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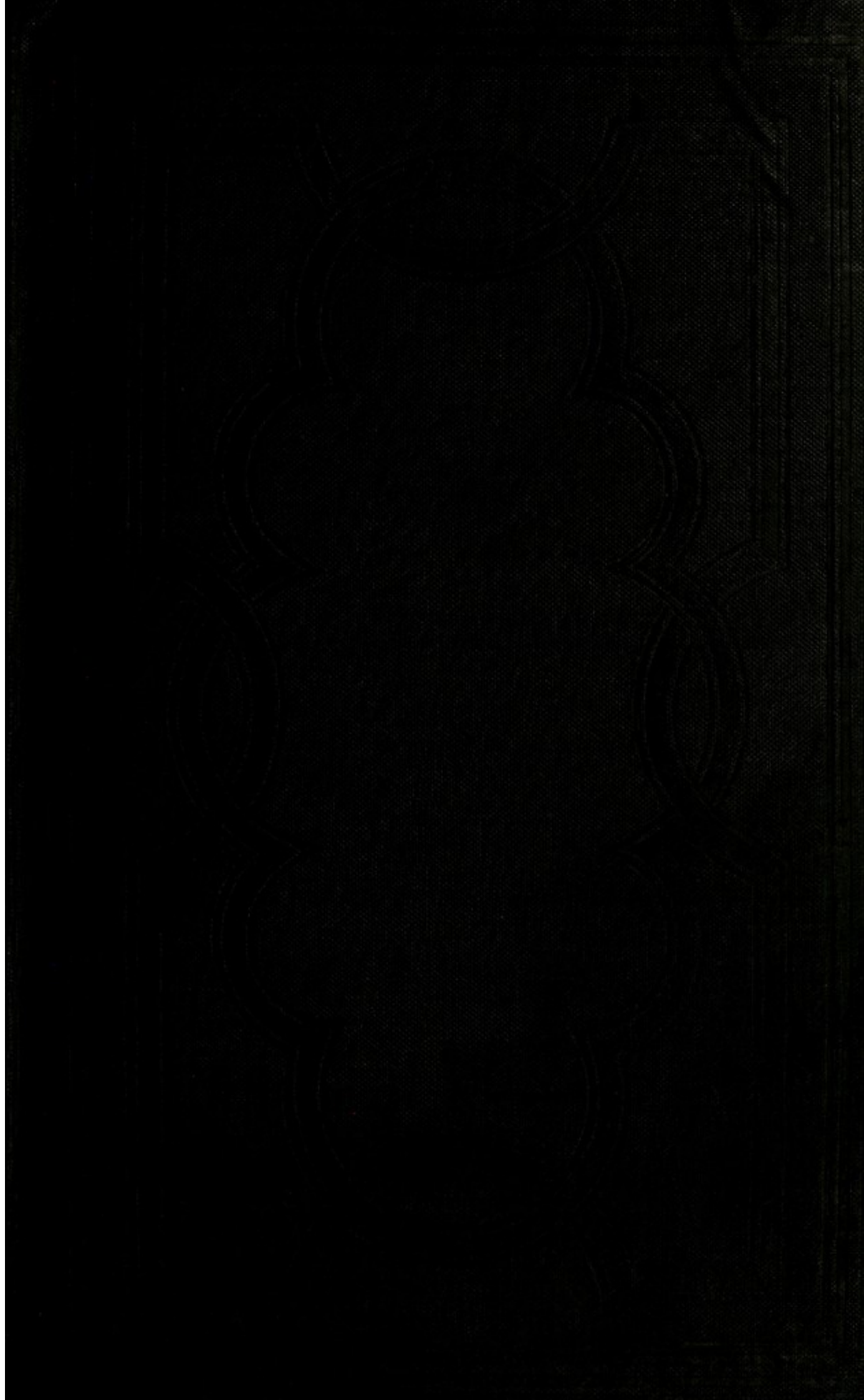
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*Tu, qui natales antiquo sanguine claros
Ingenii decoras nobilitate novâ,
Accipe non magnâ turgentem mole libellum,
Et mea mansuetè quantulacunque lege.
Publicus his postquam favor adfuit, acriùs audens
Spem de se tandem cœpit habere liber;
Nec satis esse putat: si Tu dignabere laude,
Hoc saltem titulo tutior esse cupit.*

ERRATA.

P. 21, line 15, for "galvanic" read "galvanoid."

P. 21, line 22, for "electric" read "electroid."

P. 77, last line, for "narcotic" read "narcotine."

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THOUGH it may be thought that the third edition of a book requires no advertisement, I consider it quite necessary to explain some circumstances connected with this work. Feeling that no author has been more indebted to the indulgence of the public press for kind criticism, I have endeavoured to profit by the hints given me in every respect but one. The first edition was sent forth to take its chance in the world without herald of preface or advertisement, unadorned by dedication, and unaccompanied by any table of contents: my original reasons for the last omission remain unshaken; and I have therefore merely given, for the convenience of students, a couple of pages, so prepared that they may make an index for their own use, by putting down, as they go through the work, the position in which subjects occur in different parts of it; as I have done with respect to two or three, for instance, "arterial action," "ulceration."

I found that the former editions were more pleasing to fully educated medical men and men of experience than to the tyro. This was not my original intention;

and I have therefore taken pains to render the work more intelligible and useful to the latter, and have added much to suit the taste of both.

I do not think that I used too strong an expression formerly in speaking of the confusion which has existed in medicine; and as an example, I need only refer to the striking fact noticed in this work, that the two words, *inflammation* and *irritation*, which are most frequently in the mouths of medical men, are up to this day perpetually used in a double or equivocal sense. Inflammation is correctly used to imply disease, and incorrectly to signify the process by which the damage done by the disease is repaired (see pp. 49, 51). Irritation is perpetually incorrectly used to signify a state of disease, as it can only be correctly applied to the process whereby any thing irritates, annoys, or over-excites a part: the irritant, irritating thing, whatever that be, by its operation (irritation) produces in the part morbid sensibility. One great objection to using the term irritation to imply disease, is, that irritation (the act of irritating) produces sometimes inflammation, and sometimes only morbid sensibility; but, according to the old phraseology, *irritation* produces *irritation* and inflammation, and inflammation produces sympathetic irritation and constitutional irritation, and sympathetic irritation and constitutional irritation arise from local irritation, &c. &c. In order to avoid this equivoue, I determined, in the present edition, to adopt the term *morbid sensibility* as the name for the diseased state usually implied by irritation, and to use the word irritation only in its proper sense; and wherever the word irritation occurs

in other works implying disease, it will be found that morbid sensibility may be substituted for it.

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Many of the valuable works of Orfila, Christison, and others, on toxicology, will be more intelligible by referring to the state of morbid sensibility explained in the following pages.

Again, I have shewn (p. 67-68) that there is in reality no such thing as a specific; and, on the other hand, I have explained how some medicines become useful in such a variety of diseases as almost to realise the dreams of the ancients and alchymists respecting a *πανάκεια*, or an *elixir vitæ*; and why thus one empirical remedy, antimony, held the reins of the "currus triumphalis" until superseded by the more modern blue-pill.* I may men-

* I have given my opinions respecting the pathology of the nervous system, as depending on physiology, in the course of this work; but was unwilling at present to introduce a subject so much under dispute as animal magnetism. The principle upon which it acts (and it undoubtedly does act to a certain extent) is, I think, easily explained. In the first place, the electro-magnetic telegraph is a beautiful and intelligible demonstration of magnetism depending upon (or being) electricity. In the next, the physiology of the nerves shews, not merely in the torpedo, *gymnotus electricus*, &c., but in simple muscular action, &c., that a change in the electric state, plus or minus, takes place on every act of volition; in other words, that there

tion a few more of the explanations given. I have shewn that tonics are not stimulants; why they may be combined advantageously with sedatives, with stimulants, or with narcotics; how stimulants are tonic; how sedatives are tonic; how narcotics are tonic; and, though not a homœopathist, how emetics stop vomiting, and purgatives diarrhœa. I have shewn how every medical man has his hobby to carry him to the same point, which, though he thinks it very different from his neighbour's, is as like it as one four-legged jade is to another; how one man thinks he has made a discovery that he can cure cholera with sugar of lead, and that there is nothing equal to it; whilst tartar-emetic, calomel, Epsom salts, or Glauber salts, or common salt, or mustard, or lemonade, or vinegar and water, &c. &c., will do the same thing; though none of them more quickly carry off the vomiting and purging than two of these hobbies in double harness—tartar-emetic, with some neutral salt, I care little which.

An anonymous writer once advanced against this work, that I differed from J. Hunter in the theory of inflammation,—as if he were “the law and the gospel.” It may

is an electric communication between the brain and the tips of the fingers, whether in playing the pianoforte, or making the passes or actions of animal magnetism; and every one of these actions is a succession of weak electric shocks, not individually perceptible, but by continuation producing an impression or result; as an electric jar may be charged by a weak electric machine, though no sparks be visible. The person who makes the passes produces a succession of transmissions of electricity, which alters the electric state of the brain of the person magnetised, who is in a state of quiescence, and whose nervous system will be more susceptible if out of health or inclined to coma, independent of the very various degrees of susceptibility of the nervous system of persons even in health.

be seen that I differ not only from J. Hunter, but from his talented successors, Bichât, Sir A. Cooper, W. Lawrence, and others, in theory, on physiological and pathological principles, though little in therapeutics. On the subject of the division and classification of remedies, on the cause of the sounds of the heart, on the proximate cause of inflammation, on morbid sensibility, &c., I feel confident of obtaining the future suffrages of the profession. On the essential points of practice in the treatment of inflammation, I agree of course with men of such experience as Sir A. Cooper and Lawrence. It may be asked, then, what does it signify wherein we differ? It is, in my opinion, of great consequence to correct erroneous theories, and thereby enable students to arrive sooner at well-founded notions of practice.

Although this work consists rather of general pathology than what is called the practice of medicine, it will be found to contain the essentials of the treatment of disease. The greatest difficulties have arisen from the loose way in which remedies have been arranged and classified: I have endeavoured to remove these difficulties by the division into stimulants, sedatives, narcotics, and tonics; and by shewing how these are to be combined with each other, so as to afford a guide to clinical practice.

We sometimes find persons doubting the efficacy of valuable remedies from not knowing how to apply them; for instance, bark, sarsaparilla, dulcamara, logwood, carbonate of iron, arsenic, conium, digitalis, elaterium, hydrocyanic acid, and blisters; each of these has at one time or other been said to be either inert or injurious,

from misapplication, though they are powerful and efficacious remedies. We every day meet with old men who from prejudice have scarcely ever used some one or other of these substances; though others, placed in an extensive field of practice, such as our hospitals, use them daily with advantage: there are even persons who have been thirty or forty years in tolerably extensive practice who have not made use of a lancet so many times.

In going round the wards of an hospital a pupil might remark to the physician at one bed, What a small dose, and at the very next, perhaps, What a large dose, you have given; large and small being both incorrect terms when the force applied is properly adapted to the quantity of disease and state of constitution. In practice there should be no such thing as boldness or timidity: boldness is an ignorance (for we must not suppose a recklessness) of the harm which too strong means may do a fellow-creature; and timidity is an ignorance of the efficient means which remedies afford of relieving human suffering.

In this edition I have added many cases in illustration of principles laid down, as they are equivalent to diagrams in geometry. A person who has studied geometry can understand the proof of a proposition in general terms without a diagram—but not so a beginner; and a beginner in medicine requires a reference to cases, to render some general principles intelligible.

London, June 28th, 1838.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

THE SECOND EDITION.

I WAS originally led to publish this treatise by a recollection of the difficulties I had met with in the study of my profession, and by the hope that I might aid in removing them from the path of others.

Upon commencing the study of medicine and surgery, after having become acquainted with the more precise physical sciences in the University, I was appalled to find it a complete chaos. Our family physician, really a man of great talent, and one of our professors, disheartened me by his answers. I inquired, "What is fever?"—Answer, of course, Cullen's definition. "But what produces it?"—"Sometimes one thing, sometimes another: excessive cold or heat, or the effluvia from a person who has fever." "But what is the cause of the phenomena in the body?"—"Spasmodic contraction of the extreme vessels." I could understand that cold might contract the extreme vessels, but I had been taught by the professor of chemistry that caloric expanded every thing. And, again, I did not see how effluvia produced spasm, nor how the spasm, even if it were produced, could make the skin extremely hot as well as cold. I was advised to read Cullen, and did so; but without finding the information I sought. Again I asked, "When you give a dose of rhubarb or castor oil to stop a diarrhœa of several days' standing, how does it effect this object?"—"By clearing away the peccant matter." "But would not the diarrhœa scour away this peccant matter itself?"—"Not so well." This did not satisfy me.

Neither could the surgeon clear up these points : “ for his part, he did not pretend to understand physic.” I “ walked ” the hospital at his elbow as dresser, and inquired, “ Why do you apply a cold lotion to that inflammation ? ” — “ To moderate the action of the vessels.” “ Inflammation, then, is over-action of the vessels ? ” — “ Yes.” “ Why do you apply that *astringent* (goulard or nitrate of silver) to that other inflammation ? ” — “ To diminish the action of the vessels.” Now, the *action* of the vessels being *contraction*, my logic did not enable me to comprehend him ; so, after asking why he put a cold lotion or poultice on one inflamed part, and a warm poultice or fomentation on another, and being told that I should find out by experience, I resolved on attempting to find out for myself.

I accordingly set seriously to work, and endeavoured to draw up a little code of general principles for my own use, as I could find nothing of the kind existing. The so-called systems of Cullen, Brown, Broussais, Rasori, &c., seemed mere individual opinions, totally differing from each other ; and which was I to follow ? Each of their originators appeared confident in himself, and despised his adversary ; while their followers almost came to blows, arguing as much for victory as the love of truth. I visited the different schools : the students of each hinted, if they did not assert, that the other sects killed their patients ; but I found that, provided the physician of each school was a man of talent and experience, the mortality was fairly balanced. I therefore concluded that, on investigation, some true general principles would be found to exist by which the apparent inconsistencies of correct practice might be reconciled, and the contest between such systems as were essentially at variance be decided. But, though innumerable volumes of cases, and interminable heaps of insulated precedents, were to be met with, no treatise upon first principles had appeared.

After twenty years of intense application to clinical

practice, as student, assistant, and professor, I found the same acknowledged necessity for reducing the conflicting systems of medicine to general principles; and I therefore ventured to publish the result of my own labours, compressed into 130 pages.*

The subject of clinical lectures is closely connected with the attempt to reduce the science to general principles. In medical publications much just censure has been expressed of the neglect of clinical instruction, and of the omission on the part of hospital physicians and surgeons to render their experience available to the profession in general, and consequently to the public. In 1822 I had the honour to be elected Physician of the London Hospital,† at which time no clinical lectures were given in London: in the same year, however, I commenced this important branch of medical education, not merely instructing the pupils in the wards and theatre, but attending and explaining *post-mortem* examinations. This course I pursued, at a great sacrifice of time and

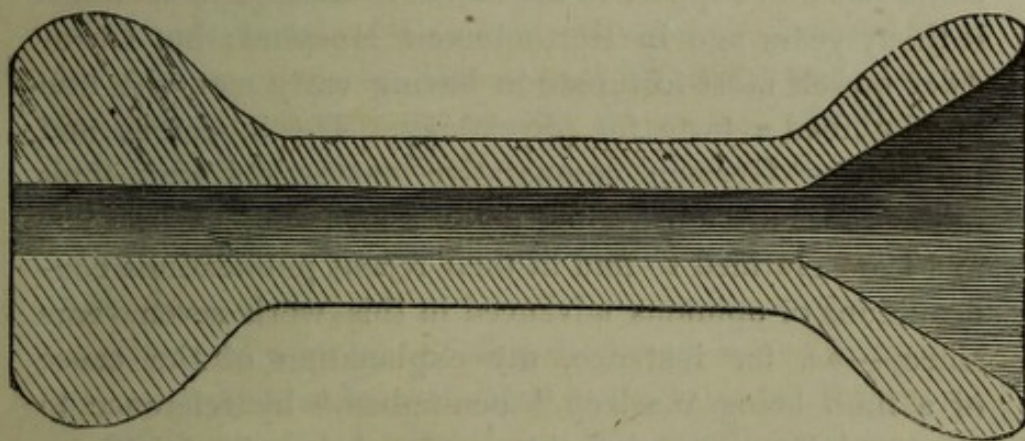
* The trouble it cost in condensation makes me pleased whenever the term "little" is applied to the work; and I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of transcribing the words of Professor Stromeyer, of Hanover: "Dr. Billing's book is a very clever little *pathologia generalis*; his views certainly go beyond those of most pathologists, by his taking the nervous system into consideration. Upon the whole, I think it as much adapted for fully educated medical men as for students. Books like this are very rare; almost every writer strives, whatever few original ideas he has, to bury them in a mountain of generally known matter; whilst Dr. B. gives us a very intellectual (*geistreich*) view of his peculiarities." I must acknowledge also that I derived much satisfaction from the favourable notices of the medical reviewers; as their testimony gave me more confidence in the approbation expressed by private friends.

† The London Hospital, incorporated by royal charter in 1795, besides between nine and ten thousand cases per annum of diseases and injuries treated by the physicians and surgeons as out patients, contains 320 beds, always filled with fit subjects of clinical study; the surgical accidents average fifty per week. Several foreign hospitals have twice and three times this number of beds; but they include persons disabled by old age, imbecility of mind, malformation, &c.—such as are taken care of in our work-houses and asylums of various denominations.

some of health, for six or seven years; when the rising members of my clinical secretaries,—Drs. Macbraire and W. J. Little (the latter now Professor of Comparative Anatomy, alumnus dignissimus of Müller and Grant), Messrs. Hamilton, Adams, Curling, &c.,—being able to relieve me, I continued only the lectures, instructions in the wards, and once a-week an anatomical demonstration, illustrating cases by recently obtained specimens, or by those in the extensive collection of pathological anatomy in the museum. In this mode I persevered up to the present session, when, from being appointed to the University of London, it became impossible for me to continue it. I have of late years had the satisfaction of finding the example very generally followed in the metropolis, besides that of witnessing the success of the school in which it was first regularly established.

The medical officers of the London Hospital, I must also observe, were among the first who were mainly instrumental in *introducing* auscultation; and I am surprised that it is not yet by any means generally *adopted*. It is a source of real regret to me that so few medical men have taken the trouble, or known how, to avail themselves of this invaluable and indispensable method of detecting, so as to combat, the most deadly diseases of the chest. On this score Dr. T. Davies has gained a well-earned celebrity; he not merely gave lectures to pupils, but collected the members of the profession at the east end of the town, at his own house, and instructed them in this almost new sense of perception. From the time he became one of the medical officers of the London Hospital, in 1829, I have enjoyed immense assistance from him in the clinical department, in the instruction of those young gentlemen who have had the good sense to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded them of learning auscultation and the use of the stethoscope. One cannot be much surprised that the multitude are slow in adopting what in some instances has been treated with neglect, and

in others has met with decided opposition, by men in high reputation and practice. As to the stethoscope, I wish it were understood that it is not absolutely necessary, except from motives of delicacy; as the apparent difficulty of using it deters some persons from commencing auscultation, and has given occasionally an opportunity for opponents to use a tremendous substitute for reasoning—ridicule! It is disagreeable to apply the ear to the chest if the patient, as occurs sometimes in charitable institutions, be not clean; and if the patient be a female, it is objectionable for other reasons: hence the artificial elongation of the meatus auditorius externus, called stethoscope, becomes eligible, though no better than the naked ear to judge by. I am in the habit of using a very simple one, which is merely Laennec's abridged, instead of being complicated, as it has been by other *improvers* of his instrument: it is rounded and cut away in the middle to make it light and convenient; the flat end being turned to the chest answers the purpose of the obturator; and it is only four inches long, which is sufficient for the purpose as to stethoscopy and stethoscoped, and may be obtained from any wood-turner for a few pence.



Section of the Stethoscope.

One great difficulty in the way of learners of auscultation is their attempting to begin on patients: this is like trying to study morbid anatomy before acquiring a know-

ledge of healthy structure. If beginners would first learn the sounds of respiration and of the heart in healthy persons, which may be done in about ten minutes once for all, they would have little difficulty in detecting any unhealthy deviation from the normal state, and would very soon arrive at just diagnosis. I warn medical men that they must soon turn their attention to the subject, or be disgraced. Many affectionate parents are in the habit of feeling the pulse and looking at the tongue of their children when they suspect disease to exist; they will also ere long learn the very simple process of applying their ear to the chest, and thus put the medical attendant to shame if he cannot resort to the same means.

But the progress of the schools has been slow enough; it is only now that comparative anatomy, which is the only sure foundation of physiology, is *beginning* to be taught in London; and it required the energy and talents of a Grant, with a firm footing in a great school, to carry it into effect, and to compel the other schools to follow the example. Professor Macartney, with all his energy and talents (and he does not require my testimony to establish his claims to both), fully imbued with its value, could not find support in his laudable attempt to establish it thirty years ago in Bartholomew Hospital; but I consider myself most fortunate in having early met with him and imbibed a taste for physiology. The ingenious and persevering German comparative anatomists with their microscopes are unravelling many a *dignus vindice nodus*; and I am gratified to find in their recent publications confirmations of opinions advanced in this work seven years since,—as, for instance, my explanation of the cause of a limb being “asleep,” benumbed,* by reference to the medullary part of the nerves being in tubes (as asserted by Fontana), which has been demonstrated by Ehrenberg (*Darstellung eines merkwürdigen Baues des Seelenorganes*, Berlin, &c.); who has proved also that

* See p. 84, 3d edition.

not only are there two sets of nerves (as referred to p. 115) of animal and organic life, but that there is a third set, of the senses, all recognisable by their structure when an isolated piece of either is subjected to the microscope. Remak (Archiv für Anatomie, Physiologie, &c., von Dr. Johannes Müller, Jahrgang 1836, Heft 1 und 2) has likewise shewn the difference between the motor and sensitive roots of the symmetrical nerves—that the latter possess in addition some organic filaments, and that the glosso-pharyngeal belongs to the same order as the optic, auditory, and olfactory; thereby confirming Panizzi's opinion, that the hypoglossal is the motor, the lingual branch of the fifth the sensitive, and the glosso-pharyngeal the gustatory nerve of the tongue. Schwann (Müller's Handbuch der Physiologie, Coblenz, 1833), by experiment on the mesenteric arteries of small living animals, has demonstrated that I was right as to the *modus operandi* of cold as a remedial agent in inflammation. Schwann and Eulenberg, again, have shewn that the middle coat of the arteries is not muscular in structure, but elastic, as asserted by me (p. 11), consisting of that distinct tissue constituting the ligamentum nuchæ of ruminantia, the ligamentum flavum of man, &c.

