroxysm the gout has regularly returned in the spring and beginning of the winter, at which times his intellects are clear and unclouded, and he is tolerably social, but, at others, shy, suspicious, gloomy, and averse to company or conversation of any kind.

C A S E



## C A S E LV,

IN the case of this patient I may also previously observe, that there was an hereditary pre-disposition to madness; he was of a very thin and delicate habit of body, the tone of the vascular system had been much enfeebled by an indolent and sedentary life; he had, for some time past, been subject to the piles, attended with flatulencies, indigestion, obtuse pains in the right *hypochondrium*, immediately under the short ribs, anxiety, depraved appetite, costiveness, and a cough, with expectoration, sometimes tinged with blood, swelled face and deafness, with a sense of weight in the head and dimness of sight,



accompanied with symptoms of insanity, which, for a time, were not so violent but that he knew the true appearance and situation of surrounding objects; but, at length, he became totally insane, in which state, when I first saw him, I think I never heard a *maniac* speak and reply with such an animated velocity of ideas; and, as I was well informed by those who had been long acquainted with him, that his natural intellectual powers were rather feeble and contracted than otherwise, we might on this occasion apply to him what Shakespear says in Hamlet,

“ How pregnant his replies are,

“ A happiness that madness oft hits on,

“ To which sanity and reason could not be

“ So prosperously delivered of.”



As the pulse sufficiently justified the operation, I took away eight ounces of blood, which afforded but little information; but, as the complexion of it rather indicated inflammation than otherwise, after laying down some rules for the regulation of his diet, I prescribed an emetic to remove the congestion of viscid matter in his stomach, to which he had been subject, and afterwards an emulsion of almonds, with the addition of nitre and gum arabic, manna and soluble tartar, after this I directed a seton between his shoulders, the warm pediluvium at bed-time, the camphorated julep three times a day, with a blister on the right *hypochondrium*. Five days after the first operation, the bleeding was repeated in the same



quantity as before, and in, a few days after, he became less flighty and frantic in his manner, and less volatile in his expressions and replies; his costiveness and hæmorrhoids were removed; his appetite, which at best was never very great, was much relieved, the cough left him, and in six weeks time he had recovered his hearing and sight, and, by the use of tonics and exercise, with the help of sea-bathing, the functions of his mind recovered their full force and power, and he remained well for some months, when, getting cold, and being attacked with an erysipelatous humour in his face, which was too hastily repelled by a topical application, recommended by an ignorant person, his maniacal symptoms all recurred,



and continued for a much longer time than before; and, although a lucid interval succeeded, yet his rational faculties had received too much injury to render him capable of fulfilling tolerably well the ordinary duties of life, of passing through the common or familiar terms of social intercourse, or even of being trusted to the disposal of his own person or fortune.

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## C A S E LVI.

**I**T were to disregard the testimony of truth to deny, that an habitual course of intoxication, not only induces, but facilitates the approaches of insanity.



From the many cases which have fallen under my care in that line of disorder, from inebriation, either with spirits, wine, or other fermented liquors, I have selected the following instance as an exemplarily useful memento to those who persevere in this pernicious and destructive practice, so very subversive of the dignity of the human character. On the 9th of October, 1783, I was desired to attend a gentleman, whose nervous system had been long injured, and his memory almost annihilated by excessive drinking; he was naturally a man of strong and lively passions, and, in the first part of his life had lived temperately, and had been much esteemed by his acquaintance for his industry and integrity; but from an



habitual course of drinking, he had become insane for three weeks, and, by proper means had recovered; reverting however to his former habit, the flame of intoxication unquenchionably broke out; prior to which he had been loaded with a general plenitude and grossness of habit, his health had obviously declined, a train of hypochondriacal symptoms had made their appearance, his nights had been restless and disturbed, and his sleep little and unquiet; he had complained of habitual languor, and some degree of dejection and melancholy had always been obvious, unless when he was too much influenced by intoxication; and, more than once, under the depression of the most intolerable languor and despair, he had



endeavoured to commit suicide, which he would certainly have perpetrated, had not the power been taken from him. In his fits of inebriety he was violent and outrageous in his manner, mischievous and abusive to every one who came in his way, and in this state he had continued for sixteen days and nights, and for the whole time had neither slept, nor been undressed. By the interposition of his relations, he was confined, and, by my advice, put under such restrictions as were absolutely necessary to open the way to a regimen the very reverse to that which he had too long followed. The tones of his whole frame were injured and diminished, his features were bloated, his belly was tense and hard, his breath hot and



offensive, he was convulsed, violently delirious and trembling; his eyes were distorted and inflamed, he had a hiccup, with loss of voice and stupidity, and a yellow cast over the whole surface of his body; his pulse was weak and irregular, his tongue was tremulous and black, and his urine was passed involuntarily. In this hopeless stage of the business it were in vain to expect relief from the hand of medicine, or from whatever was proposed, he fell a martyr to his intemperance on the fourth day after I visited him, for all that was done seemed only to protract the hour of death, since he had given such a shock to his constitution as he could never recover.