The veterinarians also have contributed in their comparative department. Hausmann, by direct experiment, has added fresh proofs to my theory of inflammation (p. 23 et seq.); Sewell, of our own Veterinary College, twenty years ago published plates shewing the muscular coat in the bronchi of the horse; indeed, the muscularity of the bronchi was shewn by Morgagni: nevertheless, it has been lately spoken of as a discovery, as mentioned in Youat's valuable Journal, March 1837, in the Report of the Veterinary School of Alfort. Not that I agree that the muscularity of the bronchi can assist in natural expiration, for that is contrary to the physical structure of the chest—it merely serves to expel any noxious matter, whether generated there or introduced through the windpipe.

But there is no end to reclamations. I learn from the "Medical Gazette" that I have to apologise to Dr. Marshall Hall for not having mentioned him as having preceded Gooch in the description of the affection alluded to (p. 79); which was the fact. At the moment, I was merely thinking of an authority; and Gooch being great as a practical man, and his book in the hands of all practitioners, I mentioned him. In Dr. Marshall Hall's paper in the Transactions of the Royal Society, 1833, "On the reflex functions of the medulla oblongata and spinal cord," there is one original discovery of great importance—the establishing that various nerves influence each other, so as to produce reaction, in consequence of the uniting medium of the spinal cord, independent of the brain: this independence of the brain, and the proving it physiologically, constitute the originality. As to pathological subjects, the *rationale* of which Dr. M. Hall says was not previously given, and that they were "*untouched*," it will be found that they were freely *handled* by me in this publication two years before; and more than ten years previous to that in my lectures on the institutes of medicine. The very term *reflexion* was also applied to the phenomena by Pfaff as far back as 1801 (Grundriss, &c. Kopenhagen, 1801). To shew this, I have changed but one word in my text, using the modern term nervous centre instead of brain, which reconciles the passage to Dr. Hall's discovery, leaving the *rationale* as I originally gave it.

At p. 104, I gave the rationale of the involuntary reaction (equivalent to reflexion) which takes place in hysteria, epilepsy, tetanus, &c., producing spasms of the voluntary muscles, and of convulsions from worms in the intestines, but in which I did not contemplate the possibility of the phenomena taking place without implicating the brain; but at p. 79* I shewed the reaction of the uterus on the hip, and of the liver on the shoulder—of course, neces-

* See p. 175 et seq., 3d edition.

sarily in consequence of their nerves meeting in the spinal cord; and the cramps in the calves of the legs produced by diarrhœa may be accounted for on the same principle, as I had been in the habit of explaining to my class. The "relaxation of sphincters from mental emotion" is *not* explicable on the principle of reflex function nor of reaction, but of direct derivation or abstraction of nervous influence, as explained in the phenomenon of blushing and indigestion. But I had no idea of claiming originality for what seemed to me plain inferences from phenomena constantly before the eyes of practical men.

Before concluding this Preface, I wish to take the opportunity of adverting to one or two matters which will be found in the work. At p. 12, to the note originally published on the heart, I have added that the sounds depend on, or are produced by, the valves. I would not burden the text with proofs of what I feel assured will shortly be generally received as a fact as well ascertained as the circulation of the blood. But as it is still disputed, not merely by individuals, but by Associations, and committees appointed by them to investigate the subject, I will here repeat my arguments already published, which have not, to the best of my judgment, been answered; and besides, by referring to their own experiments, I think I can disprove their assertions. In an Essay read at the anniversary meeting of the Hunterian Society (Feb. 9, 1832, and reported in "Lancet," May 19, 1832), I first stated publicly "that the push or beat is caused by the ventricular muscles in their systole to expel the blood. The first sound is caused by the tension produced in the shutting of the auriculo-ventricular valves, and the second sound is caused by the tension produced in the shutting of the ventriculo-arterial valves," &c. &c. "This is a simple unsophisticated explanation of the causes of the beat and sounds of the heart; and you will find that the morbid signs are all explicable as alterations of these." Some exemplification follows, unnecessary to repeat here.

Subsequently Rouanet brought forward the same explanation in his thesis, which was noticed in the "Journal Hebdomadaire" (Sept. 1832), and copied into the "Medico-Chirurgical Review" (April 1833), as well as an extract from my essay; in which I had advanced, as I thought, sufficient to enable any practised physiologist to confirm my positions by the suggestions of his own mind. Finding, however, from some observations, that this did not appear to be the case, I published the following additional remarks in the "Lancet" (Nov. 30, 1833): "The succession of phenomena of the heart's action is as follows: first, the auricle contracts, then the ventricle; by the action of which the auriculo-ventricular valves are shut by the pressure of the blood against them. Upon the relaxation of the ventricle, the semilunar valves are shut by the backward pressure of the blood in the artery. The first sound takes place exactly synchronous with the impulsion and action of the ventricle; hence it might be supposed that the action of the muscle (as averred by some) produces the first sound. But the second sound takes place at a time when there is no action of the heart going forward; and this is peculiarly evident when there is an intermitting pulse, as there is then a marked pause after the second sound; so that, in fact, there is nothing but the semilunar valves in operation to produce sound at the instant."

I have thus proved that the second sound can be produced by nothing but the valves; and I have therefore shewn the tension of the valves to be a sufficient cause for the first sound; and as *nil frustra natura facit*, according to the laws of reasoning in physics, more causes than are true or sufficient are not to be assigned (Newt. *Princ.* lib. iii. reg. phil. 1), so I discard muscular action as the cause of the first sound. These are my proofs, published between February 1832 and November 1833.

Now, as to their experimentum crucis (to shew that muscle produced the first sound), of putting the finger into

the heart after the valves were destroyed, and their hearing a sound proceeding from the contraction of the heart, with air, *carneæ columnæ*, and bloody moisture in it, without the fingers: doubtless there was *a* sound produced independent of the valves, but not *the* sound of the heart. I say my proof is legitimate—their assertion a sophism of *non causa pro causâ*. It is the tympanic sound of the membranous valves which, with the time of the beats, produces the rhythm; and we judge of the existence of certain states of disease by the degree and manner in which they are out of tune. Looking at the subject physiologically and pathologically, valvular sound is the one we have to depend upon; for granting, for argument's sake even, that any other exists as a normal accompaniment, it has no more to do with *the* sound, than the drone of a bagpipe has to do with the tune. In his last appendix, Dr. Hope began to allow that the first sound may be "possibly partly valvular," but still adheres to the "bruit musculaire."

According to the report of the London Committee of the British Association, the subject seemed to be in the position agreeing with the vulgar notion of a suit in Chancery ("Med. Gaz.," Dec. 10, 1836).

With respect to the assertion of a celebrated experimenting physiologist, that the sound is produced by the heart coming pit-a-pat against the parietes of the chest, it is only necessary to refer to Mr. Bryan's beautifully ingenious experiment ("Lancet," Feb. 8, 1834); by which he proved that the heart never quits the anterior, but remains in apposition during both systole and diastole.

A few days after the Hunterian Anniversary (1832), I gave the same explanation to my class, exemplifying how the sound was produced, by a strip of paper two or three inches long, and half an inch wide, suddenly stretched—the sound of which was heard all over the theatre. Dr. Hope subsequently mentioned, in his Appendix, 1835, his having employed a piece of tape for a similar purpose.

Very recently Dr. Watson has published a case in the "Med. Gaz." to shew that disease of the ventriculo-arterial valves masked the second sound. I suppose it had escaped his notice that I published, five years before, not only that fact, but the explanation of what particular kind of disease of the valves would produce a single bruit, and which a double bruit.

Dr. Watson thinks it possible Rouanet may have had the suggestion respecting the cause of the sounds of the heart from Dr. Carswell. It would not astonish me if Rouanet had it from the brain, as well as myself; or, if communicated to him, it was possibly by one of my audience at the Hunterian Anniversary (at which Dr. Carswell may have been present, among a number of other scientific gentlemen), or by some one of my intelligent pupils, several of whom have since visited Paris. Mr. Bryan published the same theory ("Lancet," Jan. 1833); but when he became acquainted with my priority, he very candidly wrote an acknowledgment, in a critique on the Report of the Dublin Committee of the British Association ("Lancet," Dec. 26, 1835, and Feb. 27, 1836).

* * * * *

In our science, from insufficiency of data, and being often obliged to found our arguments on analogies, it is difficult to avoid falling into errors of *non causa*, and reasoning in a circle. I therefore claim indulgence, and entreat some of my highly gifted brethren to improve on my suggestions.

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE.

THE first step towards treating disease successfully is to ascertain, as far as possible, the nature of the *alteration* which has taken place in the *seat* of the *disease*, or what has been called, technically, the *proximate cause* : in default of this knowledge, which is sometimes unattainable, we can only depend upon analogies, drawn from what we know to be the fact in other cases, and from *physiology*, which is a careful *observation* of the *phenomena* resulting from the *functions* of the different *parts* in *health*.

An accurate knowledge of the *functions* in their healthy state is the more necessary, because considerable deviations from the ordinary routine occur without disease ; and as they are frequently much disturbed without any discoverable alteration in the structure of the organs having taken place, morbid anatomy alone will not be sufficient to elucidate all causes of disease ; whilst, on the other hand, it is necessary to be aware that a considerably diseased change of structure may exist with little or no interruption of function.

The *modes* by which students may attain a *knowledge* of the *nature* of *disease*, after learning *physiology*, or the nature of healthy functions (which is

attainable from lectures), are, accurate observation of the diseases which take place in external parts as they are submitted to our senses in CLINICAL SURGERY, and in the functions of internal parts as met with in CLINICAL MEDICINE ; and MORBID ANATOMY, the examination of what is the degree and nature of alteration which has taken place in the structure of the seat of the disease.

The object of lectures is to convey to the student, in a condensed manner, that knowledge in abstract which will enable him to understand what he sees at the bed-side, and the observations of the clinical professor; without which clinical instruction, all that the memory may be charged with from books or lectures is but vanity.

Without entering into minute anatomy, it may be necessary, before proceeding any farther, to give a general idea of the *apparatus* which supports the life of man, consisting of the stomach and intestinal canal, called the PRIME VIE, the ABSORBENT VESSELS, the HEART and BLOOD-VESSELS, and the NERVES.

The heart is divided by a partition, each side containing a certain quantity of blood, more or less of which is squeezed out at each beat or contraction ; the blood from the left side is sent through the trunk and branches of the arteries, to nourish the different parts of the body ; the overplus, and what is spoiled by use, being returned through the veins to the right side, which sends it by arteries into the lungs to be purified, whence it is returned by veins to the left side *again*, thus constituting what is called the CIRCULATION.

This is the nature of the circulation with which the individual born begins life, before it has taken in any food.

During health the process of NUTRITION is thus carried on : the *food* swallowed is DIGESTED by the action of the *gastric juice* in the *stomach* ; that is, it is converted into a grey pulpy mass, called CHYME, which passes on into the intestines, where it is mixed with the BILE. The use of the bile is to *unite with* and *separate* the *feculent parts*, as white of egg is used to clear wine. Now, if a pulpy mass be allowed to stand in a vessel, the solid parts will settle to the bottom ; but if rolled about in the hands, or in the manner effected by the peristaltic motion of the intestines, the more solid parts are kept in the middle, whilst the surface of the mass is the moistest ; and thus a whitish liquid, called CHYLE, which was disengaged when the bile united with the feculent matter, and which caused the chyme to appear grey, and constitutes the new nourishment, is kept next the coats of the intestines, where it is taken in by the tubes called ABSORBENT vessels ; and these absorbents, on account of the white chyle seen through them, are called LACTEAL (milky).

The *lacteal absorbents* conduct this *fresh supply of nourishment* to make NEW BLOOD ; they *deliver* it first into the *veins*, near the heart, where it is mixed with the old dark-coloured blood, which has been circulated, and is on its return to the right side of the heart ; from thence this mixture is sent through the lungs, to be purified, where it becomes bright scarlet, and is then returned to the

left side of the heart, which sends it through the arteries all over the frame, to supply its demands.

All the business of constant support and renewal of parts, and supply of secretions, as the growth or repair of bone, muscle, membrane, and other structures, the formation of bile, saliva, mucus, and other secretions, is carried on by the extreme minute branches of the arteries; and whilst they preserve their proper size and tone, all goes on well; when their action is deranged, disease commences, often prefaced by pain or other disorder of the nerves. These ultimate minute branches of the arteries, from their fineness, are called CAPILLARIES (from *capillus*, a hair).

The *colour* of the *blood* is caused by red PARTICLES diffused through a transparent fluid, which is called *serum* (whey), from its resemblance to that fluid. When blood is first drawn, the red particles may be seen floating about by the means of a microscope; but when it stands, they settle down to the bottom, in the fibrinous cake or clot (called *cruor* or *crassamentum*) which forms by coagulation.

Some capillaries are too small to admit many of the red particles, unless when they are enlarged by inflammation, as in the eye, which, when inflamed, changes from white to red; besides that, even the red capillaries are so minute, that they are not visible individually to the naked eye till enlarged by inflammation.

The body is nourished by the arteries depositing in appropriate parts the various constituents of the blood, which is sent through them by the

heart. In this way muscles, bones, membranes, &c., grow and are nourished; for the blood contains the constituents of each: fibrine, &c., for instance, to make muscles; lime, &c., for the bones; albuminous and watery fluid for the formation of membranes, and to supply the secretions and exhalations which are necessary to lubricate the mucous and serous membranes.

Though a consideration of the phenomena resulting from these depositions will assist us in our explanation of disease, we cannot exactly ascertain how the depositions themselves are originated. Do arteries build up a bone merely by the addition of homogeneous matter? And, are the secretions and exhalations modified by the *calibre* of the minute branches *admitting* only the vapoury parts to the surface of the serous membranes and of the skin, whilst they permit the transparent fluid parts of the blood to pass to the mucous surfaces, and keep back the red globules? This mechanical explanation might suffice, in part, in the instances adduced; but when we come to the nutrition and renewal of muscle, and the formation of peculiar secretions, we must look for some still uncomprehended agency, which modifies the materials conveyed by the arteries whilst they are depositing: even with respect to the deposition of bone, this agency is required to solidify the new particles which are fluid in the blood. This power can be no other than chemical: the processes, when examined, will be found to be chemical *precipitations*, by which new matter is deposited, and *decomposition*, by which old matter is separated, and then carried

off by absorbents : and thus the support of the frame in health, and the changes of disease, proceed. In this investigation we may advance a considerable way, though we cannot come to the knowledge of the ultimate principle on which organic life depends, or we should be able to construct a man. As an instance how far we can go, we can analyse bone, and we may explain how bony matter is deposited from the blood by precipitation ; and we know that the shape depends on the periosteum, or membranous mould in which it is cast : but here we stop ; we cannot discover how, in the minute embryo in the womb, the membranes were first determined in their shapes ; we here arrive at the confines of our knowledge ; and must confess an infinitely wise FIRST CAUSE, who does not permit us to know more than the phenomena by which we can judge how, in many instances, to avail ourselves of the means to regulate the complicated apparatus which HE has endowed with life.

The deposition of bone is a combination of chemical precipitation and crystallisation, modified by vital actions ; as, for instance, when there is periosteal membrane, we see that it keeps up a vital state of bone, whether in the bone of a leg or a tooth ; when there is no membrane attached, as in the enamel of the tooth, crystallisation, with the temporary membrane which forms the mould, decides the form of aggregation ; in case of fracture of a bone, the surrounding parts decide the form of the CALLUS which reunites it. Whilst bone is growing (as shewn by the common experiment of

feeding young animals with madder, so as to produce variegated deposits), there is a change as to disposition of the bony matter going on; but there is no reason to suppose that the substance of a healthy sound bone of an adult is changing, any more than of a tooth, or the wall of a castle, though there are preparations ready to repair a breach, if made.

The arteries of the periosteum are always ready to repair, and as soon as they get notice they begin to deposit (the bricks and mortar). What is the notice? Why do they deposit when they get it any more than they did before? The notice is inflammation, whether it be from a fracture, a blow, or other accident; and the vessels by this inflammation becoming distended (with or without rupture and extravasation), and the part spongy, there is, if not stagnation, a sufficient retardation of the blood to allow of crystallisation of bony matter. When do the workmen cease depositing? When the spaces prepared by the inflammation are filled: if there be not enough of bone deposited to unite a broken limb, the surgeon often rubs the broken ends against each other to excite new inflammation; because, strange as it may sound to the unlearned, we cure in many instances by producing inflammation. We may thus account for the hopeless work of the vessels in the tooth-ache; the injury is in a part which cannot be repaired, as being destitute of membrane; hence the inflammation excited in the sound part produces only a useless effort, as we see sometimes evinced by morbid growth at the point of the root, but no repair of the mischief, so that the tooth must be removed

altogether. The same effort which repairs, if excited morbidly produces diseased growths, such as bony tumours from syphilitic or other inflammation of the membranes of the bones.

During health the capillary arteries go on with their work of nutrition and secretion, the muscles are kept up, the mucous surfaces are kept lubricated just enough to prevent any sensation from the substances which pass along them, the serous surfaces sufficiently soft and moist to slip over and rub against each other without sensation, and the skin is kept soft by an insensible vapour. All this time there is another process going forward also, which is the *removal* of *superfluous matter* by the *absorbents*: if it were not for these, there would be inconvenient accumulation of what is deposited by the arteries; the serous cavities, as that of the abdomen, for instance, would become dropsical, if the capillary arteries went on moistening the internal surface, and there were no absorbents to carry off the superfluous moisture. Thus we see that absorbents take up the nourishment from the food to supply the wants of the system; absorbents take up also the particles which become superfluous, according as the arteries deposit fresh matter; and these absorbents, like the lacteals, mix their contents with the old blood to be repurified. The deposit, or precipitation, of solid matter by the arteries is not difficult to understand; and we can, by a reference to chemical action, account for the *removal* also of *solids*; for solids become *fluid* (or gaseous) by what is called spontaneous *decomposition*, and thus *removable* by *absorbents*. Now, whilst

bone is healthy, it is protected by its membranes from the action of solvents ; but when inflammation surrounds it, there is an extravasation of *serous fluid* in *contact* with it, which helps to dissolve it, and when dissolved, the absorbents will carry away the solution.

The REMOVAL of BONE by the *pressure* of *tumours*, aneurysms, abscess, &c., as well as the CHANNELS left in *exostoses* for the *vessels* which *traverse* them, is effected by *pressure against vessels, not against bone*. The pressure of a tumour causes death of the part of bone, by compressing its vessels, and so stopping the supply of nourishment ; the bone, when dead, becomes decomposed, and is carried off by absorbents. As to the channel in the growth of an exostosis, or in the natural growth of the bones of an infant's head, it is merely the deposit of bony matter *by the side* of those vessels which previously existed : and thus so soft a body as the brain of a young person causes the hard skull to grow larger.

Arteries are endowed with the power of contracting on their contents, so as to continue full even when a considerable quantity of blood has been lost either by hæmorrhage or artificial means. This contraction, then, is the action of arteries, and is distinct from, and opposed to, the contraction and action of the heart. This point it is necessary to understand clearly in speaking of the phenomena of disease.

The contraction of the HEART is *muscular*—of the ARTERIES *elastic*. The HEART *contracts* and *relaxes* ALTERNATELY. The ARTERIES keep up a CON-

STANT *contractile pressure* on their contents ; not, as has been commonly supposed, an alternate contraction and relaxation, but a continued contractile effort, both longitudinally and transversely, which is overcome by the action of the heart : when there is much blood sent into them, they are distended ; and if there be little blood sent into them, as after hæmorrhage, their tendency to contract causes them to close, so as to keep always full, and to preserve a constant stream of the blood even during the temporary relaxation of the heart ; and the ARTERIES YIELDING, and adapting themselves to the pressure of the heart, and RECONTRACTING on their contents, whilst the heart is relaxed and filling, is the CAUSE of the EQUABILITY of the STREAM in the VEINS ; nay, the stream even in the arteries is much less in jets than is supposed by those who judge from the mode of its flowing from a wounded artery : for though, when there is a free escape from the wound, the impulse of the heart causes an unequal stream, it must be remembered that in the tube unwounded that force would have been expended in stretching the artery, whereas the artery when wounded ceases to be other than as a simple tube, the elasticity not being called into operation, on account of the escape of the blood from the wound.

The most simple mechanical illustration, perhaps, is the double bellows of a smith's forge, which keeps up a constant current of air, though the handle works with intermissions ; so that the blast into the fire would be in puffs, if it were not for the weight on the upper half of the bellows,

which keeps forcing out the air in a continued current, whilst the hand is drawing back to make another impulse.

It has been supposed that the circular fibres of the ARTERIES were muscular; that they contracted and relaxed at each pulse; and that the throb felt was caused by a dilatation of the artery. Those fibres are NOT MUSCULAR, but more approaching to a ligamentous tissue,* firm, and, though elastic, not yielding to the force of the heart, but, on the contrary, preserving the CALIBRE of the artery UNIFORM, as may be seen by laying bare an artery in a living animal, or when the artery is exposed in an operation: it is LONGITUDINALLY that the arteries are STRETCHED at each injection from the heart, by which their capacity is increased; the consequence of which, from their being bound down in various places, is, that there is a SERPENTINE motion in the artery where it is at all loose.

The fibres of the middle coat of the artery, being arranged circularly, allow of the separation laterally, and thus *accommodate* themselves to the *elongation* of the tube, whilst they *resist* its *dilatation*. Now, it may be thought that the motion of

* This has been confirmed by the microscopical investigations of Schwann and Eulenberg (*De Tela Elastica*, Berolini, 1836); whereby the long-continued controversy concerning the muscularity of the arteries is completely set at rest. They have unequivocally demonstrated that the middle coat of the arteries is composed of that peculiar elastic tissue (*tela elastica*) which constitutes the ligamentum nuchæ of vertebrated animals, the ligamentum flavum of the vertebral column of man, &c. No muscular fibres whatever can be detected intermixed with the elastic tissue of arteries, as cellular tissue alone connects the various tunics.

the arteries *seen* at the wrist and in the temples is their dilatation; but it is the serpentine movement caused by the alteration of the curve, the artery being elongated at each injection from the heart.

Where the artery is perfectly straight, you may lay it bare and scarcely see it move; but the moment you compress it with the finger, or tie a ligature around it, you perceive it pushed at every pulse. To illustrate the deception of the sensation which the pulse gives, as if the artery were dilated at each beat; if a long vein, removed from the body, have a syringe adapted to one end, the other being raised, or arranged with a spring-valve, which yields to the jets so as to keep it full, and fluid be sent through in jets, it will, upon pressure by the finger, give the sensation of dilatation, but the eye perceives none. Again, if any one grasp the leather tube of a fire or garden-engine, the sensation given will be that of its expanding in the hand at each stroke of the pump; but the eye contradicts the sensation: it is merely the tendency to resume the cylindrical form from the outward pressure of the fluid, but not expansion.

It has been *attempted* to be *proved* that the heart has an *active power of dilatation*,* by which it helps to *refill* itself, sucking in the blood, as it

* The impulse of the heart against the side (which takes place just as the auricles have filled the ventricles, and the latter become rigid, commencing their contraction) is in proportion to its muscular action, and is produced by the heart assuming a form more approaching to the globular, and becoming firm at the same time, giving the hand a sensation similar to what is felt when it is applied to the calf of the leg or to the jaw, and their muscles put in action; the heart being in an angle between the diaphragm and parietes

were ; and one proof is brought forward from the heart of any of the large mammalia, as the horse, ox, or whale, which affords the phenomenon of contracting and expanding after removal from the body : but the expansion is simple relaxation ; and when a large heart is relaxing, if the hands be pressed on opposite sides of it, they will be sensible of an apparently active expansion from the mere gravitating recovery of position of such a mass of matter ; the heart, in fact, not opening actively, but *falling open after each contraction*.

It will be shewn now *by what means* the blood fills the right auricle, which, being flaccid, is easily distended ; but it requires the muscular action of the auricle in addition to fill out the more dense ventricle,—this is the use of the auricle : it would be unnecessary if the ventricle had an active power of dilatation, *natura (Deus) nihil agit frustra*.

of the chest, the increase of its transverse dimensions has the effect of the driving of a wedge, thus forcing itself against the ribs. Now, these actions may be very strong, but if they be too rapid, there is not time for the heart to receive the usual quantity, so that, only a little being sent into the arteries at each contraction, the pulse may be small when the heart is acting strongly, as in palpitations : and an ignorance of this fact might lead to the administration of stimulants when not required, to say the least, if the pulse alone were consulted : *cæteris paribus*, “impulsion” is increased by hypertrophy, diminished by dilatation. The ventricles contracting on a small quantity produces the phenomenon of “impulsion ;” the ratio of thickness of parietes to cavity being altered gives a deceptive sensation, as if there were hypertrophy, which has misled many to predicate hypertrophy where it did not exist, in hysteric and other nervous states. The sounds of the heart are produced by the sudden tension of its valves.

It is the constant pressure and equable stream which refills and distends the right auricle of the heart after each contraction; not any suction, to use a vulgar expression, of the heart, or suction of the chest, as has been attempted to be proved; no effect of vacuum and atmospheric pressure. There is no suction, no atmospheric pressure, during natural respiration; for the glottis is sufficient to admit a free current of air: it is only in croup, or laboured respiration of some kind, that there can be any effect of atmospheric pressure.

A reference to the hydrostatic principle, of fluid in bent tubes finding its level, will be sufficient to account for the capability of the heart, with little effort, to send the blood all over the frame, and for the re-filling of the heart after each contraction. The heart sends the blood against the force of gravitation through but a small portion of the frame; for in all the natural positions, upright or horizontal, by far the greatest portion of it is below the level of the heart. Now the blood, being confined in the arterial and venous tubes, will, of course, on hydrostatic principles, return to the same level from which it flows: and as to the capability of the muscular power of the heart to inject the parts that are above its level, when any person compares the force necessary to be used in doing so, with the force which an equal quantity of muscle in the arm is capable of exerting, it appears trifling; besides, whoever applies the hand to an aneurysmal tumour may judge of the power of the heart. The blood, then, returning from the parts above the level of

the heart, tends to refill it by gravitation, even if not aided by the contractile pressure of the arteries ; the blood below the level of the heart, or rather arch of the aorta, returns by the tendency to find its own level : so that the BLOOD is PRESSED into the RIGHT AURICLE by the *weight* of the *returning blood* from all the parts *above* the level of the heart, added to the *pressure* caused by the *difference* of the *height* of the *arch* of the aorta *above* the *right auricle* of the heart, and, in addition, by *whatever remains* of the *contractile* pressure of the *arteries*. Another consideration has been omitted generally in calculating the power and facility with which the influence of the heart is communicated throughout the arterial system, which is, that any retardation which might take place from the friction through the tubes, is more than compensated by the sum of the branches being greater than each trunk from which they arise, so that the flow is facilitated ; whilst, on the hydrostatic principle of Bramah's press, though the injecting force of the heart is spread over a greater space, it is not weakened, being multiplied, not divided ; and in injecting the capillaries, hydraulic friction is compensated by capillary attraction.

We must not consider the elastic contractile effort of the arteries as one of the moving powers of the blood, any more than the fly-wheel of a machine, or the weight on a double bellows, which only regulate motion, and are, in fact, a burden on the moving power, though they continue the motion for some time after the moving power had ceased to act. The moving powers are, the *con-*

tractile force of the heart,* *gravitation*, and the hydrostatic principle above stated, of the *tendency in fluids to RETURN to the same level*.

By anatomical investigation, then, we ascertain that tubes of various dimensions, called vessels, and which are named arteries, veins, and absorbents, are apparatus of every process in the *growth* or *removal* of all parts in *health*, and in the *swelling* or *wasting* of parts in *disease*. Moreover, we must not forget,—and it is a circumstance to be recurred to perpetually, both in theory and practice,—that *nerves, accompanying the arteries* throughout, complete the apparatus.

The NERVES are whitish threads, which are distributed to every part of the frame, however minute; communicating with the brain, for the purpose of informing it of what is going forward in different parts, as when any thing touches the hand, tongue, &c. ; and for the purpose of conveying the mandates of the will from the head to the muscles of voluntary motion ; and again, for the purpose of supplying to *all parts nervous influence*, which excites *action*.

The nerves do not blend as they unite into larger and larger trunks, but preserve their individuality, however aggregated, like threads in a skein, or strands in a rope.

* Let it not be objected, that some lower animals, which have no heart, have still a circulation : the alimentary canal performs the double function of stomach in making the blood, and heart in sending it on when made ; as, in my opinion, the contraction of the alimentary canal of the higher animals sends forward the chyle in the lacteals.

When we speak of the nerves supplying to *all parts nervous influence*, which excites *action*, reference must be had to the spinal cord and sympathetic or ganglionic system, as well as to the brain.

We have reason to believe that the nervous influence is generated, or secreted, in the cineritious (grey) part of the nervous system, and conducted by the medullary (white) part; the *medullary* part in the *spinal cord* and *brain* being an *aggregation* of nerves from the frame. And a variety of circumstances lead us to the conclusion, that the NERVOUS INFLUENCE is analogous to, or depending upon, if not identical with, the ELECTRIC principle or fluid, whatever that be: for instance,

The contraction of muscle by passing electricity along the nerve to it, either in the living body or when dissected out.

The efficacy of electricity, or galvanism, in restoring energy to the eye, or other parts relaxed or inflamed.

The effect of electricity, or galvanism, in promoting digestion, when passed along the eighth pair of nerves, either directly to the stomach, or by first exciting the secretion of the liver.

Volition being conducted along the nerves with a speed equalled only by electricity.

The extrication of caloric, called animal heat, being analogous to the gradual action of a galvanic apparatus, &c.

It is necessary here to state distinctly my opinion respecting ACTION, as depending upon the NERVES. I consider that the *muscles* and *capillary arteries*, though *differing* in *tissue*, have each inhe-

rent in their structures a faculty of contracting, *organic contractility*: this *contractility* being acted upon by the *nervous influence*, the result is *contraction*, the nervous influence being discharged into them from the nerves; and this discharge may be produced in a variety of ways, as by the blood in the heart or capillaries, the presence of food in the intestines, the electricity from a charged jar, or in muscle by the will, whether the operation be *direct* or by "*reflexion*"—these being known agents of contraction in the animal.

All organic action is contraction, produced by nervous influence. This Bichât calls contraction from "*organic contractility*," resulting from "*organic sensibility*," which he distinguishes again from *animal sensibility*; thereby making it appear that the nerves act upon an ideal inferior sensitiveness in the structures, not confining sensitiveness to the nerves. Now, by his "*organic sensibility*" must *not* be understood *sensitiveness*, but that liability, or *capability*, of *structures* to *answer* to *nervous influence*, in the same manner that steam or any other agent produces action in a mechanic structure; this is, in fact, *organic contractility*: so that he divided one property into two.

What Bichât calls *ANIMAL sensibility*, is that function of the *nervous system alone* by which communication is kept up with the sensorium, and by which pleasurable and painful impressions are perceived: his *ANIMAL contractility* is merely *organic contractility* of *voluntary* muscles called into action by the will; but I would not give organic contractility a new name, merely on account of the different

orders of muscles receiving their influence in one instance from voluntary nerves, and in the other from involuntary nerves. Pain is the result of injury done to the nerves, and nerves alone, the union of nerve with other tissues being only to convey sensation, or to effect action: *sensibility*, therefore, is in the *nerve*. When pain takes place from injury, in parts which, though not under the control of the will, are still abundantly supplied with (organic) nerves to produce action, as in the heart or intestines, Bichât says this pain is "organic sensibility (action*) augmented" until it "becomes† animal sensibility," (*Syst. Capill.* § vi.); but, on the contrary, it may be seen that "organic sensibility" (action) is diminished in parts where there is pain (in the *sensitive* nerves) from inflammation.

In fine, I prefer the term *organic action* to *organic sensibility*, and do not make use of the term "*animal*" sensibility at all. I use only the terms, *organic action*, and *organic contractility*, of the contractile tissues; and *sensibility*, of the nerves.

Bichât, I repeat, makes an ideal inferior sensitiveness in the structures, not confining sensibility to the nerves, as he says, "the nerves are strangers to *organic sensibility*:" this leads him to become visionary, when he speaks of the lacteals exerting

* It is impossible to separate them. We know nothing of organic sensibility or organic contractility, except so far as evinced by action taking place.

† As they depend on different sets of nerves, one cannot "become" the other.

a choice as to what particles they will take up. This is mere chemical or nervous effect on their mouths, making them cease to suck up what is unfit for them, whether that be by the unfit matter causing them to contract and shut against it, or to relax so as to lose power; still no election in them, any more than elective affinity of chemistry. From thus refining too much upon the functions as connected with vitality, he overlooked the more simple explanations which physics afford, and says "that it is ridiculous to attempt the explanation of the phenomena of changes in animal functions by mechanical laws and the variations in dimensions of vessels, &c.;" but I think I have shewn, that what he calls vital laws, are but these mechanical laws modified by the Deity: we do not know the intimate structure or mechanism by which a muscle or capillary contracts; but doubtless it is as simple as a pair of lazy tongs, and as easily excited to action as they are by the hand, or the piston of a high-pressure engine is by the steam. There is no subject more interesting, no pursuit more gratifying, than this investigation of the properties and processes of our animal frame: there is no subject of contemplation which gives us so exalted an idea of the omniscience of the Deity, and so humble an opinion of all human inventions, as the excelling utility and efficiency of all its parts. How beautiful, how wonderful, then, must be the Soul, when such infinite wisdom, such exquisite arrangements, are lavished on the structure which it is destined to inhabit for but a short space of time! Such perfection in our organisation leads us to believe with Job, that, however

disarranged by death and decomposition, it may again be called into re-union, and that "in our flesh we shall see God."

The ANIMAL HEAT has been accounted for in different ways by several ingenious physiologists: from the aggregate of their opinions and experiments I deduce, that *heat is extricated all over the frame*; in the *capillaries*, by the *action* of the *nerves* during the *change* of the *blood* from *scarlet* arterial to *purple* venous; and *also* whilst it is changing in the *lungs* from *purple* to *scarlet*.

There is a perpetual *deposition*, by the capillary system, of *new matter*, and decomposition of the *old*, all over the frame, influenced by the nerves: in other words, the galvanic influence of the nerves, which occasions these depositions and decompositions, keeps up a slow combustion. In this decomposition there is a continual disengagement of carbon, which mixes with the blood returning to the heart at the time it changes from scarlet to purple; this *decomposition* being effected by the *electric agency* of the *nerves*, produces constant extrication of caloric: again, in the lungs that carbon is thrown off and united with oxygen, during which *caloric* is again *set free*; so that we have in the LUNGS a CHARCOAL FIRE constantly burning, and in the OTHER PARTS a WOOD FIRE, the one producing *carbonic acid gas*, the other *carbon*; the *food supplying*, through the circulation, the vegetable or animal *fuel* from which the *charcoal* is *prepared* that is *burned* in the *lungs*.

It is thus that the animal heat is kept up: on the other hand, the EVAPORATION of PERSPIRATION keeps

the SURFACE COOL ; but in inflammatory fevers, where this is *deficient*, the body gets too *hot* ; and in low fevers, when the nervous influence is not sufficient to keep up the full fire, the surface gets cooler than the natural standard. This is peculiarly evident in the beginning of eruptive fevers, as scarlatina, where there is strong heat, with the arterial colour of the skin ; but if the same becomes malignant and low, with deficient arterialisation, the temperature sinks, and the diminution of the charcoal combustion in the lungs is evinced by the dusky colour of the skin, shewing that the carbon is not thrown off as it ought to be : and the same phenomenon takes place in typhoid cases.

Whatever NERVOUS INFLUENCE may be, or however generated, we know that the *energy of parts* depends upon a something that is communicated to them by the *nerves* in conjunction with the brain and spinal marrow ; that while parts are supplied with this nervous influence, they retain their power of action, and not longer ; that arteries become insusceptible of impression from external agents when the nervous energies are low ; that when the vital powers are sunk, the capillary arteries cease to secrete ; that various *phenomena* in the *healing of inflammation* are the effects of *healthy action* of the heart and arteries ; and we find when *nervous energy* is *deficient*, that parts which had advanced to a certain stage of healing become flabby, as in stumps after operation when the patient sinks : also, that when the power of the constitution, the nervous energy, fails, nitrate of silver will have no effect upon ulcers, except chemical decomposition

—not that astringent effect which is the result of contractility depending on vitality. It is well known, likewise, that a blister not rising from a cantharides plaster is a bad sign, as being an evidence of approaching, or rather commencing, death; this must not be confounded with a want of action in the arterial capillaries—the cause here is a want of injecting force in the heart; but no vesication will take place even from boiling water, when the vital powers are sunk, as the *heart* has not power to effuse serum. This is a more satisfactory example than cantharides, because the effect of the hot water goes so far as to produce the local injury, for the cuticle may be separated or loosened by the mere chemical effect of the heat; but this takes place equally in a dead body.

With respect to the action of the heart, all are agreed that its action is contraction, by which the blood is sent forward in the arteries, and that the power of the heart's action is measured by the pulse when there is no organic alteration, such as ossification of the valves at the beginning of the aorta, aneurysm, &c.

The action of the arteries also is acknowledged to be contraction, whether considered muscular or not; but there is some difference of opinion as to the degree of action of the arteries in inflamed parts. It is very common to say, that in INFLAMMATION there is an increase of arterial action; but a consideration of the phenomena, and of the nature of arterial action, will shew, that in INFLAMED PARTS the CAPILLARY ARTERIES are WEAKER in their action;

that there is DIMINISHED ARTERIAL ACTION, for the action of arteries is contraction : now, the arteries in inflamed parts are evidently larger than before — less contracted, that is, acting less.

An inflamed part is redder and swelled ; where the vessels are visible, as in the eye, we can see that the redness is caused by the minute vessels becoming larger, so as to admit more red globules of the blood, which before admitted chiefly the more fluid and transparent part. This enlargement of vessels is not from increased action, but, on the contrary, from their action being diminished, their giving way and being *dilated* by the injecting force of the heart. The way to diminish the inflammation is by increasing the action of the arteries, as by cold or astringents, which make the arteries contract, that is, increase their action ; so that, so far from the arteries in an inflamed part being in a state of increased action, one of the means of *diminishing inflammation* is by *increasing* arterial *action* in the part inflamed. It is common to remark the *throbbing* of the carotid arteries as increased action ; but the more they throb, it shews that they the *more yield* to the injecting force of the heart. When the eye, or any other part, is injured by heat, or a stream of cold air, a blow, or cantharides plaster applied to the skin, &c., the part becomes redder from the vessels enlarging and admitting a greater proportion of blood than there was before. Now in this first and simplest instance of inflammation the heart does not act more strongly than ordinary, not affecting the pulse ; so that the capillary arteries evince debility, having given way when there

is no more force than they bore before without distension : from this they sometimes recover of themselves, gradually contracting to their natural size ; or if not, the simple application of cold, or an astringent lotion, makes them contract, and the redness disappears.

It is the opinion of some persons, even at the present day, that the motion of the *blood* is *accelerated* in inflamed parts ; though the experiments of Parry and others proved the *contrary* to be the case, as follows from the *capillary arteries* being *enlarged* ; inasmuch as when fluid passes through a given space, the current beyond that will be slower in proportion to the wideness of the channel ; as in a wide part of a river, where the current becomes slower : and the same may be observed by passing water, mixed with grains of amber, through a glass tube with a bulbous enlargement in the middle ; the current will slacken in the bulb, and resume its velocity beyond it.

Some will allow that the capillary arteries, where the blush of inflammation is, are weak, as they visibly have given way ; but they still speak of *increased arterial action*, and say that the arteries *around* or leading to the inflamed part are in increased activity, as a part of the condition, or of what keeps up the inflammation ; not considering that an increase in their action would be contraction, and consequently a diminution of the flow of blood to the inflamed part : in fine, an increased action in the arteries both in and leading to the inflamed part, is just what is required to diminish the inflammation.

The more the heart acts, the more of course it forces the arteries of the inflamed part ; and the *pulse*, shewing the power of *action* of the *heart*, is erroneously by some considered as an evidence of arterial action ; the throbbing of the carotid arteries for instance. As the heart, therefore, acts against the capillaries, if we cannot cause them to contract strongly enough to resist its force, we are obliged to diminish the force of the circulation, either by taking away blood, which decreases both the quantity of blood sent to the arteries and the action of the heart itself, and in this way we leave less for the arteries of the inflamed part to do ; or we can lower the force of the heart by medicines, such as digitalis, &c. Here, for illustration, the simplest cases of inflammation have been taken, in which the heart is acting naturally, the inflammation being from injury.

Sometimes parts are loaded with blood when we cannot find evidence of inflammation, and which state is called *congestion*. Inflammation or congestion are but varieties of distended vessels, which, if they cannot unload themselves, we assist by applications or medicines which make them increase their contractile action ; or if that alone is not sufficient, by taking off some of the force which injects them, or, as it is called, the *vis a tergo*.

The difference between CONGESTION and inflammation is, that in congestion there is rather distension of vessels ; in inflammation there is more or less alteration of tissue, connected generally with deposition in some way of coagulable lymph.

The moment congestion is relieved, the parts are in their natural state; but even after inflamed vessels are unloaded, time is required for recovering their natural state. A good example is the congestion of the lungs in fevers, which often leaves no symptom when the fever is relieved; but after inflammation of the lungs has been stopped, the injured vessels require time for restoration.

Let us see how far we can go in proving that the *capillaries depend upon nervous influence* for their contractile *action*. In the first place, blushing is, perhaps, the most unequivocal proof of the nerves being the cause of sudden dilatation of the capillaries. It is not the action of the heart alone which causes the partial flush; for, first, the heart often acts stronger without causing blushing, and, next, the blush is partial; whereas, when the mere action of the heart causes increased redness of the skin, it is not partial, as it is in blushing from mental emotion. And this, which is sudden weakness of the capillaries, has been commonly attributed to the increased arterial action, and determination to the face. I attribute this giving way of the capillaries to derivation of the nervous influence, which, being directed to or expended in the brain more freely by mental emotion, robs, for the moment, the capillaries of the face of their energy.