C A S E



## C A S E L V I I .

AS the foregoing case serves to exhibit the most striking instance of the fatal effects which flow from the baleful habit of excessive drinking, so the following, on the other hand, may serve as an encouragement to the intemperate to retract in time from this vicious course, which bears such numberless evils in its train. It was about four years ago I was applied to in the case of a gentleman of relaxed fibres, of a corpulent constitution, about two and forty years of age, and naturally of acute and painful sensations, who had for two years past habitually addicted himself to excess in the use of



fermented and spirituous liquors, the consequences of which were indolence, languor, debility, palpitation of the heart, indigestion and difficult respiration; he became unsteady in his conduct, pusillanimous and indecisive, and not only the faculties of the mind were debilitated, but also the functions of his brain were apparently disturbed; want of appetite, nausea, and great weakness of the stomach ensued, with tremors, fear, distressful feelings and apprehensions; he complained of heat, pain in the right *hypochondrium*, a ringing noise in his ears, and had an epileptic fit; from which, when he recovered, a total want of sleep supervened, and the derangement of his



mind was such as to require the forcible interposition of his friends to prevent mischief to himself and others. When I first saw him he had gotten no sleep for seven nights successively, and his bodily complaints were visibly accompanied with the greatest despair and horror; and he was, as Spenser says, in the passage which allegorizes this situation of the mind whenever it is the victim of despair:

“ Ever sitting on the ground  
 “ Musing full sadly in his fullen mind,  
 “ His grizzly locks long grown and unbound,  
 “ Disorderd hung almost his shoulders round,  
 “ And hid his face.”

His countenance was florid, he was unsteady in his walking, there was an enlargement of the pupils, and a vacant staring appearance of the eyes, which



were much distorted, with a quick full pulse; the tongue was white and dry, the muscles of his legs and arms appeared very much emaciated, his bowels were in an excessive state of constipation, and apparently distended with wind; at times, he seemed much tormented with pain, which he expressed by frequently bending himself double, rigidly contracting the muscles of his face, and biting his under lip till it bled. I prescribed bleeding, and strove to procure a free passage for the excrements by repeated doses of soluble tartar, but that failing, recourse was had to a stimulating clyster, which answered the purpose for the present, after which, by mild aperient medicines, the bowels were kept



in a proper state of laxity; but a dangerous *diarrhæa* coming on, in which the stools were frequent, liquid and sharp, notwithstanding his maniacal affections, I ventured upon opiates with the *Radix Rhej.* and proper astringents, with the *Decoctum Album*, which, after a few days, entirely removed this symptom. The same derangement however possessed his mind as at the first, alternately with vehement passion and anger, loud mirth, or deep dejection; his urine sometimes passed off involuntarily, but his stools never; he had frequent spasmodic pains in his arms, and a slight *paralysis* in his left leg, which was thereby almost entirely deprived of motion; he had frequently so obstinate a retention of the fæces, that stools were



procured with difficulty; a blister was applied to his leg, a seton made between the shoulders, with the use of the pediluvium three times in a day, and an electuary composed of camphor, valerian, and mustard seed; in this course he had continued about three weeks, when the good effects were obvious, the use of his leg was restored, and he recovered his health and reason tolerably well; and it being a proper season of the year for using the Bath waters, he went thither, accompanied with a near relation, and, in a few weeks, his general health was restored, and the trace of every insane symptom disappeared: and now self-convinced how much he would be exposed to a relapse, from reverting to the



cause of his former terrible disorder, he became unremittingly diligent in the strict observance of temperance, and a due regulation of his passions.

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### C A S E LVIII.