What is called the blush of inflammation may be brought on in a part by reiterated strong electric sparks. It may be said that the effect of the electricity is on the tissue of the capillaries; but the first effect produced is pain, shewing that the operation of the electricity commences on the

nerves. The same observations are applicable to the blush produced by heat from a fire; and we have a proof that this is the effect of nervous influence before injury or alteration of the structure of the vessels, by the common experiment of those who have resolution to hold the burned or scalded part to the fire, and remove it gradually, which will prevent the disorganisation that would otherwise take place—in common language, prevents blistering. The mischief is caused by exhaustion of the nervous influence; the sudden removal of the excitant leaves the capillaries destitute, and they *yield* immediately to the *ordinary injecting force*: but if the excitation is renewed, by holding the part to the fire, nervous influence is supplied from the neighbouring parts to the capillaries, with pain certainly, but, by slowly removing from the heat, the nervous influence will be gradually supplied, till the excitant be reduced to a natural standard, relieving the pain and incipient inflammation. On the same principle may be explained a fact pretty generally known, that if melted sealing-wax be dropped on the skin, and be immediately removed, the skin will blister, or at least feel scorched, and remain painful for some hours; but if the wax be allowed to cool gradually before removal from the skin, the pain, though severe during the cooling, ceases immediately, and no blister arises. These I consider to be proofs that the diminution of nervous influence, rather than alteration of tissue, is the proximate cause of the relaxation of the capillaries; for if it were alteration of the tissue, not diminution of tone, the renewal

of the heat would add to the previous mischief, instead of affording relief.

The *progress* of inflammation shews the dependence of the capillaries on the nerves. A part may, in certain cases, be observed to become tender before it is red; for it may be seen by experiment that the pleura or peritoneum of an animal is not tender immediately on exposure; it first becomes tender, and then red. In inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye, it becomes painful, feeling as if there were sand under the lid, some time before becoming red. The action of cantharides in producing inflammation, is another proof that inflammation begins in the nerve; for cantharides have no effect on the tissue of the capillaries, do not corrode or act in any way on their substance after death, when the nerves have no influence; whereas any really corrosive agent would act even more on the dead than on the living capillaries. Without, therefore, at present seeking for further proofs, I deduce from blushing, and from the effects of electricity, fire, and cantharides, that the capillaries depend upon the nervous system for that tone or energy which preserves them from over-distension. The brain, spinal cord, and nerves, again, depend upon the due nutrition by the arteries supplying them with scarlet blood.

Though Bichât denies the influence of the nerves, or says that it is almost nothing, in secretion, exhalation, &c., I consider that their sudden alterations from mental emotion proves the contrary; independently of the proofs already advanced, that

capillaries, which are the agents of these functions, derive energy from the nerves.

It is sometimes remarked, "that local irritation *detains* the blood" in a part, as if by some obstruction or attraction; whereas this phenomenon may be explained by the increased capacity of the vessels causing a slower current, as before stated, thereby allowing the blood to be delayed. Besides the expression *detention*, and the terms *congestion* and *inflammation*, there is another word, DETERMINATION, used to express an habitual reception of more blood than natural in a part; as, "determination of blood to the head, with throbbing of the carotids." The throbbing of the carotids has been already explained not to be active, but passive. Now, the word *determination*, in ordinary language, implies that blood is sent somewhere in particular; but the heart has no power to direct any blood to one part more than another, although, if in any part there be an unusual relaxation of the vessels, they will receive more than ordinary; as, when the water is sent through the great pipe of one of the water-works, it cannot be determined to any house in particular, but whichever house has the largest cistern will receive most water. By this I wish merely to illustrate, that what is called determination is not active, but passive. The term also used by Bichât, of the blood being drawn or invited into an inflamed part, may be explained on the same principles.

Continued excitation of the nerves of a healthy part at last produces inflammation, by exhausting

that nervous influence which gives the capillaries power; they thus become weakened, allow of overdistension, and the part is in the state of inflammation or congestion. This effect may be produced by electricity, which acts palpably through the medium of the nerves; so that redness produced in this way is as evidently through the abstraction of nervous influence as blushing.

Thus, in a part inflamed there is a diminution of organic action, in consequence of which the blood is admitted in excess. As long as the capillaries are supplied with nervous influence, as long as they possess perfect organic action, they preserve a due size; when they lose it, either from the influence not being supplied from the nervous system, or are robbed of it by heat, electricity, cantharides, or other cause, they give way, and admit more blood than before. Taking this view of the proximate cause of the enlargement of capillaries, we can account for all varieties of congestion, from a simple transient blush to the stage with which inflammation commences; and it must be impossible to draw a line between congestion and inflammation, one passing into the other by insensible shades. Hence the numerous terms used by authors to express the gradations of distended capillaries: congestion active and passive, engorgement, hyperæmia, erythema passing to erysipelas, &c. When the congestion or inflammation subsides without solution of continuity, or leaving any trace behind, it is called RESOLUTION; and it is very intelligible how cold and astringents promote this desirable termination; as does also a means not so

commonly applied, an even bandage with gentle general pressure over an inflamed limb.

This leads to an *explanation* of the *diminution* of SECRETION in an organ at a time when it is, in fact, fuller of that material (the blood) from which it secretes than ordinary, as the kidneys, the skin, &c.; and enables us to account for the dryness of skin and scanty secretion of the kidneys in fever, &c. without reference to Cullen's doctrine of spasm, by an increase in diameter of the capillaries; not from obstruction, but, on the contrary, from too much room.

Secretions are carried on by fine capillaries, which, by their great number and extreme minuteness, envelop, in the form of a vascular membrane, the ultimate or terminal ramifications of the excretory ducts of all glandular organs: for by the researches of Müller, Weber, Rathke, Kiernan, &c., into the intimate structure of the glands of adult animals, and those of Müller, Von Bär, and others, into the mode of embryonic development and growth of glands, the correctness of the opinion of Malpighi, Cruikshank, &c., is demonstrated, viz. that the greatest analogy exists between them and the most simple mucous crypt of the intestinal mucous membrane, or cuticular sebaceous follicle; that, in short, a gland is made up of innumerable cryptæ, which are ramifications of the excretory duct, each ultimate (and in most organs by aid of the microscope alone visible) branch of the excretory duct terminating by a blind extremity, in the parietes of which are distributed the finest capillaries. These capillaries are many times smaller than the cryptæ, follicles,

tubuli seminiferi, tubuli uriniferi, &c., as they are called, in different organs, and do not communicate with them by open or terminal extremities, as Ruysch and later anatomists have supposed; on the contrary, the finest capillaries are seen to join with one another, so as to form again larger and larger trunks, then called veins. Secretions, therefore, are vital transudations from the capillaries into the excretory tubes of the gland, by pores invisible to our senses, even when aided by the most perfect optical instruments. We see here the wonderful contrivance by which an enormously large surface is obtained for the purposes of secretion: a gland being strictly comparable to a mucous or serous membrane so convoluted upon itself as to occupy as little space as possible in the economy of animal bodies, having one or more outlets left (the excretory duct or ducts, or sum total of all the excretory tubes), by which the secretion is emptied into its proper receptacle. Not the least interesting point in our present knowledge of the structure of the glands, is the strict analogy shewn to exist between all glands and the lungs. Indeed, owing to the comparatively large size of the individual parts constituting the lungs, and, consequently, the facility with which their minute anatomy may be investigated, they may serve to illustrate, by analogy, the structure of the apparently more complicated, because with greater difficulty investigated, glands. The latter, as just stated, consist of an excretory duct or ducts, which subdivide, as if *ad infinitum*, first into tubes and branches of first, second, third, and fourth orders;

and at last into (acini, consisting of) clusters of the finest pouches or follicles, the parietes of which are enveloped in a net-work of capillaries. It is precisely the same with the lungs: composed of an analogue called the trachea, the branches of first, second, third, and fourth orders are the bronchial tubes, which at their ultimate terminations, after the most elaborate branching out, present clusters of minute cells, which represent the acini or clusters of minute cryptæ or follicles. The air-cells of the lungs have, like the glandular cryptæ, their beautiful net-work of capillaries, from which the hydrogen and carbon, or carbonic acid and water, are secreted, without there being any direct communication between them and the capillaries themselves. The lungs, however, are adapted for something more than a glandular purpose: they convey to the blood the material for aiding its purification, its secretion of carbon, &c.; for whether the atmospheric air carried into the lungs be merely a vehicle for carrying off, according to Lavoisier, Laplace, and Prout, carbon and hydrogen secreted from the blood; or in order to afford oxygen for absorption by the blood, to be subsequently secreted in the form of carbonic acid and water, as Sir Humphrey Davy and the majority of chemists suppose,—the peculiarity of the lung, besides its analogy with the glands, remains.* From the free

* As all secretions are effected by the (galvanic?) agency of the nerves on the blood in a series of capillary tubes, it becomes an interesting object of physiological inquiry, how far the mere change of form in each glandular organ—merely by alteration of number and series of capillaries and nerves, as modelled on the

anastomosis between all the capillaries in a secreting organ, and their gradually forming larger and larger vessels constituting veins, without any direct communication with the tubes, cryptæ, or follicles, into which the secretion takes place, (except by pores necessarily imagined to exist, although unseen,) being proved, so that whatever of the blood is not secreted is returned,—it does not follow, that where there is diminished secretion there is obstruction; on the contrary, there may be more space for the flow, but then in a slower stream: for, as has been shewn, the consequence of enlargement of the capillaries of a part is, that the flow of blood will be slower in them, the supplying arteries remaining the same; the larger the capillaries supplied by these branches, the slower the flow will be in them, as in the skin, kidneys, serous membrane, salivary glands, &c. Hence, to account for the diminished secretion, it is not necessary to suppose either any “spasm,” or “*error loci* of the red particles, getting into the colourless capillaries:” it is enough to consider, that the fluid finds an easier way, by the enlarged capillaries onwards into the veins, than through the pores in the capillaries themselves into the ramifications or cœca of the excretory tubes, unfitted as the capillaries are for secretion, owing to the morbid altera-

ramifications of the excretory duct, the true element of the gland—produces secretions apparently so different, but, after all, differing only in the proportion of atoms of the four constituents, carbon, hydrogen, azote, and oxygen, which are found in all, with a different proportion of the saline constituents of the blood appropriated to each.

tion of their physical condition ;* and besides, yet more particularly, through the alteration of their dynamic (galvanic or electrical) condition, consequent upon the alteration of the supply of nervous energy to the part, the original cause of all the disturbance. Local enlargement of capillaries explains that kind of diminished secretion where the heart is not deficient in injecting power ; the relaxation of the capillaries, from want of nervous energy, producing a deficiency in the current of the blood ; as in a dry skin when inflamed or feverish, or kidneys inflamed, or their capillaries enlarged by cantharides, so as to diminish secretion, in the manner just explained.

In some cases of disease, when the secretions of the skin and kidneys are deficient, we renew them by bleeding, digitalis, antimony, &c., which lower the force of the pulse, thereby diminishing the distension of the capillaries, agreeing with the above statement. On the other hand, in health, stimulants, such as punch, by increasing the nervous energy in the kidneys, &c., and quickening the circulation, at the same time increases secretion ; whereas the same stimulus could not increase secretion by quickening the circulation when the capillaries are in a state of debility and morbid congestion ; and a still farther proof that they are in a state of morbid enlargement, is the effect of

* The pores must become obstructed by the swelling (thickening) of the parietes of the cœca ; as a dry cask or a wooden vessel perforated with small holes, will allow fluid to pass through ; but if they be thickened by soaking them in water, the pores become closed up.

cold to the loins in such cases, in renewing the secretion, and the effect of cold water, even cool air, in promoting the secretion of insensible perspiration, and thereby softening the skin, in scarlatina. Increased secretion takes place sometimes with a weak pulse. It will be found that this occurs in cases where, although the circulation is weak, the capillaries are not deficient in nervous energy, as in hysteria, in the sweating of hectic, &c.

The healthy operations of the arteries have been mentioned, as far as their continued and gradual deposition of matter in its various modifications from solid bone to gaseous exhalation. Their depositions are very gradual, in proportion to the whole quantity of blood passing through them, a great portion of which returns by the veins unchanged, or at least unconsumed; so that there is always an abundant overplus for the demands of the system, and this provides against accidental or artificial loss of blood.

Whilst the processes described go on, the animal suffers no inconvenience—is in health; but when accidental mechanical injury, or other cause, changes the action of the capillaries, either by a direct impression on themselves, or by primarily injuring their nerves, the derangement of their action is the commencement of disease: secretions become altered, checked, or profuse; nutrition is either diminished, so as to produce emaciation, or there is an excessive deposition; vapoury exhalations are diminished to dryness or increased to fluid; bony particles are deposited in wrong places, or albuminous, fatty, and other particles, so as to

constitute tumours; the nerves of parts become morbidly sensible, so as to derange the functions of those parts; portions, losing their vitality, undergo spontaneous decomposition, and are removed by the absorbents.

To explain this more in detail: every DISEASE is some *alteration* of those *actions* which, when perfect, constitute the *welfare* of the animal; and in some instances, by a provision of nature, the newly altered action, which is the consequence of the injury, leads to the reparation of the damage, without assistance from art. For instance, the tubes which conduct the air through the lungs are, under ordinary circumstances, scarcely moist; but if particles of dust or insects get in, the irritation causes morbid sensibility, followed by the extra-production of mucus, which entangles the foreign substance, and so brings it away with cough.

We also see, where a part is cut, the minute arteries which carry *coagulable lymph* allow enough of it to pass to glue and unite the surfaces, if kept quietly in contact; which is called technically UNION by the FIRST INTENTION; and we know that, not merely a part partially cut will reunite, but even a piece wholly cut off, if small, and not depending on vessels of any size, will reunite by the first intention; as the top of a finger or a thumb, with even a bit of the bone included, which had been cut off by an artisan with a sharp tool, has been stuck on again and reunited. This is analogous to the Hudibrastic version of the Taliacotian operation; but as such circumstances do not often

occur to be seen, it requires some knowledge of physiology, and a reference to J. Hunter's experiments, to believe the fact. A surgeon would make a much better new nose, if he could borrow a piece containing cartilage,—such as a portion of an ear.

When blood is allowed to stand in a vessel, the upper part of the clot which settles down from the serum, of a yellowish-white colour, affords a specimen of coagulable lymph, which it carries in readiness to repair damages.

Now, if the union by the first intention be prevented by disturbance, it becomes necessary that the surfaces should be reunited by the interposition of a new substance forming a connecting medium : for this purpose small drops of coagulable lymph are exuded, which concrete, remaining at the cut ends of the capillary arterial branches which have yielded them, and in communication with these open ends, so as to become organised and receive nourishment by the capillary growing longer, and continuing itself onwards into the lymph. These little portions of coagulable lymph are called *GRANULATIONS*; and if they are not much disturbed, they adhere to each other, and thus the cementing of the divided part is effected, and even a considerable gap is sometimes filled up by granulations springing from granulations. This spongy mass gradually condenses, and forms a firm bond of union, generally distinguishable, and called *CICATRIX*. Wherever solution of continuity of the skin is not healed by the first intention, a visible cicatrix remains, as the newly formed solid has not the same degree of vascularity as the surrounding

tissues. In order to protect the new tender granulations, they are covered with pus; a creamy, thick fluid, which, when of a due consistency, is very properly called healthy pus, for it requires a healthy action of the capillaries to produce it in proper quantity and of due consistency. If pus did not defend the granulations from the air, they would dry and become scabs, instead of uniting and repairing the parts: if the secretion be too thin, so as to become ichor instead of pus, shewing a debility in the capillaries, we have, from that same cause, weak, spongy granulations, or even none at all are formed. An ulcer which, whilst healing, appears a large ugly sore to the inexperienced eye, is called by the surgeon a fine healthy granulating surface; and to obtain this healthy process, the exercise of much skill, both in local and constitutional remedies, is required; as, for instance, to heal an ulcer, a stump, a wound, or other part after operation. This is sufficient example of the necessity of a surgeon being well acquainted with the use of constitutional remedies; and the most dexterous, after performing an operation, may be glad of a knowledge of medicine to relieve subsequent constitutional symptoms.

Many persons of great experience practise well empirically without much brains or reasoning; but he who begins upon principle, and then profits by experience, must be a much more skilful practitioner. How many persons apply a poultice to an ulcer with a tolerable certainty of improving it, without ever knowing or caring for the rationale of the effect!

Studying the operations of nature leads us to imitate by analogy. Independently of the regulation of temperature, the usual benefit derived from a POULTICE is that of preventing premature scabbing, by the soft moisture assisting the pus to protect the granulations. The German WATER-DRESSING has much the advantage over the poultice: the piece of lint dipped in water is lighter than the poultice; the oiled silk over all retains the moisture; and the whole does not spoil the sound skin, as the poultice often does. If poultices be too long applied, PROUD FLESH will form, either from a superfluous growth of healthy granulations, or of such as are weak and spongy. Exuberant granulations may be checked, either by applying an ASTRINGENT, such as vinegar, nitrate of silver, or sulphate of copper, &c., which, by constringing the vessels, gives a firmer, smaller granulation; or by merely laying on a bit of DRY LINT, to absorb the coagulable lymph as fast as thrown out, so as to stop granulation. This accounts for dry lint preventing the healing of some ulcers, and assisting others, according as the granulations require repressing or not; and what has been here stated affords an explanation why in some cases dressings should be changed frequently, in others as seldom as possible. Baynton's strapping unites the advantages of keeping the granulations moist, with SUPPORT; but if injudiciously applied, injury is done by the pressure. Mr. J. Scott has clearly pointed out the *difference*, practically, between *support* and *pressure*: weakened vessels want support, but cannot bear pressure.

I have above used the term *premature* scabbing, because the crust formed is sometimes of use ; as, in the natural process of healing of an ulcer or abrasion, the crust sets bounds to the granulations, which otherwise might sprout too high.

The application of dry lint will be enough, without an astringent, if the proud flesh be merely too great a growth of healthy granulations, caused by keeping on the poultice too long ; but if the granulations are also weak, the astringent will be necessary : this weakness may be known by a livid colour, and thin, instead of creamy pus ; and if still weaker, the granulations will even melt away, and the sore reulcerate. Now, an inexperienced person would suppose that the application of nitrate of silver (lunar caustic) or vinegar would increase the pain ; but it is well known that, though they produce momentary smarting, especially if applied undiluted, this soon subsides ; so that a person will fall asleep shortly after the application of nitrate of silver to an ulcer, which had banished rest for several days and nights by its morbid sensibility, depending upon the circumstance, that the nerves of the part have become inflamed, their vessels partaking of the debilitated state of those around them : the astringent diminishes the inflammation in the nerves, and thus removes their morbid sensibility, bringing them to the state of the nerves in a healthy granulating part, in which those below the granulations are sensitive, but not more so than natural. Oil of turpentine applied to a burn acts on the same principle. This will

illustrate the nature of MORBID SENSIBILITY, usually designated by the vague term IRRITATION. It does not occur during the REPARATORY PROCESS (healthy inflammation*), the nerves not being implicated; but ("morbid") inflammation (as it is called when the reparatory process is interrupted) involves the nerves. There may be a considerable degree of pain during even the healthy reparation of injury, when the healthy nerves are exposed and hurt; but there will be more disturbance and loss of sleep, with perhaps less pain, if, from the nerves themselves becoming inflamed,† morbid sensibility arises, either locally, or in the nervous centres in consequence of the lesion of the nerve being communicated to them, whether the lesion be in the sensitive or organic filaments: in the latter case, there can be no evidence of morbid sensibility until the lesion is propagated to the nervous centre; as in tetanus, arising after a cut has healed almost by the first intention, without pain in the cicatrix; or convulsions from worms in the intestines, which have caused no pain.

By a process analogous to granulation, coagulable lymph, exuded in consequence of inflammation between SEROUS MEMBRANES, sometimes becomes organised, and forms ADHESIONS.

In the MUCOUS MEMBRANES the change is very

* In the former editions I have sometimes used the term *healthy inflammation* as synonymous with *reparatory process*, to imply which the term is well understood; but it is wrong: inflammation under all circumstances is *disease*, being, in fact, the injured state which precedes the reparatory process.

† I have no other term to express their lesion.

rapid from health to disease: by a slight alteration of the action of the capillary arteries, which secrete a mild fluid to lubricate and protect the surface, it becomes either dry, or an ichorous fluid is poured out, which, so far from protecting the parts, irritates them and others with which it comes in contact. Again; after the mucous membrane has been throwing out the ichor just described (as in catarrh), the thickening of the discharge, and its becoming bland and opaque, whitish, (in other words approaching to, and in some instances forming, actual pus,) is the simple reparatory or restorative process; and we know that various mucous membranes, whilst inflamed,—the urethra, for instance,—throw out an ichorous fluid, which becomes true bland pus as the reparatory process proceeds; and it is the same with respect to the schneiderian membrane.

Thus, we see, we can have both coagulable lymph and pus, without ulceration. Sometimes coagulable lymph oozes from the capillaries of mucous surfaces, and concretes, forming what are called FALSE MEMBRANES, as in croup. Similar formations are also sometimes passed from the bowels, which have been mistaken for a separation of the lining membrane. They are of a tubular form, different from the long vermiform evacuations of merely condensed mucus which are sometimes passed from them. Hunter has pointed out the close analogy between the throwing out of coagulable lymph in (I say after) inflammation, and the formation of the first lining membrane of the gravid uterus; and sometimes even a similar false

membrane forms in the unimpregnated uterus, as occurs in cases both of dysmenorrhea and menorrhagia, besides those which form in the vagina, which are of a larger size and different shape. Thus the same coagulable lymph, which is so useful for the purpose of repairing damage or continuing the species, sometimes kills—as by blocking up the windpipe, in croup; or produces blindness, by rendering the cornea opaque; or glues the intestines to one another, after peritoneal inflammation. And we have not only these false membranes, as they are called, thrown out on serous surfaces, but also pus, without breach of surface. The operations of nature are uniform and simple,—the reparatory process is uniform and simple. The throwing out of the coagulable lymph, in these cases, is equivalent to its being thrown out to effect union by first intention, or granulations, though, from the locality (the cornea, windpipe, &c.), it becomes inconvenient, or even destructive.

If by a blow or other injury, as by caustic, or by any inflammation, the *life of a portion be destroyed*, it gradually decomposes, and separates from the living part; sometimes in the form of a discoloured slough, the fluid parts running off when the slough is on the surface. The *separation* is effected by *decomposition*, and *not* by the *absorbents* of the living part removing a portion of the dead parts, as has been asserted: the part at the line of separation of a slough of the skin, for instance, decomposes most rapidly, from the heat and moisture of the surrounding living part;

whereas the centre of the slough often dries up, like a piece of leather. After the separation of a slough on the surface of the body, an open wound is left, which, if the reparatory process go on naturally, will be filled up by granulation, as already explained. If a smooth hard substance be laid in the wound (as a pea or bean to keep open an issue), it prevents the formations of granulations; but as the reparatory process or effort nevertheless goes on, pus is secreted from the open capillaries, and as soon as the hard substance is taken away they will commence granulations. Here, again, we must not confound the reparatory process with inflammation: a proper issue is not in a state of inflammation; on the contrary, it is well known that if it become inflamed, the pea must be taken out for a while to ease it, or the part will become swelled, red, and painful; and either proud flesh will form, as before explained, or ulceration take place.

ULCERATION is the death of successive layers or minute portions of an open wound, of whatever dimensions, the solution of continuity having been effected either by spontaneous inflammation and decomposition, or by external injury; and the matter which successively dies in an ulcer is not separated from the living part, nor taken away by the absorbents, as has been generally asserted, but decomposes and runs off. Again; an ulcer is not necessarily in a state of inflammation; for, on the contrary, whilst healing it is in a state of reparation: and any renewal of inflammation causes enlargement — *fresh* ulceration. There is a little

apparent contradiction in this statement, from the word ulcer (*ulcus*) signifying simply an open wound which has been formed by other means as well as by the process of ulceration, or ulcerating inflammation; but I repeat, that, though the process of ulcerating is ulcerative inflammation, in the ulcer when once formed there is not necessarily inflammation any longer existing; and it is, on the contrary, by carefully warding off inflammation that the surgeon cures it.

AN ULCER, therefore, is *not* necessarily in a state of *inflammation*; it is the *space left* by the destruction of a part by inflammation: but if the constitution be in a natural state, and the ulcer not influenced by any morbid poison, it goes on granulating and healing. If, instead, inflammation be renewed in it, each renewal may cause fresh loss of substance, and the ulcer become what is called phagedenic.

When the whole part, killed by inflammation, separates at once instead of gradually dissolving away, it is called a SLOUGH; and if this slough takes place by spontaneous inflammation, it is called GANGRENE, SPHACELUS, and MORTIFICATION. A slough may be produced by caustic, then called an ESCHAR; or by chemical poisons, as I have seen the whole lining of the œsophagus slough away at once in a patient of mine who had swallowed aqua fortis.

When I say that the absorbents do not effect the separation of a slough, I do not deny that they may, and do, nevertheless take up some of the decomposed matter; for we know that on the death of a part which is not superficial, and

when, as under the skin, the dead matter, being confined, cannot run off, the absorbents will often by degrees take it all up; but in the case of a caustic eschar, or a gangrenous slough, it is decomposition, not the absorbents, which effects the separation. When any injury, from a blow or inflammation, is sufficient to cause death of a portion deeper seated below the skin, it is possible that the decomposed matter may be carried off by the absorbents, as we see in the case of an ecchymosis of extravasated blood; but in general, the reparatory process causing the secretion of pus, suppuration, an ABSCESS, takes place. Here, again, I must advert to the incorrectness of language ordinarily used: it is said that, when inflammation exists, it is of consequence to prevent suppuration. Now, what is to be prevented is, the death of any portion—if that take place, the suppuration is merely a matter of course, as a part of the reparatory process. After what I have stated, it is scarcely necessary to add, that I do not admit of the explanation of pus being formed by the breaking down and liquefying of coagulable lymph, as asserted by Laennec, in speaking of empyema; nor the explanations of Dupuytren and others, of part of the sloughs of abscesses dissolving into pus.

The cavity is lined with coagulable lymph, analogous to the granulations and false membranes and adhesions above spoken of. This lines the cyst, as it is called, of the abscess, which is merely the cellular tissue of the part stretched upon the contained pus, and does not set bounds to the abscess, but passively depends upon the quantity

effused into it. It is the extent of the inflammation which decides the extent of the abscess; and when the inflammation is diffused or ramifies, we have diffused or ramified abscess, as from DIFFUSED CELLULAR INFLAMMATION.

Though it has been stated by high authority, that "inflammation is the means by which local injuries are repaired, and may be considered as the restorative* principle," I contend that it is no such thing; but a state of disease; or else, why speak of remedies for it? And, indeed, in applying them, it is of great consequence to know when to stop; for the period of inflammation is often very short; and unless the practitioner knows when it has ceased, he may do much mischief by interfering with the natural reparatory process. The period of inflammation of the pleura or peritoneum is often so brief, that even destruction of which a patient will inevitably die may have been effected, though the inflammation had not lasted above three or four hours, as we see occasionally in peritonitis and pleurisy, whether idiopathic or from wounds.

The practitioner will do harm if he does not withhold or relax antiphlogistic treatment (not only bleeding, but such medicines as tartar emetic, purgatives, digitalis, colchicum, &c.) as soon as inflammation is subdued. I have seen a patient in pleurisy, with extensive pleuritic effusion in one side, whose life had been saved by active and judicious bleeding, and other antiphlogistic means; but who

* When inflammation is excited intentionally (p. 7), it is not as a restorative, but in order that the *subsequent reparatory effort* may be turned to account.

afterwards nearly sunk in consequence of the medical attendants persevering with purgative and other antiphlogistic medicines after the inflammation was quite subdued. This they did on account of that uneasiness in the parts which was only extra sensibility (tenderness, as in a bruised part), in consequence of the lesion produced by the severe inflammation, and which uneasiness naturally remained in a certain degree even for months afterwards.

What has been just stated will account for the great benefit of opium (as has been usually said, *in* inflammation—I say) *after* inflammation; when often morbid sensibility remains, which would wear out and destroy the patient, though the inflammation be past, or stopped by bleeding, &c. All this is intelligible, provided the reparatory process be not called inflammation; and if it be also recollected, that the process of throwing out lymph is *subsequent* to the inflammation, not a part of it. I have here shewn the reason why opium, which is usually inadmissible during inflammation, until depletion has been employed, is of such enormous advantage, when it is subsiding or past, in supporting the system during the restorative process under a great injury. This use of opium has been pointed out empirically by the best authorities, as they say, *in* peritonitis and pleuritis; but it is evident that it is *after* peritonitis (the inflammation), or whilst it is subsiding, and during the reparatory process; and on any relapse of the inflammation, evinced by the skin becoming hot and dry, the opium must be combined with renewed antiphlogistic remedies. In

the cases alluded to, the opium is given immediately after free bleeding: the bleeding checks the inflammation, and the opium removes the morbid sensibility. The case must be closely watched for febrile symptoms, lest the anodyne, by allaying pain, deceive the practitioner (of which there is great danger in inexperienced hands), and the inflammation re-light, as it will unless anti-phlogistic medicines, such as antimony, digitalis, neutral salts, &c., be administered to keep it in check, in graduated doses, but by no means freely, though that was necessary at first.

On the other hand, in many protracted cases of disease, when the patient feels scarcely ill enough to apply for medical advice, we find some latent inflammation, requiring active and decided anti-phlogistic treatment, which may surprise the patient, but of which he soon feels the benefit.

A writer on inflammation asserts, that the "adhesive inflammation which precedes the act of ulcerative absorption obliterates the vessels," so that there is no escape of blood. This, as an enumeration of phenomena, is true, but is no more than a mode of enumerating phases: as a rationale of the process, it is incorrect; there is no such thing as adhesive *inflammation*—the inflammation is that which destroys the life of the part, whereupon the separation of the dead portion takes place; which has been erroneously attributed to the absorbents. The reparatory (adhesive) process, which is intermediate, by its lymph stops the vessels, so as to prevent hæmorrhage, and subsequently produces granulation and suppuration, as before explained.

In fact, the succession of events is as follows : *inflammation*, death of part ; *reparatory* (*adhesive*) *process*, effusion of lymph closing vessels ; then *ulceration*, decomposition, and separation of dead parts. Thus I can account for bone, tendon, cellular tissue, and other parts, dying and gradually coming away dissolved, or in shreds and fragments ; but the explanation of their removal by the absorbents, nibbling them across, as it were, is neither intelligible nor credible. Again ; the term *ulceration* is used by authors most contradictorily ; as, for instance, besides its true meaning of eroding, we have the expression “the process of ulceration, by which the surface is restored :” this anomaly arises from the misuse of the term (healthy) inflammation.

It may be asked, how it happens, if the throwing out of lymph be not a part of inflammation, that it occurs as one of the phenomena of erysipelas, and also upon inflammation of the cornea or iris, when, instead of deserving to be named a part of the reparatory process, it obstructs their functions. In erysipelas sufficiently severe to cause lymph to be effused, the desquamation is evidence of solution of continuity of the capillaries ; hence the necessity for the reparatory process, viz. the effusion of lymph. We may fairly deduce, by analogy, that there is likewise solution of continuity of the capillaries in the cellular substance beneath. The moment this solution of continuity of capillaries — the giving way from the degree of inflammation — takes place, lymph is effused ; and its use is

evident, viz. to reunite the breach, as even in cases of reparation of an incised wound. When the cornea is wounded, we see that the effusion takes place, to reunite the capillaries; in like manner, when the capillaries give way from inflammation of its substance, without breach of surface, lymph is effused for the reparation of damage. Had the inflammation been superficial, the giving way of the capillaries would have been evinced by ulceration.

When a part receives a blow of a certain force, there is an extravasation of blood from the capillary arteries, or an effusion of lymph, which causes swelling of the part. In this instance healthy capillaries are compelled by force to allow their contents to escape, which are afterwards gradually removed by the absorbents. In disease the process is similar: in erysipelas, lymph and serum are effused, causing swelling, which are re-absorbed as the patient recovers: in dropsy nearly the same takes place.

By savine or cantharides ointment we can produce an inflammation—such a relaxation and debility of the capillaries of a part, that they break away from the adjacent sound parts, by which means warts are thrown off; and this, as regards the mode of separation, is analogous to the rising of the cuticle from a common blister. These phenomena have usually been wrongly attributed to the savine and cantharides producing “a higher degree of action of the vessels than the parts could bear,” which is altogether irreconcilable with the true physiology of vascular action (see p. 9 et seq.).

The cicatrix after a wart, resembling the cicatrix of a pit of small-pox, is sometimes permanently visible, but not always so; as the cicatrix of a small-pox spot is sometimes not a permanent mark: or, in other words, small-pox does not always pit. The reason of this is, that the small-pox vesicle does not always suppurate, though it has incorrectly received the name of pustule: it is naturally only a vesicle filled with serous fluid, which turns whitish and opaque, like pus; but true pus is not formed, except on the surface of membranes, unless the inflammation has been sufficiently great to cause that lesion of the capillaries which requires effusion of lymph for their cure, equivalent to granulation and suppuration; but, of course, when this takes place in a mucous membrane, the moisture in general prevents the granulating lymph from remaining or forming a coating; so that we seldom see false membrane on mucous surfaces, the pus only being perceived. Fortunately croup is comparatively a rare disease; but I have known false membrane form even in the urethra—at least small tubes of coagulable lymph, which I judged to be such. Again: we have, after the same degree of lesion, the restorative process sometimes throwing out lymph, equivalent to granulation, or rather to union by the first intention, without pus; as may frequently be seen upon the surface of the rete mucosum, the lymph immediately drying into cuticle, after a slight abrasion, or a common blister, when the cuticle is often restored without suppuration; but sometimes the skin is injured, and pus is formed during the neces-

sary process of repair. Sometimes, after a blister, even when the skin is not injured enough to require suppuration, we see a superfluous quantity of the lymph which forms cuticle thrown out with the appearance of jelly.

The small-pox eruption, as just mentioned, is only a vesicle, though a reticulated one, being an aggregate of minute vesicles formed in succession, precisely like the vaccine. The vaccine always in the end pits, as there is loss of substance of the rete mucosum, owing to the intensity of the inflammation; but the chicken-pox, which is a more simple vesicle, and of shorter duration, does not always pit. The cause of the peculiar depression in the centre of the vaccine and small-pox vesicles is this: each eruption first forms in a point, and that point, having gone through its inflammation before those that follow around it, is elevated on a smaller scale, and its coagulable lymph begins to dry up whilst the circumference is fresh and swollen. I have heard the vaccine central dark spot attributed to the cicatrix of the lancet puncture, and the variolous spot to the binding down by a sebaceous duct: but the lancet puncture heals by first intention, before the specific inflammation begins; and there are many more than one sebaceous duct in the space of either a vaccine or variolous vesicle.

The effect of inflammation, as is evident from its proximate cause (relaxation of capillaries), is to SOFTEN the tissue in which it takes place. An inflamed part may feel hard on account of tension; but when cut into, the inflamed tissue will be found softened.

Inflammation as hitherto considered is what is called ACUTE, wherein either *resolution* or *destruction* of parts soon takes place—*cita mors venit, aut victoria læta*. CHRONIC inflammation is that in which the cause of the inflammation remains, producing reiterated lesion, followed by continual efforts of the reparatory process in depositing coagulable lymph, which sometimes becomes organised and produces actual hardness, as in strumous and other tumours, syphilitic nodes and warts, chronic hepatitis, &c.; sometimes a persisting open ulcer, as a chancre, in which the reparatory process goes on, and by depositing lymph thickens the edges, whilst the continued inflammation keeps the ulcer open by the successive death of minute portions; or, if it be not strong enough to produce death of portions, so as to keep the part in a state of open ulcer, it still renews enough of inflammation to prevent healing—that is, the organisation of the cicatrix, which therefore becomes a scab—sometimes single, constituting a scale, as in the coppery eruption; sometimes in successive layers, as in rupia; sometimes in clusters after pustules, as on the face.

It is thus that a morbid poison not only inflicts the injury, but, by adhering in the tissue or constitution, perpetuates it till expelled by some remedy. This, however, is but an expression or description of phenomena: I must indulge my propensity of searching for proximate causes, and would prefer any tolerable analogy to none at all.

The process of fermentation affords an analogy. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump:

a most minute portion of small-pox virus, on the point of a needle, produces an inflammation similar to that from which it was taken. What is this inflammation but chemical decomposition? What else is fermentation? This virus may be absorbed and circulated, as has been hitherto supposed; or it may produce its effect by some chemical, and consequently electric or galvanic action, positive or negative, on the nervous tissue, constituting a morbid sensibility, which is propagated to the whole system:—this is evinced by racking pains in the spinal cord, brain, &c., producing languor, convulsions, &c. &c., with disturbance of all the functions.

All this passes off, we know, in a definite time, as we know the dough ceases to rise when all the particles inflamed by the leaven have gone through their process of decomposition. So ends small-pox, measles, scarlatina, typhus, plague, synocha petechialis, &c.; the leavens of which are either communicated by contact or carried through the air to the lungs, &c.

Lues is different; and here I must resort again to analogy. Its destructive decomposition is of a different kind—of a slower, more permanent nature,—as much unknown to us, though we know the phenomena and products, as that of the panary or acetous fermentation. As the acetous fermentation is less violent, though more permanent, than the panary or vinous, so the syphilitic decomposition (inflammation) is gradual, but steadily pervades the system if unchecked by remedies.

I cannot help here hazarding a speculation upon

hydrophobia; namely, that it is a leaven which poisons the nervous system, takes a considerable time to ferment, and will eventually be remedied by some medicine which conquers neuritis—perhaps arsenic—perhaps some narcotic, such as hydrocyanic acid. My own inclination would be to try as much arsenic as the constitution would bear, combined with plenty of opium, which always enables the patient to take more arsenic than he could without it. I have found this in old cases of ague and dysentery, which I have cured by the combination; indeed it is also proved by the efficacy of opium as an antidote to arsenic.*

We have not yet obtained a cure for cancer constitutionally; but, aided by Kiernan's investigation of the pathology, and A. Ure's skilful treatment, I think we shall arrive at it (*Med. Gaz.*, May and Dec. 1836.) We have also still to seek

* It is not very uncommon, on patients being brought to the hospital in consequence of having taken poison, to find that, thinking to make assurance doubly sure by taking arsenic and laudanum together, they have saved their lives. In an experience of many years, I have always found these cases do best; and many patients who had taken arsenic (arsenious acid), we have recovered by laudanum and calcined magnesia freely administered; making use, according to circumstances, of the stomach-pump, leeches, and other means not necessary to be enumerated here. If I am not mistaken, a Mr. Hunt was the first to publish this useful plan of treatment. The pain (morbid sensibility), independent of inflammation, would kill, if not relieved by opium, as I have spoken of elsewhere in the instance of gout in the stomach. I must add here, for students, that gout of the stomach is almost wholly neuritis; and that in poisoning by arsenic there is, besides neuritis, considerable inflammation of the capillaries of the membrane.

the remedy for tubercles. Notwithstanding the exertions of Louis, Andral, Carswell, &c., we have not yet arrived at their true pathology; and until that is accomplished, it is only some lucky empirical chance that can help us. The treatment of the latter which I have found most useful is that adapted to scrofula.

Sometimes TUMOURS are formed in consequence of blows, coagulable lymph being effused, and by the process already described, analogous to granulation, becoming vascular and organised (possessed of vitality), a part of the animal, and not removable by the absorbents, which only take up unorganised, or, in other words, dead matter. Some of these tumours remain unaltered; others by their presence keep up an inflammation, in consequence of which the capillaries go on depositing more and more by necessarily reiterated reparatory efforts, and so adding to the tumour, which thereby is increased, until it is removed by remedies or operation, or exhausts the animal and destroys life. Now, as was mentioned in other cases, that which arises here in consequence of accidental injury, sometimes also takes place as the effect of disease: tumours form spontaneously, either with or without feverish accompaniment, and sometimes disappear again by what is called *resolution*, that is, cessation of the inflammation, and subsequent re-absorption; sometimes they suppurate, forming abscess; sometimes remain indolent; at other times remain and grow larger, or grow larger and ulcerate at the same time, as in cancerous and other malignant diseases. Tumours are

modified by the part they occupy and the constitution of the person : if the substance injured be fat, the arteries there, being depositors of fat, make a fatty tumour ; if it be periosteum, bony ; if a highly vascular part, a vascular tumour. The tough bands which traverse fatty and other tumours are made by arteries, which in a healthy state would have to support membranous, cellular, or ligamentous tissues. A tumour of a lymphatic gland, or other part, in that debilitated, relaxed constitution called STRUMOUS, or SCROFULOUS, will become so : and in a constitution tainted by CANCEROUS disease, cancerous tumours will form in any and every part, as has been ably demonstrated by Kiernan. The same may be said of tubercular disease, which is totally distinct from common inflammation.

If the absorbents cannot take up matter which is organised, it may be asked how they get away tumours ? The organisation of a tumour is but imperfect, and it is a burden on the previously existing arteries, in addition to their originally allotted task : if these arteries have been enlarged in size (for we know arteries can grow larger) in consequence of the inflammation which gave rise to the tumour, they will go on to support it ; but if they have only been dilated, they will, when the inflammation subsides, resume their natural size, and starve the tumour, the constituents of which will, when thus deprived of support, become decomposed, unorganised, and thus amenable to the absorbents : on the other hand, the tumour may have been too well organised to give way, and so

continue an *indolent* life, after all inflammation has subsided, but producing neither pain nor inconvenience, unless a blow or other cause renew inflammation. Now, if the efforts of nature do not remove the tumour, we have remedial means of diminishing it.

The simplest is pressure, by keeping nourishment from entering its vessels,* as when a piece of sheet-lead is bound down upon it, &c.

Cold will cause vessels to shrink, as cold lotions, &c., constantly applied, where pressure could not be borne on account of its producing pain.

Pressure so gentle as *not* to *compress*, but merely by affording *support* to inflamed and distended vessels, at first, to stop the inflammation; after which, stronger pressure may be resorted to without producing pain.

Daily, or at least often-repeated, abstraction of blood by leeches, &c. from the part, taking care not to undermine the constitution by taking too much.

Artificial discharge, with counter-irritation, as by issues, blisters, the tartar emetic, and iodine ointments, &c.

By medicines, such as mercury, iodine, &c., which have an effect on the arteries themselves, directly or through their nerves, so as to make the inflamed capillaries contract (independently

* It is by this effect of pressure that a tooth may be made to change its place, as when children's teeth are set straight by a dentist, and which has been asserted to be effected by the absorbents. It is the pressure of the tooth on the vessels in one side of the socket which makes it disorganise; and then the absorbents may take up the inorganic particles, and the vessels on the other side of the socket fill up the space left (see p. 9).

of the *vis a tergo*, or state of the heart's action, or quantity of circulating fluid); for this may be necessary even when the circulation is very weak; as in some cases, inflammation goes on with a most debilitated constitution and weak pulse:* it is only the debility approaching to a dying state that will prevent a blister from rising, when the poison of cantharides has relaxed the vessels; hence it is plain, that it must be an enormous loss of blood which could prevent a blister from rising; which shews that the proximate cause of the inflammation is in the vessels of the part, and not in the injecting force. This will explain to the pupil, who has seen how much venesection has relieved inflammation from fractured ribs, that he cannot always "knock down"† inflammation by

* This is by some called passive inflammation, in contradistinction to that which occurs in a strong constitution; but *inflammation* is always the *same debility* of capillaries. Let us call things by their own names, and speak of the active or passive state of the constitution as indicating remedies.