THE case of this patient was circumstantially described to me by letter, dated, Minories, London, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1784, in which it appeared that the cause and effect of her insanity had proceeded from the suppression of an old ulcer in the leg, to which she had been subject from a billious quality in the blood for upwards of six years; she was naturally of a phlegmatic cold



habit, and had been long under the care of a surgeon, who enjoined a proper regimen, and otherwise treated her according to the indication of her case; notwithstanding which, the ulcer still remained stubborn, accompanied with a large discharge, nor would it in the least yield to the united endeavours of many gentlemen of the faculty who were referred to concerning it; she had never been quite regular in her menstrual periods, and having heard of a celebrated empirical pretender to medicine, who she was told had performed wonders in similar cases, she very readily sought his advice, and, in less than six weeks, by his *extraordinary* skill and abilities, the discharge from the ulcer was entirely suppressed;



and the ulcer itself being entirely healed up, the practitioner had the credit of having wrought an almost unprecedented cure; but his newly acquired reputation was but of short date, for, in less than a month afterwards, she was attacked with a variety of hysterical symptoms, and such other gradual changes, as terminated in a confirmed *mania*, too generally the unhappy consequence, when morbid discharges have become habitual, and are either suddenly suppressed by art, or, from any sudden change in the constitution, cease to flow spontaneously, and where no other drain has been substituted in their stead; it was now early in the disorder, she laboured with extreme anxiety, fear and distress of mind, in general



talked incoherently, sometimes raved, was furious, had little or no sleep; there appeared much tension of the abdomen, she was costive, her breath was extremely offensive, she had frequent spasmodic contractions of the joints, appeared much deafer than before, she was attacked with maniacal symptoms, she had an eruption in her face of the erysipelatous kind, the pupils were much enlarged, the eye-lids swelled and inflamed, she had frequent acid eructations and expectorated a thick purulent matter, her eyes were in constant motion, she had often a loud palpitation of the heart, was constantly changing her position, her pulse was quick, strong and hard. with much preternatural heat, her respiration was



difficult, and her skin squalid and dry; her diet had been very improper for one in her situation, therefore a regulation of it was immediately advised, and, by way of attenuating the lentor of the fluids, she was bled to twelve ounces; a seton was made between her shoulders, and an issue opened below the knee in the leg that had been ulcerated; an emetic was administered on the third day after I saw her, which brought away a great quantity of viscid phlegm and bile; the soluble tartar was given her, in the quantity of six drachms the day after the vomit, which was again repeated on the fifth day, besides which, by way of alterative, she took the following pill:



R. *Mercurij calcin.* ℥ss.

*Ocul. Cancror.* ptt.

*Conf. Rosar. nitr. sing.* ℥j.

m. *fiant pilul. Viginti quarum capiat  
unam omni Nocte Horâ Decubitus cu  
Unciis duabus Julep. e Camphor. &  
Aq. puræ p. æ. mist.*

In this course she continued, with very little alteration, till the expiration of five weeks, when, the *catamenia* appearing in a small quantity, the maniacal symptoms abated; they returned again in a much larger quantity at three weeks afterwards, and regularly, for two months after, when she was so well as to be trusted by herself, and could write and converse as rationally as ever; and, by the occasional repetition, of deobstruent and alterative medicines,



has remained very well ever since; the feton has been dried up for some time, but the issue in her leg is kept open and discharges very well.

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### C A S E L I X.

*Communicated in a Letter from a Lady.*

S I R,

“ T H E following case is of a person whose whole dependence for support is on her industry, and I should be much obliged to you for your opinion on it, and a prescription for her to follow; she is a very worthy woman in her station, and I should therefore be happy to relieve



her; she was pretty nearly in the same way about five and twenty years ago, and has had no return since. Mrs. S. I. seventy-four years of age, was attacked in March last with an irregular fever, slight pain in the chest under the *sternum*, flatulency in the stomach and bowels, depression of spirits, much anxiety, some degree of thirst, lies with her eyes shut, talks absurdly, tumbles and tosses about with a great inclination to sleep, without being able to obtain it. Various febrifuge and neurotic medicines were for some time given without effect; a blister was applied to the head, and a vomit was intended, but objected to on account of great deformity of the body; the saline



mixture, *Sp. Mindereri Pulv. Contray.*  
*c. Castor Crocus Valerian Pil. fœtid &*  
*Cortex*, were given as the variation of  
the symptoms seemed to indicate, but  
the disorder increased, and, for ten or  
twelve weeks, she has been sunk into a  
religious despondency, accompanied  
either with unremitting fervors of zeal  
or devotion, incredible expectations of  
divine manifestations, much emotion  
and ardor, or the groundless fear and  
apprehension that she has irretrievably  
incurred the resentment of the Deity,  
and shall hereafter undergo the punish-  
ment of the most hardened and atro-  
cious sinner, although there has been  
no part of her life open to blame, or in  
the least governed by irregular gratifi-  
cation, but, on the contrary, pure and



immaculate, both in thought, word and deed: from these distressing ideas nothing can rouse or divert her, although she converses rationally, but reluctantly on any other subject; her appetite is good, the pulse in general too quick without fullness, the tongue for the most part moist, the body inclined to costiveness, the water natural in colour and quantity, but seldom depositing any sediment; she has sometimes perspired pretty freely in the night, but generally found herself the more relaxed the ensuing day; no medicines have been given her now for five or six weeks, except, through necessity, something laxative.