† I consider the opinion wrong which Dr. M. Hall gives in allusion to certain cases of inflammation from accidents which terminated fatally, under the treatment of other practitioners. He says, that, had they been real inflammation, they would have borne the depletion (see his lecture, *Lancet*, Nov. 4, 1837, p. 186). Now, I think they would not; for I am convinced that, where cases of inflammation, whether idiopathic or from accident, will not yield to bleeding within rational bounds, assisted by antiphlogistic medicines, they must terminate fatally, either by the violence of the disease, or by the unavoidable extent of the depletion. I must also observe, that though he, being experienced, may know when to stop, I should fear his pupils might be led, in pleurisy, &c., to carry bleeding to dangerous lengths; as I was once called to see a medical pupil just before his dissolution, who, after hearing the lecture of a popular

venesection alone ; though free venesection in the beginning is of the utmost consequence. For, on

teacher on the subject of " knocking down " enteritis by depletion, had made his fellow-student bleed him till he sunk never to rise. Dr. Hall says his medical friend (one of the cases he there alludes to—pleuritic inflammation produced by fractured ribs,) lost about eight pints of blood within four days ; and yet he declares that had it been pleurisy, he might have lost twice as much with impunity and safety. I think, however, no man could lose fifteen or sixteen pints (two gallons) of blood in three or four days with " impunity and safety." This is what he calls establishing a distinction between irritation and inflammation : truly, it is a strongly marked distinction—without a difference ; for it was, in fact, a " mixed case." With respect to the man who died of fractured ribs with wounded lung, in Bartholomew's hospital, quoted by him, I must express an opinion contrary to that of Dr. Hall, who brings forward the case as one of irritation, in which the man died of exhaustion from a degree of bleeding which he could have borne had the case been inflammation. I cannot acknowledge the distinction Dr. Hall has here made between inflammation and irritation, as I consider inflammation of the pleura or lungs, though produced by broken ribs, still genuine inflammation, and not irritation, or what I call morbid sensibility. By the case alluded to at page 49, I have shewn when inflammation abates, and irritation (morbid sensibility) predominates. But because the last bleeding in the cases of traumatic pleurisy just noticed accelerated the fatal termination, Dr. Hall seems to doubt the necessity for free venesection in similar ones ; as if they had been cases of irritation from the commencement, whereas serious inflammation existed. Indeed, he says (*Principles of Theory and Practice*, 1837, p. 355), " cases of fractured ribs do not bear the loss of blood like those of inflammation." Of course the mere fractured bones do not *require* it ; but I contend, on the contrary, that pleurisy from broken ribs requires the same antiphlogistic treatment as idiopathic pleurisy ; at the same time making due allowance for inflammation being kept up by mechanical irritation, as by fractures elsewhere. I formerly witnessed much surgical practice, and I have seen patients certainly sometimes bled too much for traumatic pleurisy ; but I have seen the same error committed in medical cases of idiopathic pleurisy.

the contrary, though the free bleedings at first relieve the patient at the time when he can scarcely draw his breath, yet subsequently, pain, and even difficulty of breathing, will return, which cannot be relieved by repetitions of the bleeding, even if that were not inadmissible from the danger of sinking by loss of blood; and when pain and dyspnœa are urgent, we must try what can be done with antimony, ipecacuanha, mercury, opium, digitalis, &c., varied and modified according as there are more or fewer febrile symptoms accompanying. I should say, that it is seldom necessary to bleed to the amount of five or six pints of blood within as many days, if active medical treatment be adopted to coincide with the bleeding.

We see that solutions of metallic salts, such as nitrate of silver, tartar emetic,* acetate of lead, oxy-

This, however, was not from ignorance of "diagnosis" in either; it was from want of knowing how much the powers of the constitution could bear; there was inflammation in all the cases, and irritation also. Much as I approve of what he has written on the physiology and pathology of the nervous system, on the "mimoses," "reflex function," &c., I cannot tolerate his perversion of the term "diagnosis" "by blood-letting;" for, notwithstanding the one sentence in italics placed to meet anticipated objections, that expression is calculated to puzzle, if not mislead, his junior readers. Diagnosis has always been understood to mean the distinction made between diseases for the very necessary purpose of deciding the treatment. In my opinion, before such a decided step as bleeding is adopted, the physician ought to have made up his mind as to what is the nature of the disease. In the previous editions of this work I have adduced examples (which will appear in their proper places) of pure irritation, that do not bear, or rather are not benefited by, depletion.

* A solution of antim. tartar. may be used with great advantage as a lotion to some cutaneous eruptions.

muriate of mercury, &c., and some acrid vegetables, such as mezereon, &c., act on the capillaries as astringents; but each of these, when too strong, produces a contrary effect, viz. inflammation and relaxation. We know that substances applied to the surface of the primæ viæ, or skin, are absorbed and carried into the circulation; and we judge that in this way these metallic salts, oxydes, &c., are carried to the capillaries of diseased parts, so as to act like astringents, and strengthen and cure. We know too that they are adapted to different cases. Antimony, which produces sickness and lowers the pulse, *besides its local effect on the capillaries, when it reaches them through the circulation*, is suited to, and resorted to in, acute diseases, such as inflammatory fevers, whether idiopathic or from injuries. Thus, we can account for the efficacy of antimony in such a disease as scarlatina, by its diminishing inflammation in the superficial capillaries of the skin, fauces, &c., which have been relaxed by the morbid poison, and at the same time by reducing the power of the circulation when it is too strong. If administered so as not to produce sickness or nausea, or if there is a low state of fever not requiring reduction of the pulse, the antimony may be given in small repeated doses, so as to circulate to the capillaries without depressing the system. Mercury, which has not this nauseating property, acts less on the pulse than antimony, but perhaps even more upon the capillaries, when circulated to them; hence it is oftener used in chronic cases, both syphilitic and others, besides being much em-

ployed in acute inflammation, pleurisy, peripneumony, peritonitis, &c. This affords a *rationale* of these remedies curing inflammations where there is no indication for depletory or common antiphlogistic means; for which mode of cure the vague term, "equalising the circulation," has been adopted; but it is erroneous, as the circulation cannot be unequal: it may be irregular, stronger or weaker, quicker or slower; but in either case the blood must be sent or circulated equally to every part of the body, as it passes at first from the heart through a single canal, the aorta; as stated when speaking of what has been called *determination of blood* (p. 30).

Although chemists cannot detect either mercury or antimony, administered as remedies, in the circulating blood, it alters not my position. It is not fair to conclude that the metallic compound is not there, because they have been unable to detect a quantity of it which bears so minute a proportion to the whole mass of fluids of the body.

We are by no means to draw the conclusion, that an affection is not inflammatory, merely because it does not yield to depletion. What degree of depletion would remove a node, or syphilitic iritis, without mercurial or other medicine? What would venesection do for rheumatic pains, without antimony, colchicum, opium, bark, mercury, and other medicines? Mercury and iodine*

* Iodine is very similar to mercury in its effects on the animal economy. The hydriodate of potash is a very manageable and good preparation of it. Like mercury, its effects are very variable on different constitutions. Some persons cannot bear

remove morbid growths by starving them, which they effect by contracting the capillaries, and not by increasing absorption, as is a commonly received opinion. It may be said, that the swelling of the gums and fauces from mercury is a contradiction of this; but in many of our medical explanations we appear to "blow hot and cold." Mercury stops inflammation by the same means in one case as it produces it in another,—it contracts the capillaries; so that a healthy part is inflamed and even ulcerated by what contracts its nutrient capillaries *from* a natural state; an unhealthy ulcer is stopped by what contracts its relaxed capillaries *to* a natural state. *Contraction of the vessels*, however, does not express the immediate cause of the sponginess of the gums; there is, in fact, inflammation, relaxation, which is the *secondary* result of the contraction; the excessive contraction occasioning the loss of contractility, that is, over-action causing at last a loss of power; as cold, which at first contracts, will at last destroy the power of the capillaries, so that relaxation, amounting to inflammation (chilblain) takes place. The soreness* of the membrane of the mouth in

much more than one grain of the salt three times a-day without inconvenience, whilst others can take more than ten times that quantity. The mode in which it mostly disagrees is by irritating the stomach; and I have been called in to two cases where, in imprudent doses, it had produced gastritis, like arsenic, but which were soon relieved by leeches and opiates. The oxy-muriate of mercury, or liq. arsenicalis, which are so useful in small doses, would do the same in excess. The abuse of a remedy is no argument against its use.

* There are persons, as is well known, whose mouths are so

ptyalism is analogous to chilblain, the cold air, saliva, &c. acting upon a membrane whose vessels are in a state of extra contractility; moderate cold, with extra contractility, producing the effect of intense cold with ordinary contractility. It is thus that we have, in the *rationale* of medical phenomena, to refer constantly to the variation of the proportions of the components of a sum—*i. e.* the two things which contribute to a phenomenon. In the foregoing statement, the extra contractility depends upon extra sensibility of the nervous part of the apparatus—the organic sensibility of Bichât (p. 19)—which is diminished, if not lost, when inflammation takes place, and the augmentation of which is a means of remedying inflammation; as a cold lotion may relieve a chilblain, which is inflammation produced by cold, and as cool air relieves ptyalism.

We see, in a variety of instances, that a remedial agent too long or too powerfully applied becomes noxious, by exhausting the vitality—in fact, wearing out or straining the machinery of the organ, so that it can no longer answer to the nervous influence, whether the organ be capillary tube or any other structure; and sometimes it remains for us still to investigate what part of the machinery has been injured—the contractile or nervous tissue.

But, even granting that syphilis or ague might be cured by low diet, abstraction of blood, and other general means, and supposing itch were curable thus (which it is not), instead of by susceptible to mercury, that they cannot, in the ordinary way, take it long enough to cure the diseased capillaries in other parts.

sulphur; the question is not so much as to possibility, as expedition, and safety to the constitution: what degree of depletion would cure a rheumatism, which gives way to doses of colchicum too small to cause any sensible evacuation? just as small doses of arsenic will cure cutaneous inflammation, that could not be affected by bleeding or other depletion.

It was long before I could account for what are called the *specific* effects of such remedies as mercury, arsenic, colchicum, &c. We can understand thus far, that the membranes, cellular tissue, skin, and parts which are very vascular, under common inflammation run a rapid course of disease, and are relievable by active antiphlogistic means; but when parts are attacked by specific inflammation, which is produced by a morbid poison, and which is slow in its progress, or when the tissue inflamed is one of dense structure with very minute capillaries, depletion, or taking off the *vis à tergo*, has little or no effect on those capillaries; and we are obliged to resort to what have been called specific medicines, such as mercury, arsenic, &c., which make them contract. Here we are supplied with analogies to help us in the prosecution of the cure of diseases with other remedies, in cases when the so-called specific either fails or disagrees; which being ascertained, the specific use of the medicine ceases—it ceases, in fact, to be a specific. For instance, at one time no remedy was known except mercury against the chronic inflammation produced by the syphilitic poison. Now, taking my view of the proximate

cause, we should deduce, *à priori*, that iodine might cure it, or that rigid diet and such remedies as mezereon would do so, by their effect on the capillaries; which has, in fact, been empirically proved to be the case. But it may be said, I have got no farther than the empiricism; on the contrary, I have no doubt that arsenic would answer, but that, again, is not a fair example, as it is already used empirically in India; but iron would answer, only, not being so powerful, it would require the inconvenient adjunct of a rigid diet, as mezereon does. Again, I have no doubt that, on principle, colchicum might be substituted for mezereon; or antimony, silver, or copper, for the other chemical remedies: gold has been tried, and found to succeed. But though it be useful to have other means, when we cannot employ the ordinary one, we need not resort to a hatchet or a penknife to cut bread with, when we have a table-knife at hand; nor have recourse to any thing in preference to mercury for the cure of syphilis, from an apprehension that it may disagree, because in one in a thousand or a hundred cases it is found to do so. It is better to learn to modify it, by combining opium, &c., with it, to correct any inconvenience when it occurs; and when, of course, it is necessary to be able to bring analogical remedies into play.

The specific which puzzled me most and latest was sulphur for itch; but now the mystery is satisfactorily cleared, and we see why more powerful drugs taken internally could not cure it. Its

cause being a parasitic animalcule, it is easily removed by rubbing on sulphur, which kills the little animal in his lair; whereas he could not be hurt by the remedies that cure those eruptions which are a disordered state of the capillaries, and which are easily affected by the remedies as they circulate through them. Therefore, as there are other substances which can kill the animalcule, though perhaps none so conveniently as sulphur (corrosive sublimate, for instance, might salivate before it could cure the itch), one more specific is struck off our list. As for colchicum being a specific for gout or rheumatism, it is no such thing; there are several equally efficacious means of treating either. Again, there is no single specific for tic douloureux: cases have been cured with liq. arsenicalis, in which iron had failed, and *vice versa*; and I have cured a case with carbonate of iron, combined with M. Labeaume's galvanism, which I was told had held out against all the usual modes of treatment. Tic douloureux may also be sometimes cured better by quinine, or opium with bark or quinine, than by any other medicine; sometimes mercury, &c. &c., are necessary. Bark is no longer a specific for ague; we can cure it with arsenic, and the other remedies which cure neuralgia or neuritis, which ague is in fact.

In addition to what was formerly stated on the subject, I may here observe, that *nervous influence* is *elicited* in producing *nervous actions*, such as perceptions or thoughts; *organic actions*, such as those of capillaries, heart, or intestines; and the *combination* of *nervous* and *organic action*

—voluntary motion. If this expenditure exceed the supply, or secretion, by the cineritious part of the nervous system, exhaustion is evinced in various ways: in health, by sleep; in disease, by delirium, stupor, or death. The heat of fire produces a sensation first of pleasure, then, if increased, of pain: this elicitation of the nervous influence does no harm if the person be in health, because it is kept up by the apparatus of the brain and nervous system which generates it; but if the person be feverish, or the nervous system out of order, sitting close to the fire adds to the exhaustion and debility; nay, even in health, a lazy indulgence over the fire produces languor; and other indulgence of nervous sensation produces debility, “*balnea, vinum, venus,*” &c.

To judge by the phenomena, alcohol produces sensation by calling forth nervous influence; its presence, like that of fire, exciting a quicker extrication of it. Here, again, whilst there is health, so that the nervous influence is renewed, no harm is done; but, according to the constitution, the abuse of wine or spirit produces, sooner or later, an exhaustion, and the result is a feverish or irritable state, analogous to bodily fatigue, which is produced by expenditure of nervous influence in the successive discharge of it into the muscles, to keep up their action in walking or laborious exercise.

SLEEP is a *cessation* of that expenditure of nervous influence which takes place in *nervous action*, such as volition, and other functions of the sensorium, *organic action continuing*. The expendi-

ture of nervous influence going on, under ordinary circumstances, quicker than the generation of it, a periodical return of sleep is induced.

As the nervous influence is supplied to all the nerves in common, from the so-called nervous centres, the expenditure of nervous influence in one part usually lessens it in others. Fatigue from labour includes a certain exertion of the brain in the production of voluntary motion; but if the body and mind be fatigued simultaneously, as when a person has to walk much, the mind at the same time being anxiously occupied, the expenditure of the nervous influence will be more rapid, and the exhaustion greater. Again, the expenditure of nervous influence in intense study or professional business, especially if anxiety be combined, withdraws so much of it as to diminish the energy of the digestive organs; and in this way the cares of business become the fruitful source of indigestion and gout, particularly if, as in great cities, perpetual feasting add to the labours of the stomach.

It is well known that digestion produces drowsiness and chilliness, by diminishing the energy of the brain, and by abstracting the nervous influence of the skin.

It is necessary here to notice the distinction between *stimulants*, *sedatives*, *narcotics*, and *tonics*, a great confusion of language and ideas having prevailed on these subjects. For instance, any medicine which made a person better, without evident effect on the bowels, kidneys, &c., was called a tonic; and inasmuch as it restored strength to the system, it undoubtedly had a tonic effect. Now

this is the case so often with wine, in debilitated habits, that it is no wonder stimulants and tonics became almost synonymous; and the common mode formerly of administering bark in wine increased the error, so that bark was thought stimulant. We have a difficulty, too, in distinguishing qualities of medicines, from many of them having two principles combined, as will be presently pointed out; we may, however, get very nearly pure examples of each—stimulant, sedative, narcotic, and tonic.

A **STIMULANT** is that which, through the medium of the nervous system, increases the action of the heart and other organs, by calling forth the nervous influence, or by facilitating the extrication of it in them; for example, wine, brandy, and other spirits, the product of fermentation.

A *stimulant* increases the action of the heart, and consequently for a time, by sending more arterial blood to the brain, besides its own effect on the brain when conveyed thither through the circulation, excites the sensorium to hilarity, if there be no latent disease there; but in too great a quantity it produces stupor. Brandy produces stupor by excess of stimulus, thereby exhausting nervous influence and perception of the brain; as looking at the sun will take away the power of the optic nerves by excess of stimulus, and as too great noise will cause temporary deafness; though light and sounds in moderation yield pleasurable sensations.

The effects of stimulants are referrible to a twofold operation both upon the brain and spinal marrow, and upon the heart. Each of these sys-

tems, the nervous and the circulatory, is affected by a *local* and a *general* operation of the stimulus upon their respective centres. The stimulant (brandy, for instance), as soon as absorbed and carried into the blood, comes into contact with the internal surface of the heart, upon which organ it acts as an excitant locally or by "reflexion,"—besides probably its influence on the heart by sympathy, through the branches of the solar plexus passing between the stomach and heart,—and thus excites the heart to increased activity; from thence the spirit, mixed with the arterial blood, is propelled to the brain, which it excites to a more rapid elimination and distribution of the nervous influence. Respiration, or the decarbonisation of the blood in the lungs, is more perfect; the function of the heart, like that of every other organ, is carried on more energetically as regards frequency and force; the nervous centres receive, therefore, a more copious supply of arterial blood; the sensorium, if the brain be affected by no latent disease, is excited to hilarity; all impressions upon the nerves are perceived by it more acutely; the generation and the flow of ideas are accelerated; volition is more rapid; all the glandular organs, as well as the skin and mucous membrane, secrete more actively; through which, and perhaps by arousing even the comparative torpor of the involuntary muscles, as of the alimentary canal, digestion, absorption, and defecation, are accelerated. These are the effects of moderate quantities of stimuli; in excess, phenomena the very reverse of many of them succeed: the brain is poisoned by the

spirit in contact with it ; the nervous principle which it contains is expended, and the generation and disengagement of more is interfered with ; so that the capillaries, from the exhaustion of nervous influence, become more *distensible* ; the imagination is rendered vapid, the perceptions and ideas confused. The brain will be overpowered with arterial blood from the increased action of the heart, which the stimulants have occasioned ; for although arterial blood is the source from which the capillaries of the brain prepare or secrete the nervous principle, *over-injection* diminishes secretion (as in the kidneys, &c.) ; but mere increased action of the heart is not sufficient to produce the bad effects of over-injection, unless the local effect of the spirit upon the brain, as distensibility of capillaries, &c., takes place simultaneously. The over-injection will lead to febrile excitement, as it is called, the secretions in every part being diminished from want of nervous energy (besides the over-injection of the glandular organs themselves) ; and at length stupor, coma, and even fatal apoplexy, may be the result.

Such are the visible effects of stimulants when administered to persons in health (*physiological* effects) ; and similar are those we witness from their agency in disease, although modified by the malady itself under which the patient labours (*pathological* effects).

A **SEDATIVE** is that which diminishes the action of the heart and other organs by repressing the nervous influence ; for example, digitalis, and green tea, which, though called a stimulant by some, was long since proved by Dr. E. Perceval to have an

effect similar with digitalis:* green tea in excess produces a sense of anxiety and oppression of the chest, with intermitting weak pulse, nausea, &c.

It has been often asserted, that there is no such thing as a direct sedative or allayer of action, but that the sedative effect was only the secondary result of exhaustion from stimulus, arguing from the stupid state which comes on in intoxication from fermented liquors, and from opium,† which is observed to be stimulant in small quantities, before enough is taken to produce stupor. It having been thus observed that a state of exhaustion succeeds intoxication, or any other abuse of stimulus, it became adopted as an axiom by many, that there could be no sedative effect unless secondary, as the result of previous excitement; and I have found many who endeavoured to prove that digitalis at first produces a stimulant effect. The only apparently good argument, in my opinion, that they could bring forward is, that digitalis and other sedatives sometimes make the pulse quicker than it was before; but I answer, that every person who has bled a few patients must have observed that the pulse becomes quicker as the patient grows faint. I say, then, that the

* The publications of Rush, Rasori, and Tommasini, would, I think, satisfy any person that digitalis is a sedative ("contra-stimulant"), though, up to this time, not a year passes in which the pages of periodicals are not loaded with attempts to prove it a stimulant.

† It must be recollected in practice, that opium contains two principles, the narcotic as well as the stimulant. Unluckily, the true *narcotic* part has received the name of *morphia*, and another part is called narcotic.

mere increased frequency of the pulse is no proof, as no person will call blood-letting to syncope a stimulant. It may, however, be contended, that in inflammatory complaints the pulse will become not only more frequent, but harder, that is, in fact, stronger, whilst the patient is taking digitalis : but this effect is not produced by the digitalis ; for if, when the patient does not take enough, a few drops only being administered at each dose, or if bleeding and other remedies be neglected, or the inflammation be not controllable by any means (even in the most skilful hands), the inflammation increasing, the pulse becomes harder ; this is not the effect of the digitalis, any more than of venesection. Every practitioner of experience must have found the pulse get *harder after a bleeding* which has not been sufficient to subdue the inflammation, until *another bleeding* has *softened* it : the same occurs with digitalis. No doubt *it*, as well as *venesection*, may *raise the pulse* when it has been *sunk by inflammation* below the natural standard, as will be explained hereafter ; but will any one call venesection stimulant ? We should beware of attributing to the remedies the changes of pulse which depend on the progress of the disease.