*Portman Square,* I am, &c.

*June 30, 1781.* \*\*\*\*\*



## M Y A N S W E R.

MADAM,

“ AT her advanced time of life, I fear but little can be done to assist the patient whose case you have so obligingly submitted to my consideration; if she could be conversed with on any regular plan, her mistaken notions of religion might probably be corrected; but, in religious melancholy, I have repeatedly found that argument has had but little weight, for it unfortunately seems to be the nature of the disorder to involve the mind in the most insuperable and inextricable difficulties, and, thus influenced, the patients resist or evade every argument



which the most sensible person can adduce from the most rational ground to undeceive the deluded mind; I think endeavours should be used to persuade her, that it is entirely a complaint of the body which thus affects her mind. It is observed, that persons in general, who labour under fanatical insanity, usually die of a slow continual fever; perhaps she is not altogether disinclined to company, although she may to business or amusements; the mind should be diverted and kept in as tranquil and calm a state as possible, and all conversation upon her favourite topic should at all times be declined; electricity may be useful to her, and also frictions of the legs, arms, and trunk of the body, and even the belly, with a



flesh brush, as, by these means, perspiration will be encouraged, and the circulation quickened; she should rise early, and use as much exercise as the strength and formation of her system will admit of; as a medicine, I would advise six grains of camphor and four of nitre, with three grains of the powder of squills made into a bolus, with conserve of rosemary, to be taken every morning, noon and night, and with a view to relieve her *Typhomania*, she may take a cupful of the camphorated julep, and repeat it as occasion may require in the night; the *Oleum Ricini* I would advise as an occasional laxative, and indeed it appears highly necessary that her body should be always kept in a moderately relaxed



state ; reclining her head over the steams of hot water, in which a quantity of myrrh, camphor and rosemary flowers, have been infused, may be very serviceable, and may be repeated at those times when the fervors or horrors chiefly prevail ; the peculiarly bad structure of her body might probably afford some reasonable objection to an emetic, or it would have been right to have tried it.

“ WHEN you may think proper to write to me again, the favour will be honourably esteemed

By Madam, &c.”

A few weeks after I had sent the above advice, I had the satisfaction to learn that my directions had been punctually



attended to, and that the patient had found considerable benefit, for which I received the most flattering tokens of respectful acknowledgments.

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### C A S E    L X.

**A.** G. the master of a coasting vessel, aged about thirty-five years, of an atrabilious and scorbutic constitution, which had rather suffered by the too free use of spirituous liquors, and of a frame of mind peculiarly favourable to, and susceptible of the impulse of excessive terror, being at sea, about ten leagues from the shore, was suddenly terrified with a luminous



appearance in the air, resembling, as he thought, a woman of gigantic stature, arrayed in white and splendid garments, of a most tremendous countenance, which made so deep an impression on his mind, as almost instantly to bereave him of his senses, and it was with much difficulty he was secured and got ashore without committing some act of self violence, which, in his fits of desperation, he obstinately seemed bent upon, and would more than once have put an end to his existence, had he not been prevented. He was a strong, powerful, muscular man, and, when brought to my house on the fifth day of February last, it was as much as three stout men, who attended, could manage him; although he was in a



strait waistcoat; indeed he had arrived at the most outrageous pitch of phrenitic insanity; and seemed to labour under the deepest distress of mind, his respiration was hard and difficult, he had had no sleep from the time when he first received the shock, which was now a space of six days and nights; frequently shivered, was sometimes all over convulsed, had a most extraordinary ferocity in his eyes, the *Tunica albuginea* of which, was streaked with red; in the corners was a sordid rheum, the lids were tumefied, and the pupils much distended; his countenance was bloated and of a crimson hue; he had a quick and full pulse; his tongue was white and tremulous, he foamed at the mouth, and his teeth and lips were



covered with a viscous fordes, and there was rather a greasy appearance of the whole face, in the features of which it is easy to conceive that there could not be a greater combination of fear, horror and despair; at intervals of a few minutes he appeared more calm and easy, and would then sometimes answer (although confusedly) to those questions which were proposed to him; but the mind could not free itself from the pressure it had sustained, and, as if he could not think of any thing but the single object of his terror, he reverted into such fits of rage and desperation, and was so obstinately bent upon his own destruction, that it was with difficulty he was prevented from beating out his brains against the wall,