A direct *sedative* diminishes the action of the heart and nervous system ; in excess, instead of hilarity, producing anxiety, depression, and despondency ; nay, more, allaying action in the nervous system, so that it cannot direct the muscles, the patient becoming giddy and staggering, and even the retina being so weakened as not to see distinctly ; so that a person may reel or see double without being

drunk : and this likewise occurs from loss of blood. It is well for the student to be early aware that opposite states may thus produce similar appearances, since the remedy which would relieve one would not afford relief to the other : for instance, the coma of children which proceeds from inanition, and which might be mistaken for a plethoric state of the internal vessels, is relieved by stimulants, as is so well described by Gooch, and the nature of which was previously shewn by Dr. Marshal Hall ; and the disease called DELIRIUM TREMENS has many symptoms in common with those complaints which are cured by venesection and sedatives, but which itself requires stimulants, either alone or combined with narcotics.

We see that when nervous influence is expended to the degree that ordinarily induces sleep, or the suspension of sensorial action, this suspension is retarded if any irritation produces a renewal of sensations, as the pain of toothache, or if the extra excitement of anxiety, in cases where affection or interest is concerned, continue to occasion extrication of nervous influence in the brain : and this power of continuing cerebral action (wakefulness) will be increased by introducing into the stomach a sedative, such as digitalis, or green tea, which, by diminishing the force of the pulse, and by its local influence on the capillaries of the brain, counteracts the plethora which would induce sleep. But, observe, this is forcing the natural powers ; and the consequence will be, that the expenditure of nervous influence still going on, with diminution of the power of the heart and primæ viæ, the brain will become weaker ; so that although thoughts may be excited, they will be vague, and false per-

ceptions will arise; which state is called being nervous, and is felt by those who have sat up late watching the sick, or reading, and who, having forcibly kept themselves awake, either with or without tea, coffee, or snuff,* become chilly, starting at any noise, and suffering involuntary and unreasonable apprehensions of danger. If persons under these circumstances lie down in a cold bed, they will frequently not fall asleep, or if they do will be harassed by night-mare; but a warm bed, by increasing the circulation, and warming the blood, will renew a plethora in the brain favourable to sleep; wine or spirits taken into the stomach will do the same, if the brain be not feverish; or even hot water drank will have some effect.

One example more of a direct sedative—a common dose of salts makes a person pale, and cooler in body and mind. There is nothing stimulant in this, but it is not a simple sedative, as it is an evacuant; it is not, however, a stimulant. I have heard emetics called stimulants; but I cannot agree to this, until I see a good dose of ipecacuanha or tartar emetic make a person feel warm and cheerful, and his pulse stronger, before or while he is sick: afterwards, by the relief of disease which the emetic affords, the symptoms of shivering and

* The effect of these luxuries, which are in reality often beneficial, has been misunderstood: for instance, tea and coffee—sedatives—counteract the bad effects of wine and other fermented liquors; and also tobacco, either as snuff or chewed, counteracts, as a sedative, the stimulus of spirits, and is hence useful on ship-board. On the other hand, we see persons render themselves debilitated and nervous by too much tea and coffee without fermented liquors, females especially; and excess in snuff or tobacco injures the health imperceptibly in many instances.

depression, in ague, influenza, or inflammation, are removed; and from which cause, and not by the direct operation of the emetic, the patient may become warm, and be relieved from chilliness and anxiety of countenance; as by venesection, which is not stimulant.

Sedatives, as opposed to stimulants, diminish the injection of the brain, at the same time repressing the nervous influence: so that the proximate cause of delirium, stupor, or coma, from *sedatives*, is *inanition*; whereas the proximate cause of delirium and coma from *stimulants*, is *congestion* or *plethora*.

This will explain one cause of the confusion of terms. *Sedatives* are sometimes miscalled stimulants when they relieve the vertigo, stupor, or coma of stimulants, or the drowsiness of fatigue or other plethora, because this relief is called rousing, or awakening; as by tobacco-snuff, digitalis, or green tea. On the contrary, a *stimulant* (wine) given to a person fatigued, produces an inclination to sleep, unless it occasion feverishness.

By the term *sedative* is *not* to be understood that which *puts to sleep*, which is the operation of a *narcotic*, but whatever produces for a time an effect upon the nervous system as if it had been refreshed by sleep; for, by checking the expenditure of nervous influence in the organs, there is more of it left at the disposal of the brain. But this, of course, has not the restorative effect of sleep; on the contrary, though the ideas are rendered free at first, exhaustion will at length produce the weakness of thought, the delirium or

coma of inanition, as the sedative, besides its local effect on the nervous tissue, diminishes the supply of arterial blood to the brain by checking the action of the heart.

The NARCOTIC principle in drugs is that which, by diminishing the sensibility of the nervous system, allays pain and procures sleep. Narcotics must be distinguished from stimulants on the one hand, and from sedatives on the other; and the distinction is the more necessary, because in nature the narcotic principle is generally combined with one or other of these: hence the contradictory and unsatisfactory reports of the value of different narcotic remedies, and the difficulty experienced in their application by those who do not know the reason why opium suits one case, hyoscyamus another. It has been very common to try one of these remedies first, and if that did not suit to resort to the other; but any one who knows that opium in its natural state contains *stimulus* combined with narcotic,* will not administer it when the skin is hot and dry, with permanent thirst, delirium, and other evidences of symptomatic fever (pyrexia), but will on principle prefer conium or hyoscyamus,

* That opium contains two principles, the stimulant and narcotic, is not now matter of speculation; as they have been separated chemically, and the narcotic part (morphia) can be used to produce sleep without the stimulant. The stupor from opium was said to be the sedative effect subsequent to, or produced by, the exhaustion of the stimulus; but this is not the case, for the stimulant part being taken away, the morphia produces sleep just as certainly; thus realising the long-sought desideratum of an unstimulating opiate—the vaunted nostrum, from the black drop down to Battley's liquor.

which contains the *sedative* combined with the narcotic. Many have arrived at a knowledge of the contrasted use of these substances empirically; but those who have not experience must be guided by the consideration, that some "sleeping doses" are stimulant, and some sedative; that a patient may be forced by opium into a sleep from which he will awake thirsty, feverish, and unrefreshed, when hyoscyamus would have cooled and refreshed him.

Dover's powder is a judicious combination, when a narcotic neither sedative nor stimulant is required: the sulphate of potass and the ipecacuanha being sedative, counteract the stimulant part of opium, so that Dover's powder acts nearly as a simple narcotic. There are many cases in which hyoscyamus would be too depressing if given in doses sufficient to produce sleepiness, and in many cases opium would be too stimulating; so that in fact, when we want narcotic without either stimulant or sedative, we cannot use the natural drugs uncombined. Hyoscyamus has been known to disappoint the practitioner, by inducing even delirium tremens instead of sleep; which I attribute to this union of the *sedative* with the narcotic; and which will also account for its being frequently found useful both in medical and surgical cases, when there is hot skin and hard pulse: this will explain the safety and advantage of using morphia, which is now so much employed empirically, as it produces neither stimulant nor sedative effect, but simply narcotic.

We can now understand the occasionally oppo-

site effects of *tincture* and *extract* of hyoscyamus. Many persons never taste fermented liquors; others are forbidden them for a time, and become thereby so sensitive to the operation of *alcohol*, that even the small quantity contained in the *tincture* produces a stimulant effect, neutralising more or less the sedative property of the plant. Battley's preparation, liquor opii (which he calls) sedativus, is proved by experience to be analogous to Dover's powder, but suits many constitutions better (in whatever manner it is made) than crude opium, however qualified; for the stimulant part of crude opium disagrees more with some constitutions than with others; and the advantage of the preparations of morphia may be similarly explained. Digitalis and opium may be advantageously combined; but digitalis and brandy, a direct sedative and a direct stimulant, cannot be expected to produce any combined effect, the one neutralising the other; as strong coffee or green tea counteracts the poisonous operation of tincture of opium, and the intoxicating effects of wine or other fermented liquors.

Narcotics stop the conducting power of the nerves, which I illustrate thus:—if the arm be laid across the back of a chair, or be otherwise compressed in one place, the hand becomes what is called asleep from pressure on the nerve; sensation and voluntary action are lost, or, if not quite lost, much diminished, “pins and needles,” a pricking sensation, being felt. The sensation of a limb being asleep arises from the pressure interrupting the conducting power of the nerve by pushing the

medullary matter out of a part of it. If the medullary matter is but slightly separated, the nervous influence is passed like the sparks of electricity, causing the pricking; but if the gap or space be too great, there is no sensation transmitted at all. If the arm be rubbed so as to press back the medullary matter, the "pins and needles" are felt as it begins to meet. I have known the hand remain powerless for many months before the medullary matter could be rubbed into its place after a person had fallen asleep with his head leaning on his arm over the back of a chair. Different narcotics vary as to these effects. A minute quantity, a fourth of a grain, of extract of aconite, dissolved in the mouth and swallowed, produces the pricking sensation, and loss of power of the muscle of the fauces so as to render speech and deglutition difficult; belladonna produces a similar effect, less a sense of pricking than of dryness; hyoscyamus also causes a sense of dryness.

Narcotics, then, judging by the phenomena described, and others familiar to medical men, appear to interrupt the conducting power of the medullary matter; and as there is no mechanical pressure, we can account for this only by some chemical action or union with it, altering its (galvanic or electrical) properties.

To recur again to the difference between narcotics and stimulants on the one hand, and narcotics and sedatives on the other: sedatives diminish action, but not by interrupting the conducting power; for digitalis or green tea render the perceptions more acute, and produce wakeful-

ness instead of sleepiness : it is not until the nervous influence is actually exhausted, so as not to be sufficient in quantity to produce action, that there is any defect in the perceptions, and then there is delirium, not sleep. Aconite, belladonna, or tobacco, which contain but little of the true narcotic principle in proportion to the sedative, are never used as hypnotic narcotics, as they produce delirium tremens ; whereas hyoscyamus and conium, which contain a sufficient proportion of the narcotic, do not produce delirium tremens, except when misapplied as concerns their *sedative* property ; and opium, which is narcotic and stimulant, never produces delirium tremens, though it may fail to procure sleep, if misapplied as respects its *stimulant* property. Thus, when administered in cases where feverishness exists, the small proportion of stimulus in the opium will often increase the feverish morbid sensibility, so as to counteract the narcotic influence.

These three divisions of remedies may be considered physiologically as well as pathologically ; that is, their action may be studied both on the healthy and diseased individual. We now come to the fourth division, *tonics*, which can only be considered pathologically, viz. with reference to their agency in removing a morbid state.

TONICS are substances which neither immediately nor sensibly call forth actions, like stimulants, nor repress them, like sedatives, but give power to the nervous system to generate or secrete the nervous influence by which the whole frame is strengthened. The action of tonics

(which can be traced to their effect on the nervous system) is gradual; if therefore there be any sudden increase in force of the pulse immediately after their administration, it must not be attributed to their tonic nature, as the pulse will vary with the disease, according as it is affected by the use or neglect of other remedies; for either the advance of inflammation, or the neglect of other remedies, or the administration of stimulants with tonics, will occasion that hardness of pulse which has usually hitherto been supposed to be the effect of a stimulant property in the tonic. On the contrary, a tonic, when it disagrees with the stomach, depresses the pulse, acting as a sedative by nauseating; and even when it causes a quick pulse, which it sometimes does, with headache, this result is mere dyspeptic sympathy. Even tartar emetic, which is recognised as the reverse of a stimulant, when its sedative operation is too great, or has been too long continued, induces the same state of morbid sensibility, which has been sometimes misnamed "antimonial fever."

We have proof enough that the effect of quinine, iron, and arsenic, in neuralgia, &c. is direct upon the nerves. There is a palpable analogy between the action of nitrate of silver, sulphate of copper, arsenic, &c. on sores, and their effect on the constitution when introduced through the circulating fluids. In either case, if used in too great quantity, they will do harm; externally, instead of constringing and healing, they prove caustic; internally, also, too much is poisonous: but bark or carbonate of iron, which do not produce che-

mical decomposition, are free from the risk of acting as caustic or poison. Some tonics, then, in excess, as well as stimulants and sedatives, become poisonous. Arsenic produces inflammation, as a poison; but this is not to be referred to when considering the tonic effect of small doses of the mineral; the tonic effect being a modification of vital actions, the caustic or poisonous effect a destruction of the machinery. There is no analogy between the effect of the tonic in proper doses, and the diseased state produced by it when it acts as a caustic poison. Lunar caustic properly applied will heal the skin; improperly, will burn a hole in it. Whoever does not know of what strength to use nitrate of silver, or sulphate of copper, had better confine himself to oak bark or alum, which cannot corrode; or if he does not know how to modify arsenic or croton oil, he had better trust exclusively to Peruvian bark and castor oil, though less efficacious in many difficult cases. Thus, if a man be dexterous, he can perform lithotomy best with Mr. T. Blizard's knife; but if not, he had better use a gorget: as an awkward ploughman will go safer with a plough that is guaged by a wheel, than with one that is entirely dependent on the management of skilful hands; but which, when well guided, is the safest and most efficacious, especially in difficult circumstances and rocky ground.

Therapeutics and toxicology require very different modes of investigation; and notwithstanding that experiments which have been made with poisons are very interesting and useful for the purpose of finding antidotes, they do not advance

us much in reasoning upon the remedial use of these substances.

In some cases, by temporarily exciting the nervous system when weak, stimulants give the digestive organs more power for the moment: the new nourishment increases the strength of nerve as well as of other parts; and thus stimulants and generous diet become in reality a part of the tonic plan; and from stimulants being so often administered with tonics, tonics have been thought stimulant. It is of the utmost consequence to know that they are not so, otherwise there may be a fear of using them where they would be very beneficial, combined with evacuants and sedatives; for quinine or other tonics may be advantageously used along with digitalis and bleeding on the one hand, or with wine on the other. For instance, it is well known that ague attacks the most opposite constitutions, and that some patients stand in need of support, while others, on the contrary, require sedatives, such as venesection, opening medicines, and emetics—still, with the tonics, bark or arsenic, in both cases—to cure it.

Many medical men are so strongly imbued with the idea of bark being stimulant, that they prepare the patient, as they call it, by using the antiphlogistic treatment before they venture to begin the tonic; but practical experience disproved the necessity of this long ago, and few now spend time in unnecessary preparation by other medicine, or bleed, except when the state of the pulse, &c. indicate the propriety of so doing. Tonics, then, being intrinsically neither stimulant nor sedative, may be use-

fully combined with either; for whether we want to keep down the pulse in inflammation, or to raise it and the appetite, &c. in debility, it must obviously be desirable to give tone and strength to the nervous system at the same time; because tone and strength of the nervous system will not increase the action of the heart unless it be called forth by stimulants. We must observe this difference: tonics give strength, stimulants call it forth; a man may be very strong without putting forth his strength. We need not fear any danger from keeping the nervous system in good order by tonics, but we must beware of exciting over-action by stimulants, when either inflammation or fever exists. Stimulants excite action, but action is not strength; on the contrary, we shall see, when we come to consider fever, that over-action increases exhaustion.

A correct understanding of these distinctions will be found of great use. The constitution may sink under the depletion necessary to reduce inflammation (p. 49 et seq.), or subsequently during a tedious reparatory process, if tone cannot be kept up; but this may be done without stimulation. Often is the practitioner foiled by "pouring in the bark and wine:" seeing the inflammation relighted, he is obliged to leave off the stimulant; but as he includes the tonic under that head, he leaves that off too, and so loses ground: or else, knowing by experience that if he leave off the tonic the patient will certainly sink, he continues the two together at all hazards, till perhaps the inflammation and stimulus united destroy by fever.

It must not be imagined, however, as is too often the case with students, whenever a patient dies, that he might have been saved: they will be convinced by morbid anatomy and experience, that many cases of disease are uncontrollable by human skill and means; but, at the same time, the seeing how much had been effected in ultimately fatal cases, will encourage them in steadily practising on rational principles, and prevent their wavering in cases which are curable, though tedious.

Tonics, then, by imparting healthy energy to the capillary arteries, have a beneficial effect on inflammation, even when bleeding and sedatives are necessary to keep down the action of the heart; but so long as the action of the heart is not below par, the effect of stimulants would be injurious. Sometimes, even when the acute stage of inflammation has subsided or been subdued, the powers of the constitution are so much reduced, that the reparatory process degenerates, so that parts cannot heal; hence the advantage of giving *tonics* to prevent this state as much as possible (even whilst we are keeping down the pulse by bleeding, sedatives, and cathartics), if the constitution seem to require it; but by no means should we administer stimulants in the acute stage. As soon, however, as the acute stage or the inflammation is passed, and the reparatory process, or passive stage of resolution, commences, we must watch for the moment when it may be necessary to administer stimulus to prevent degeneration of the process, the local symptoms of which are lividity, &c.; the general symptoms, feeble pulse and anorexia. If

tonics be not given early, as they act but slowly, there may not be time to introduce them into the system when the acute stage has been subdued; and there may not be sufficient strength for stimulants and food to work upon towards restoration.

It is evident that tonics must be considered distinctly from stimulants and sedatives, from the circumstance that we cannot cure an ague or neuralgia either by stimulants or antiphlogistic treatment without tonics. We know that many slight cases of either will get well if left to nature; but I allude to those which are severe or obstinate.

The term tonic is applied to all those medicines which cure chronic inflammation without being either stimulant, or directly sedative or depletory. There are various cases in which bleeding, cathartics, emetics, and other sedative or antiphlogistic remedies, have not power to stop inflammation, and yet, together with the disease, are wearing down the constitution: under these circumstances, recourse has been commonly had to mercury. There are also cases in which arsenic, bark, opium, or other medicines, are more applicable; but the great nostrum has been mercury: and yet, though so useful in the most ignorant hands, it is difficult to account for or designate its action. It is often called a stimulant, and yet it cures inflammation when all stimulants are carefully withheld, and so coincides in its action with the sedatives, and might as justly be called a sedative. But it also cures inflammation in debilitated habits, when wine and other stimulants are obliged

to be given. I therefore consider it neither stimulant nor sedative, but tonic; that is, by its specific action on the capillaries, whether directly on their tissue, or through the medium of their nerves, it causes them to contract when (though all the injecting force of the heart were taken off by sedative treatment) they would not have had power to close; for when introduced into the circulation, it reaches the capillaries, which cannot be otherwise come at, and gives them tone to contract, analogous to the effect of an astringent applied to external sores. *Liquor arsenicalis*, nitrate of silver, sulphate of copper, mezereon, *dulcamara*, *colchicum*, &c., have a similar action; some of which are more applicable than others to particular cases.

This is also the rationale of what is called stimulating the secretions of internal organs. When their capillaries are weak, they have their tone restored by mercury, and the secretions are thus renewed; but it should not be forgotten that mercury, like some other tonics, in excess becomes poisonous, and may cause inflammation in other parts, as it does in the gums, on the principle adduced before, that one degree of contraction of the capillaries is necessary to reduce inflammation, while a still further degree will stop nutrition, and bring on wasting and disease; as syphilis is sometimes starved out at the expense of the constitution. Iodine, arsenic, and sulphate of copper occasionally produce ptyalism, and are otherwise analogous to mercury in their actions. Rheumatic inflammation in the fibrous and other tissues, the capillaries of which are very minute, often cannot be

cured by common depletory antiphlogistic means, as above mentioned ; but yields to colchicum, mercury, antimony, bark, &c., introduced into the capillaries through the circulation.

The tonic property is frequently combined with astringency ; but that they are not identical is evident from quinine, which contains no tannin, and cinchona bark, which contains very little, being highly tonic ; while tannin, oak bark, and catechu, are very slightly so. Still, however, we are at a loss to conceive any other than an astringent effect produced primarily by the tonic substances. All the metallic salts have, more or less, an astringent effect on the capillaries ; and to this influence I have attributed the universal efficacy of antimony as an antiphlogistic remedy, it being doubly valuable in acute cases, from its sedative effects on the pulse, combined with its locally tonic or astringent effects on the capillaries of inflamed or congested parts, as well as on those of all the secreting structures. Hence, too, its efficacy, in small repeated doses, in cases where there is great depression of the system, by its relieving the relaxation of the capillaries by which the depression is caused. Nay, more, we can manage to insure its full antiphlogistic effects without the inconvenience of nausea, by combining it with a little opiate and aromatic.

From the analogy of the efficacy of tonic medicine in curing chronic inflammations and neuralgic diseases, we may, I think, infer, that the latter depend on a chronic inflammatory state of the nerves themselves, though, from their capilla-

ries being so fine, it may prove difficult to detect that state.

As I set out with observing, it may be seen that tonics must always be considered in reference to disease : thus, different substances which, considered physiologically, or in health, belong to opposite classes, become, in disease, tonics. Even narcotics frequently become most usefully tonic ; as, for instance, when rest is prevented by the morbid sensibility of a sore which cannot heal, banishing “ kind nature’s sweet restorer, balmy sleep ;” stimulants in this case cannot procure repose nor give strength ; sedatives are not required, or rather are contra-indicated ; sometimes even one dose of a narcotic, by procuring a good night’s rest, will renew the restorative energy of the system ; but a single dose will not, in general, suffice. The value of repeated small doses of opium in chronic periosteal diseases, and what are called irritable sores, as exemplified in Pott’s treatment of gangræna senilis, is well known to surgeons ; and also to physicians in chronic affections of the mucous membranes, &c. Its applicability to irritable sores shews that the efficacy lies in the narcotic quality, though it is commonly attributed to a stimulant one even by those surgeons who know how much more they can effect, in such cases, by administering from a quarter of a grain to a grain of opium twice or three times in the twenty-four hours, than by giving wine, spirits, or beer, which are incomparably more stimulant. On the other hand, when the constitutional state is that of debility, rather than irritability (morbid sensibility), as in strumous and cer-

tain other cases, fermented liquors are of much more value than opium. There is nothing more efficacious than opium in catarrh; but, from the idea of its being stimulating, or heating, which it appeared to be chiefly where it confined the bowels, we find that all the experienced practitioners formerly combined it with small quantities of jalap, ipecacuanha, &c. in catarrhal affections.