or upon the floor, notwithstanding his hands and feet were strongly secured, and he was confined in a cell. In one of those frantic paroxysms, he actually beat his head with such violence against the floor, that for some time it remained a doubt with us, whether he had not fractured his skull, and it was not till many weeks after, that he thoroughly recovered of the bruises he had given himself. As the curative intention seemed apparently to consist in depleting the vessels and attenuating the humours, I bled him very copiously from the arm, *ad Deliquium Animi*, and at the distance of twelve hours only, from the first operation, repeated it to the same degree, a blister was applied between the shoulders,



lenient purgatives of soluble tartar, with the volatile and neutral salts, were administered, and the camphorated julep, was given of nights, besides copious dilution with small warm fluids. The reguline preparations, so as to gently puke the patient, were given at the distance of four and twenty hours, for three times; venæsection was repeated twice, and, at the end of a month, being thoroughly restored to his right mind, and perfectly cool, collected and consistent, he returned home to his family, and convinced of the necessity of being more temperate in drinking, and by observing more regularity in that respect, he has, I am informed, continued pretty well ever since.



## C A S E LXI.

The well-written letter, and most excellent description of this patient's case, I shall take the liberty literally to transcribe as follows :

*M\*\*\*\*\*n, Aug. 30, 1778.*

S I R,

“ YOUR favour of the fourth instant I received, and should have answered it ere this, but waited to give you the present symptoms. The person I wrote to you about, is a young man of twenty-eight years of age, of a delicate thin constitution ; 'tis six years ago next Christmas, he was bit by a dog ; it was fancied the dog was mad, but many persons were bit by



the same dog, who took no further notice of it, and no ill consequence following it, confirms the dog's not being mad. This young man was advised to be dipt in the sea, and take some medicines as preventatives, the chief ingredients of which were native and factitious cinnabar; he took these medicines so long till he found himself much weakened by them, and has frequently complained since of a giddiness in his head, and a relaxation at times: last summer, he almost every evening used most violent exercise at fives. As we impute his present disorder to these causes, I thought it proper to mention them, though we never observed any thing remarkably particular in them till about the sixth or seventh of October



last: he had been a few days on a journey on business, the evening he returned, he appeared in an odd whimsical way, and very inconsistent in conversation, which was imputed to his being in liquor, and no notice taken of it; he went to bed, presently rose again, and insisted on going out, the servants let him out, he remained out all night in the fields in a hard rain; the next morning he returned, complained of a most violent pain in his head, and that he had not slept since his leaving home; was very feverish and unaccountably whimsical, fancied he had been poisoned, and that every thing offered him was impregnated with poison; violent and acute pains in his head for half an hour together; when



the pain ceased, an odd sensation left like the crawling of something within the skin, sometimes exceeding strong, then weak and faint; smelt disagreeable smells, exceeding timorous, violent flushings, then deathly paleness succeeded; at his first seizure no appetite, then a most extraordinary one, sudden gusts of passion, with strong aversions and affections to different objects, violent convulsive motions in his arms and legs, frequent and deep sighings; his water limpid with a sediment like sand, sometimes a great thirst; he found no relief from any thing but blisters on his legs, (which were kept open till a mortification was apprehended) and drinking strong mutton broth frequently; about Christmas he grew better, and has



been able to follow his business, though not perfectly well; as he has always been low, and rather shewed an aversion to conversation or cheerfulness, since then we have observed him peculiarly low between the last quarter and first of the moon, at which times of the moon he has from the first appeared most affected. About two months ago he went to spend a few days with a friend by the sea, he drank rather more than his usual quantity, (which has not exceeded three or four glasses of beer or wine after dinner and supper since his first illness) the next morning he rose early and bathed; at breakfast he complained of great pain in his head, and that he had not slept all night, and was very feverish and weak; he



lay down the best part of that and several days, but could get no sleep for several nights; great anxiety on his mind, violent fits of crying, would eat nothing but a little water-gruel, with a bit of bread in it; when he returned home, he continued the same for a fortnight, best part of the time kept in bed, with violent flushings, and a few slight convulsive motions; but these were suppressed by musk and nitre, of which he took many doses; the bark was attempted to be given but was found to heighten the flushings and passions, therefore stopped; when in bed, he sweat freely; a dose of James's powders was given, from which he found relief, and remained tolerable, only at times fanciful, especially



about the same times of the moon as before-mentioned; he has since shewn the greatest aversion to conversation, and a kind of disgust to his friends, doubting their sincerity; he remained in this manner till Thursday the eleventh instant, when he went a journey, about twenty miles, which he takes about once a week on his business; since then he has been remarkably surly, which being the reverse of his natural disposition, we were alarmed, and on the nineteenth instant his passions broke out most violently; he drove all before him, and shewed most unaccountable whims, and then set out on foot for his usual journey; he was sent after, but not overtaken; he returned the next day and took to his



bed, where he continued for some days, only rising when the fumes were on him, and at times appeared to be lost in childishness; he has for some time refused taking or doing any thing to relieve him, till the twenty-second instant, when he sent for the surgeon, and had a few ounces of blood taken away just to examine its state, when it was found to be of a very loose texture, the *crasis* being so very tender as not to resist the touch of a feather; he complains of a very uneasy and disagreeable sensation, which he can no otherwise describe than by likening to the winding up of a cobweb; his spirits and pulse are very irregular, for the most part exceedingly depressed; within these few days he seems a little



cheerful for a small space at a time; he has a very great aversion to conversation, and generally a very great languor and relaxation, attended with a numbness and slight pains in particular parts; till last Thursday he has taken very little, since which he begins to recover his appetite; for some days he has been persuaded to drink valerian tea, with seven drops of acid elixir of vitriol; at the beginning of his illness he had an issue cut in his arm, which discharged greatly, but about six or seven weeks ago he had it dried up, and in vain, hitherto, has he been entreated to have another; we are sometimes afraid his senses will be lost in childishness, at others, have great hopes; but as his complaint varies so often, we



do not know what to think. The roots of his nails have frequently turned quite black, he has grown most exceedingly thin, and by nature was never robust. For these two months he has drank nothing but small beer and water, and lived very low; we are the more anxious for him, as he has nothing but his business to depend on, which must fail if he has no relief; but please God to restore him, he is in a genteel way, I therefore hope you will consider his case, and do your best for him, I flatter myself you are capable; you will let me know your fee, that it may be remitted you. At the time you send your prescription, beg you will acquaint us what regimen he ought



to follow, and how he should be treated, as hitherto he has always been indulged in his whims.

I am,

S I R,

Your respectful

humble Servant."

IN consequence of the above application, issues were directed to be opened in the left arm, betwixt the *biceps* and *deltoid* muscle, and in the interior part of the leg on the same side, in the cavity below the knee; the vegetable bitters were prescribed, and the *Julepum e Camphora*, with an agglutinating regimen, the use of the cold bath and restrictive measures as



occasion might require, by which means the most alarming symptoms were mitigated, and the patient so far relieved, as to render him able to pursue his wonted avocations with more comfort to himself and friends.

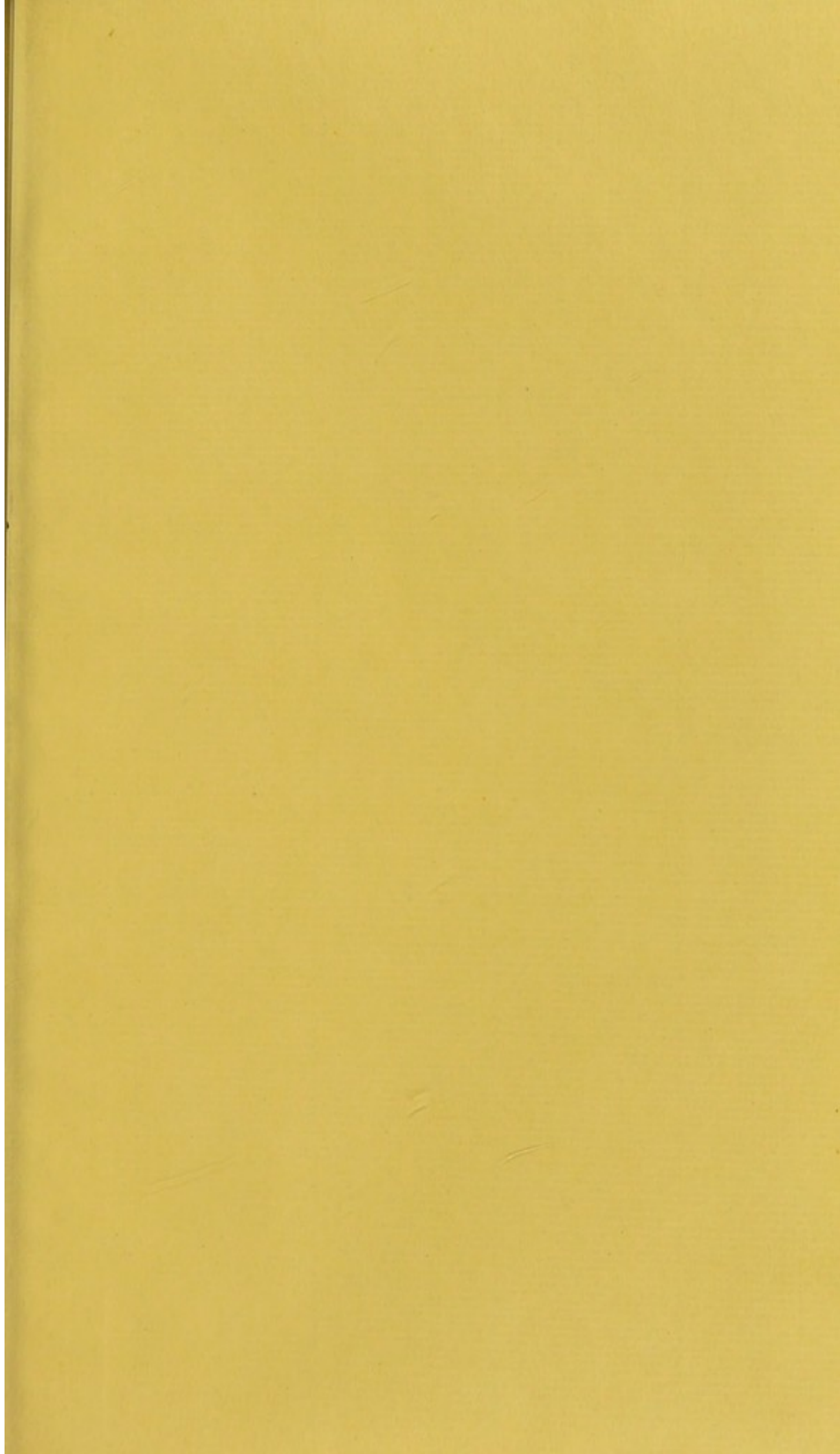
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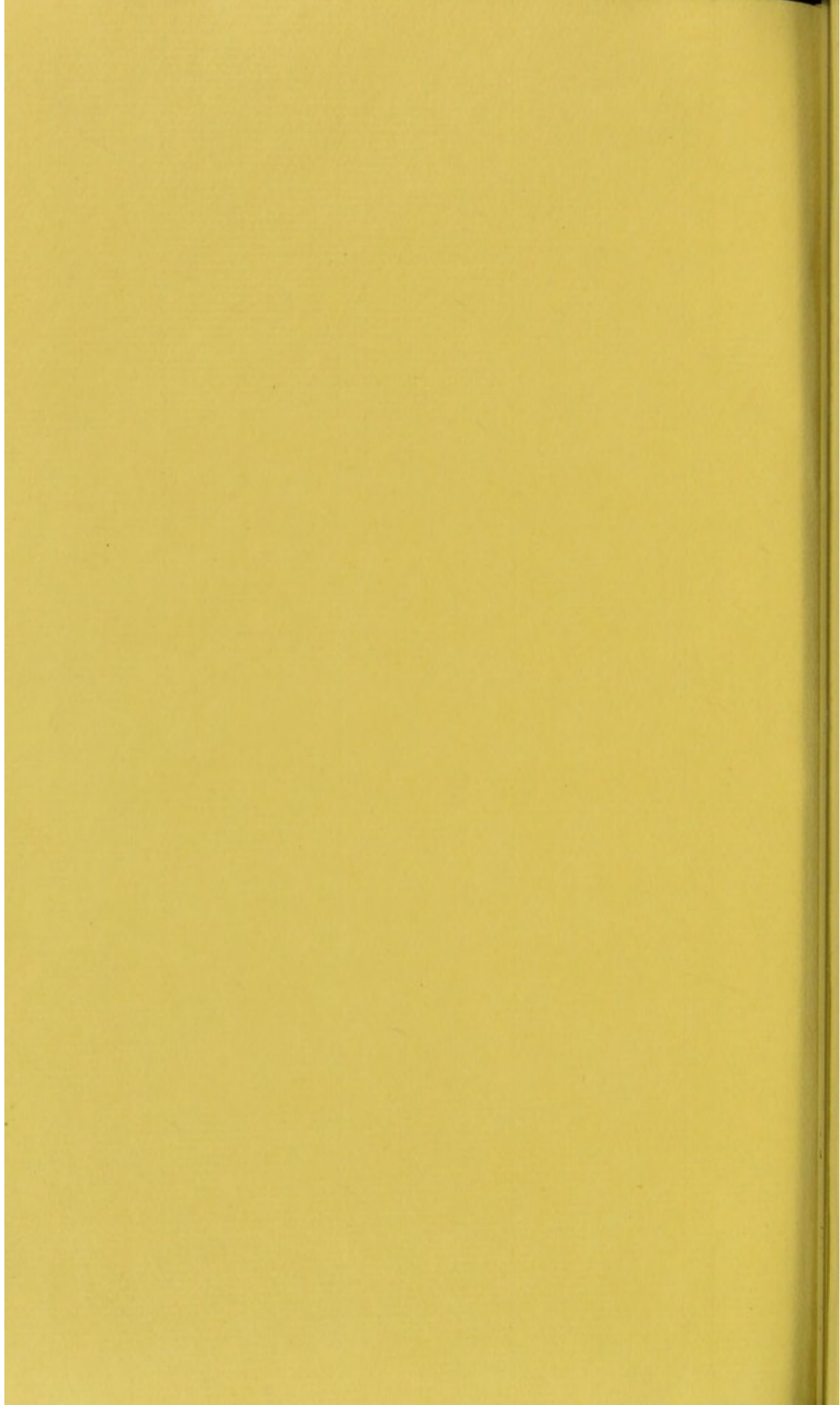
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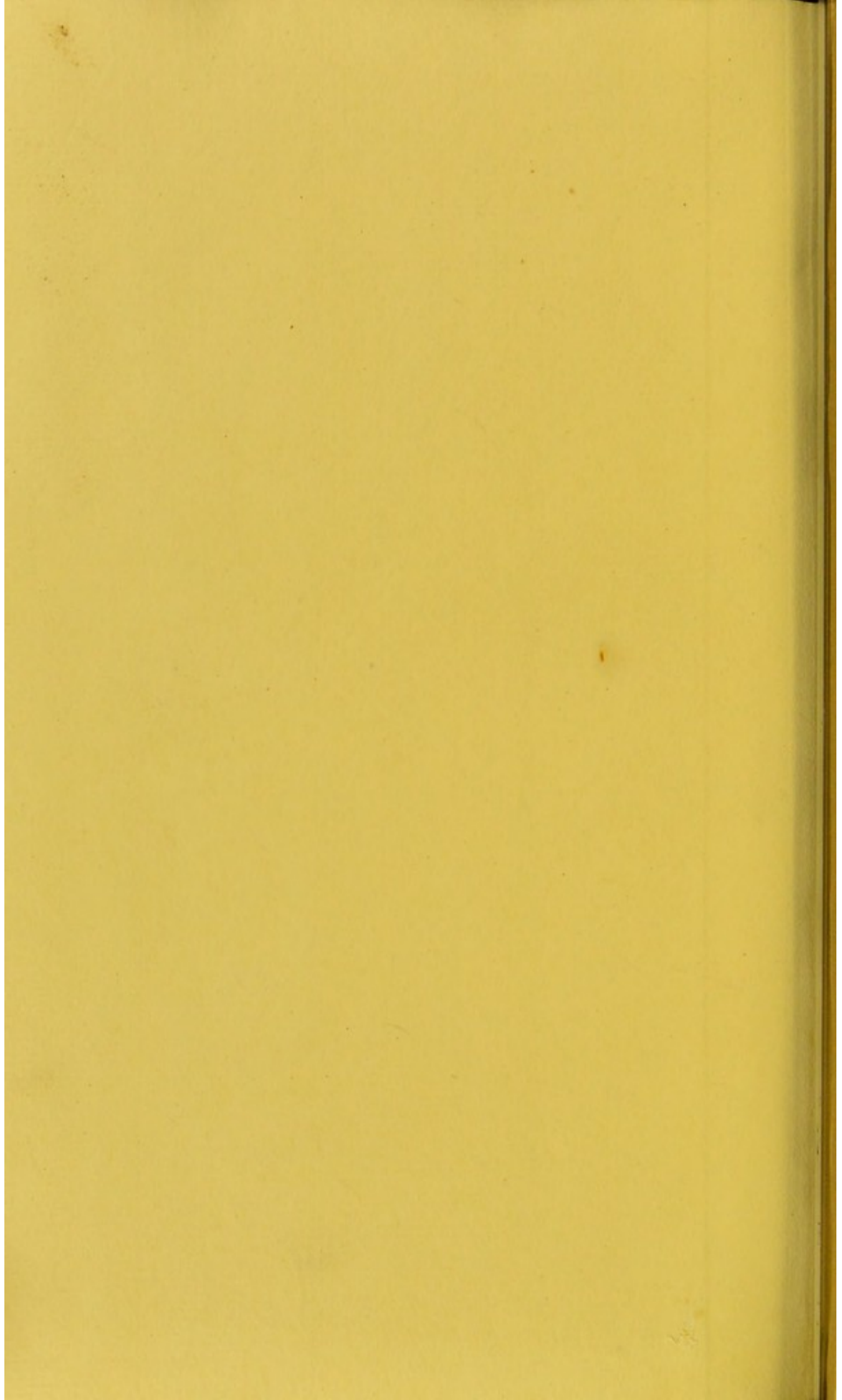














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C. M.