I take this opportunity of correcting the common error with respect to opium. It will be much better to get a clear notion of the nature of remedies, and to call them by their right names; as, for instance, not to denominate opium either stimulant, sedative, or tonic, but to understand its use by its true name of narcotic. Its beneficial effect arises from its *narcotic property* diminishing that *morbid sensibility* which prevents sleep, digestion, and other restorative processes: and this is the PRINCIPLE to go upon in the administration of narcotics. The choice of them has already been explained, as to opium, hyoscyamus, morphia, tincture of opium, conium, Dover's powder, &c. Sir Astley Cooper recommends opium to be given when mercury is employed, which is a judicious precaution, as the latter has a tendency to produce morbid sensibility. Mr. Skey, in a useful little practical work lately published on the treatment of ulcers, has brought forward evidence which supports my opinion of the explanation of the utility of opium; though he seems to think the benefit is owing to a stimulant property of the opium upon the capillaries. Opium is invaluable to the accoucheur, to allay the morbid sensibility which occurs after par-

turition. Some use it in the puerperal state as a "cordial," some as a "sedative," some to "bring on" action, some to "allay" it; as, for instance, to assist labour when it flags; or, on the contrary, to check inordinate uterine contractions. If the midwifery practitioner will recollect that the object is to *allay morbid sensibility*, he will be certain in its application; whether he be obliged to use the narcotic with stimulants on the one hand, or with depletion and sedatives on the other.

This distinction of *stimulants*, *sedatives*, *narcotics*, and *tonics*, will assist us in understanding the operation of remedies in various diseases, recollecting that the medicines which are used as purgatives and emetics, such as salts, senna, jalap, tartar emetic, calomel, ipecacuanha, &c., are sedative in their operation. The effect of tartar emetic is sometimes intended to be merely local, for the purpose of emptying the stomach, and then it is given in a full dose; but it will perhaps surprise some to learn that tartar emetic, as a general sedative remedy, will allay sickness. For example, inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines is accompanied by nausea and sickness, and inflammation of the lungs produces cough: both these inflammations may be checked, even without bleeding sometimes, by frequently repeated small doses of tartar emetic, which are by some called febrifuge: and thus tartar emetic stops vomiting or cough.

We see that the action of medicinal agents becomes most opposite when the proportional quantities are varied, and according to the state of disease which may exist; hence it requires great

attention to separate the causes of phenomena, and duly estimate them. The whole practice of the healing art is full of apparent contradictions: for instance, opium makes the pulse hard or soft, promotes and takes away appetite; the same means appear in one instance stimulant, in another sedative; venesection sometimes makes the pulse smaller, sometimes fuller. But when we speak of remedies as stimulant, sedative, narcotic, tonic, and their compounds, we are to consider their moderate action whilst they are working on the natural powers of the organs, and not their exaggerated or poisonous effects when they begin to excite either inflammation or morbid sensibility. Thus, brandy or wine, in moderate quantity, acts as a stimulant upon the nerves of the stomach and other parts in a healthy state; in too great quantity, there is a noxious effect on the organ, its natural susceptibilities being perverted, and a sedative effect communicated to the nerves of the heart, &c., so that a person intoxicated will become sick, with cold sweat and a weak pulse, though wine and brandy are stimulants. Again, the state of disease causes deception as to the nature of an agent: for in inflammation, which makes the pulse weak from its severity, brandy, by increasing the inflammation, would weaken it still more; whilst sometimes, on the other hand, sedatives, as digitalis, antimony, and bleeding, as has already been explained, raise the pulse by relieving the inflammation.

Tonics, even mild ones, as bark and iron, by oppressing the stomach, like too much food, will excite nausea; others, in excess, as arsenic, will

occasion morbid sensibility and inflammation, which appears to confirm the opinions of Broussais. Nevertheless, the full tonic or sedative effects of medicines may be produced without risk, and with benefit, if administered in proper quantities, and not misused; though he anathematise arsenic, salts, senna, tartar emetic, &c. Praised be Rasori and his followers, Tommasini and the rest, who have given us myriads of proofs of this, if our British practice did not afford a sufficiency. Sulphuric, nitric, and oxalic acids, which, in their concentrated state, like arsenic, produce fatal inflammation, when sufficiently diluted with water, not only afford an agreeable and refreshing beverage, but are efficient in allaying inflammation.

The varieties of inflammation may be understood by always recollecting that the heart is acting against the arteries, and that both heart and arteries derive their power from the nerves. Thus, inflammation may go on when the pulse is very weak, and when the heart is acting much more feebly than natural; but the arteries being even weaker in proportion, give way, as we see in broken-down constitutions, where inflammation is cured by stimulants, which raise the pulse, but which, at the same time, by improving the appetite and digestion, nourish and increase the energy of the nervous system, so as to communicate to the capillaries a tone or power to resume their healthy action, more than equivalent to the increased action of the heart. In some cases, by good food and tonics, such as bark, without stimulants, we communicate an energy to the nervous system, which restores

the healthy action of the capillary arteries; and it is the discrimination of cases where stimulants are admissible with tonics, or where tonics should be accompanied by evacuants, that constitutes skill in conducting the constitutional treatment of many diseases. Thus by a reference to the relative state of action of the heart and arteries, bearing in mind their dependence upon the nervous system, we can understand how tonics are useful in many instances, by communicating power to the capillary arteries through the nerves, where stimulants would be injurious, from their increasing the heart's action. Tonics are likewise beneficial, in conjunction with abstraction of blood and evacuant remedies, in keeping up the energy of the nervous system, so as to restore the proper action of the capillaries.

To beginners, the treatment of inflammation in different ways must appear contradictory; even to practitioners of experience, it is sometimes difficult; but it will be found rational and consistent, by those who have a clear conception of the *modus operandi* of medicines, by a reference to the various states, both of the parts and of the constitution, which exist under the name of inflammation.

Let us now examine some of the more common phenomena of inflammatory affections, and the remedies applicable, in order to see how far we are borne out in the preceding statements, beginning with the simplest forms, unconnected with what is called constitutional disturbance, and proceeding to the more aggravated and serious forms of disease. As an instance, let us take the eye, or some part of

the skin, subjected to a blow, or a stream of cold air; or heat applied to the skin, so as to give pain and excite redness, without blistering; or the effect of a mustard poultice, or of a cantharides plaster taken off before the blister has time to rise, having only produced redness: here, upon visible parts, the first and slightest degree of inflammation arises, that is, a blush of redness, with a degree of tumefaction of the vessels, and pain, or a sensation of heat or itching in the parts. Or let us suppose a mucous membrane slightly injured, as that of the nose or windpipe, by sudden alternation of temperature, &c. producing either painful dryness, or an increased flow of mucus, with uneasiness or itching, which is the slightest degree of inflammation in those parts, commonly called catarrh; or the mucous membrane of the intestines injured by bad food, as sour fruit or sour wine, which produces a flow of mucous fluid, with uneasiness or griping, called diarrhœa.

I must here explain the apparently contradictory assertion, that the distended state of the capillaries at one time produces an increased flow of mucus, and at another causes dryness. In their healthy state, the mucous membranes are scarcely moistened by their vessels, any more than the serous—they are merely kept lubricated and soft; but the effect produced by the first degree of inflammation of the mucous surfaces is, by the relaxation of the exhalent capillaries, a more rapid extrication of the fluid part of the blood, a thinner saline serous (coryzal) fluid, instead of

bland mucus ; but as inflammation subsides, the vessels, recontracting, secrete a mild scanty mucus again : these are the well-known phenomena of that slight degree of inflammation, catarrh, which occurs in cold weather, and lasts often only a few hours. The effect produced by a higher degree of inflammation of the mucous surface, is dryness — a stoppage of secretion (as explained p. 32 et seq.), which state Laennec denominates “*dry stage of catarrh*” (dry flux!), but for which the old term *bronchitis* is the correct one. It seems that he could not reconcile the use of the word *bronchitis* with the stimulant treatment useful in many cases of catarrh, and which he extends even to some cases of bronchitis ; for though he has mentioned the use of stimulants empirically, he has by no means explained it, nor given any satisfactory rules to guide in the selection of stimulants or sedatives in the “dry stage of catarrh,” which has even led some to doubt whether catarrh be inflammation. It should be understood that the dry stage is bronchitis ; and while it lasts, stimulants should be withheld, inasmuch as a stage higher than that would commence disorganisation and mischief ; but when there is merely catarrh, the stimulants, by increasing nervous energy, will, on the principle laid down, do more good to the capillaries than any increase of the heart’s action could harm them. Thus stimulants with opium will usually cure catarrh, and frequently augment bronchitis.

We cannot have a better opportunity than this of explaining the rule for diet ; and it will

be seen that some old popular sayings, resulting from experience, are based on truth — *e. g.* “feed a cold, and starve a fever.” It will be found, generally speaking, that it is not necessary to *starve* a fever; one of the first evidences of fever, however slight, being want of appetite (anorexia). Natural instincts are too often thwarted; it is much too common to put patients empirically on low diet; and patients of the higher classes, the better educated, very often put themselves on low diet unnecessarily. How frequently have I been consulted by persons for aggravated catarrh, which they said was “getting worse and worse,” though they had been “living low, taking slops, and no wine,” and, perhaps, opening medicine! The nerves and capillaries, which would have recovered their tone under the ordinary diet, were thus kept debilitated by the unnecessary sedative treatment.

The cases just described are curable in a few hours by animal food, a glass of wine or other fermented liquor, and a dose or two of any opiate, unless, perhaps, the outraged stomach have lost its appetite, in which case a few days’ tonic treatment will be required to undo the mischief. Thus, so far as we may take natural instinct for a guide, we may assert, that when a patient *can* eat, he may be allowed to do so; for, if he have even a slight degree of fever, he *cannot* eat. This will also direct us in the use of wine, &c.; the loss of appetite, shewing feverishness, requires the withholding of stimulants, except that sometimes, in chronic cases and convalescence, delicate persons

require a little stimulus to the stomach to induce them to begin to take food. Again ; so long as the appetite continues good, fermented liquors may be used ; but as no rule is without exceptions, so there are of course many both medical and surgical cases of inflammation of important organs, in which, though the appetite have not yet failed, it is necessary to forbid stimulants.

These instances of simple local disease depend upon one morbid change, viz. an enlarged state of the minute capillaries of the part, from their tone being diminished, either from the vessels themselves being injured, as by a blow, or by their nerves suffering injury from excess of cold or heat, or acrid matter applied to them.

In the examples given, the parts will generally recover of themselves gradually, the vessels contracting to their natural size ; or, if they do not, mere local means will be sufficient to restore them to a healthy state, such as the application of cold and astringent lotions, with abstraction of blood by leeches, to unload the vessels ; warm stimulating liquids or astringents internally, warm fomentations externally, acting through the medium of the nerves ; and thus either the inflammation is cured, or it subsides without remedies, by what is called resolution.

To the examples hitherto given of simple local inflammation, no constitutional symptoms have been added. The nervous system, the brain, spinal cord, and ganglionic nerve, are not sympathetically affected ; the heart's action, as measured by the pulse, is unaltered ; the digestive system is unim-

paired ; the appetite, and the functions of the intestines and kidneys, go on as before.

As a second case, let us investigate a greater degree of local injury, where the minute arteries have suffered so much that they cannot recover of themselves, nor by the aid of mere local applications. Here the first symptoms of constitutional disturbance arise, viz. restlessness, or a general sense of uneasiness, and increased action of the heart ; shewing that the nervous system is partaking of the morbid sensibility of the nerves of the inflamed part, and that the heart is becoming more excited by its ordinary stimulus, from its nerves being more susceptible. A very common effect of the sympathy of the nervous system in this stage is a diminution of sleep, which is sometimes attributed to pain, but which really depends more on the degree to which the nervous system is affected ; for persons will sleep at one time with much more severe pain than what will at another banish rest. In the present instance, however, in addition to the local disease, which exists as in the first case, the most marked symptom is increased force in the pulse ; and as this increase of force in the injecting action of the heart tends to keep up and aggravate the disease, it is necessary to diminish its action, and guard against renewal. To diminish the *vis à tergo*, we may either take blood by venesection ; or, by putting on a greater number of leeches than in the former case, we may lower the pulse at the same time that we relieve local fulness : having thus lowered the pulse, we are to avoid what will

raise it again; and as exercise and generous diet do this, rest and low diet are essential parts of the anti-inflammatory, or antiphlogistic treatment. In addition to rest and low diet, we have other means of lowering the pulse besides abstraction of blood; that is to say, by sedatives, and by means of drugs of the emetic and purgative kind, both of which, by diminishing the action of the nervous system, have a tendency to produce temporary faintness and weak pulse, and which sedative effect constitutes their utility in inflammatory disease, much more than the mere emptying of the stomach and bowels: and for this reason antimonials, neutral salts, &c. are given in frequent small doses, which do not cause vomiting or purging, under circumstances where we wish neither to take away blood, nor to exhibit cathartics or emetics in full doses. Digitalis has a power of controlling the action of the heart; but though it has its advantages, its influence is not so certain and manageable as to make it a substitute for blood-letting, the relief from which is usually instantaneous; whereas some hours at least are necessary for digitalis to produce its effect; and when it begins to lower the pulse, if rapidly introduced into the system, it must then be closely watched, lest it produce too great depression: so that, in acute diseases, digitalis may assist, but cannot generally supersede blood-letting; while, on the other hand, it is of the greatest use when blood cannot be spared.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of *sedatives diminishing the drowsiness* of plethora, it is nevertheless true that *digitalis will procure sleep*

where excitement and wakefulness have been kept up by inflammation of the brain, congestion of the lungs, &c., with a full hard pulse, as we often feel with hypertrophy, &c. of the heart, and which hardness must be combated by digitalis, after bleeding, &c. The defect of the heart being organic (structural), no amount of bleeding could remove it; but it may be relieved by digitalis, &c. without profuse expenditure of blood.

It is needless, however, for me to multiply examples: the student must apply the rules at the bed-side; and the memory of any man of experience who reads this will supply him with illustrations: but this organic cause of hard pulse is worth mentioning, as it is a source of embarrassment to young practitioners.

This affords another instance of remedies belonging to a certain class acting, under peculiar circumstances, after the manner of those of a different class; for though venesection and digitalis each procure sleep by their sedative influence of lowering the force of the circulation, as described, neither of them are narcotics.

Hydrocyanic acid is a valuable sedative narcotic, in such cases as whooping-cough, phrenitis, &c. It may be used as a sedative when digitalis disagrees with the stomach, &c.; thus I have sometimes relieved the excessive action in hypertrophy of the heart by hydrocyanic acid, and at the same time improved the digestion by it, when I had been obliged to forego the digitalis, on account of its producing nausea and cardialgia, although it had reduced the pulsation. Hydrocyanic acid is a

useful remedy for that dyspepsia which is caused by hyperæmia of the *primæ viæ* : and I may here observe, that if more attention were paid to discover the proximate cause of the individual cases of dyspepsia, the disease would not be found so difficult to cure.

In the first and second cases, or degrees of inflammation hitherto considered, we have had the same structures under consideration, as the subjects of local disease produced by injury of some kind, viz. the eye, the skin, the membranes of the chest, or abdomen, &c., as subjects of slight ophthalmia, erysipelas, bronchitis, catarrh, and diarrhoea, but curable before having gone the length of producing what is called constitutional disturbance, except raising the pulse ; and but few remedial agents have been mentioned, nothing having been said of blisters and other counter-irritants, or the warm bath, &c., but merely what is judged sufficient for a brief illustration of our subject.

The raising of the pulse we have traced to morbid sensibility propagated from an inflamed part. Before proceeding farther, it is necessary to consider more particularly that morbid state of the nerves, whether partial or general, to which the word "irritation" has been usually applied, but for which I have adopted the term MORBID SENSIBILITY. By morbid sensibility is meant that state of the nerves or central organs which renders them more susceptible to impressions than natural. And in order to explain the occurrence of morbid sensibility in its various forms in different organs, we must assume that the nerves of proper sensation,

the organic, and the incident filaments, as anatomically demonstrated by Grainger, in support of the truth of the reflex theory, may all be affected with morbid sensibility in the periphery, or any part of their course.

It was mentioned (p. 19) that *sensibility* is a characteristic property of nerve, and that there is no such thing as the "organic sensibility" of Bichât independent of the nerves. If, therefore, certain diseased states, unaccompanied by pain, termed "irritation" (which term can properly be applied only to whatever is the *cause* of the morbid sensibility), exist in a part of which the spinal cord takes cognizance, and which are indicated by subsequent production of abnormal muscular contractions, &c. in distant parts of the body, it follows that the spinal cord has *become sensible* of that diseased state, that is, has participated in the morbid sensibility, although the *brain* has not been informed of it; and therefore, as I know no other term than morbid *sensibility* (*susceptibility* to impression, *impressibility*,) equally intelligible and applicable to designate the morbid *state* of the brain, of the spinal cord, or of the sensitive, organic, or incident nerves, which has been miscalled "irritation," I do not hesitate to employ it.

If the nerves of *sensation* be rendered morbidly sensitive, pain is produced by common occurrences which ought not to affect them, such as pressure either from external things, or even of the surrounding parts. This morbid sensibility of nerves of *sensation* is not always confined to the nerves of the inflamed part, but often spreads to the

branches of nerves which communicate with them *directly*, or through the nervous centres, thereby producing *sympathetic* morbid sensibility, and pain or tenderness on pressure, &c. It appears to be opposed to our knowledge of the anatomy of the arrangement of the nervous fibrils (of which there is no anastomosis as in the arteries, &c., but merely a juxta-position of cylindrical or varicose tubes, as the pipes of an organ), as well as contrary to the laws which regulate the transmission of impressions, (which is generally considered to be only *centripetal* in the sensitive nerves, *i. e.* from the periphery of the body and various internal surfaces and parts *to* the brain),—to assert that sympathetic pains are produced by any influence spreading or being communicated directly from one branch of a nerve of sensation to other branches of the same nerve, or to different nerves in the same neighbourhood. Nevertheless, our experience in the observation of disease appears to indicate that this does actually take place; for instance, sometimes disease of one tooth, irritating or disturbing the state of one filament of the superior maxillary nerve, induces pain, not merely in some other, or all the dental nerves, and the cutaneous twigs of the cheek of the same side, but also in the corresponding frontal branch of the fifth,—as from tooth-ache, tenderness on pressure is felt in the temple; and, what is still more extraordinary, pain in the dental branches of the opposite side of the jaw, or even of the inferior maxilla.

All these morbid sympathies take place *without inflammation* being communicated to the sympa-

thising part, although sometimes the inflammation spreads: as the cheek will swell and inflame from the tooth-ache; the inguinal glands from the urethra being inflamed, &c.

True indisputably as the axiom in physiology is, that each filament of a sensitive nerve preserves its individuality throughout, and that its peripheral extremity corresponds to a particular part of the cerebrum, which it painfully or pleasurably affects whenever it is impressed,—as any given wire of a piano, or the air in the pipe of an organ, is set into vibration when the particular key it responds to is touched,—it still appears incontrovertible, that the mass of filaments in a nerve, or nerves, which arise in the central organ near to one another, or even in those not neighbours at their origin, are influenced, to a certain extent, by one another in some mysterious manner. I am of opinion that the diseased state of the nerve is communicated to that part of the brain where it arises; and this morbid state, spreading to the root of another nerve, whether near or distant, causes pain to the individual, which though felt *in* the brain, is referred of course by him to the part in which the last-mentioned nerve ramifies (as pain is referred to a paralytic hand, which is caused by lesion in the brain at the root of the nerves of the hand). This is illustrated by what we have said of the concomitant affections of the different nerves of the trigeminus. In like manner, certain impressions received by the spinal marrow affect certain motor filaments, producing involuntary muscular contractions.

Sometimes the part in which the *morbid sensibility* primarily exists may not even be in pain, and the irradiations or transfers of morbid sensibility take place in such cases from parts supplied chiefly by the sympathetic nerve, to parts in which ramify the cerebro-spinal nerves, as in uterine affections we have tenderness on pressure over the abdomen; or in disease of the liver, pain about the right shoulder. Here the morbid sensibility can only have been reflected *viâ* the spinal marrow and brain; or, as I have explained in the case of the nerves of the trigeminus, or of a paralysed hand, it may not have been reflected at all, but produced the sensation by implicating merely the roots of nerves.

If the morbid sensibility be propagated from an organ supplied by the sympathetic to a viscus dependent upon the same nerve, the explanation of the transfer has been considered at all times easy, owing to the erratic course and connexion between every part of that nerve.

Again; the participation of a viscus supplied by the ganglionic system, as the heart, in the morbid sensibility (with or without pain), affecting a part supplied by a cerebro-spinal nerve, as the hand, the foot, &c., can only arise from the disturbance being conveyed to the brain or spinal cord either by the sentient, organic, or incident filaments (if these latter really exist as independent filaments), and from thence reflected to the heart, whereby the pulse is quickened in the progress of inflammatory or other diseases, unless indeed the propagation of morbid sensibility in such instances

depend solely upon the universal distribution of the organic or ganglionic system of nerves; in which case we do not require the aid of a separate set of filaments (incident), or the route of the spinal cord, to explain the difficulty.

I agree, however, with Müller, in his opinion that the *sympathetic* nerve, with respect to the sympathies, explains nothing; and that, as the *ganglionic nerve, viewed apart from the sensitive and motor twigs* which accompany it in its wanderings, it has nothing to do with sensation or muscular action; and that it is only the nerve of vegetative or organic life, presiding over the functions of nutrition, secretion, &c. performed by the capillaries (which he expresses by the words “*chemische Processe*” and “*Stoffwechsel*”—*Handbuch*, p. 648 et seq.)—that it is, in fact, *the true nerve of the capillaries*. It remains to be investigated as to how far the true ganglionic nerve depends upon the ganglia as its source, and for the constant gradual (galvanoid) action which it keeps up in the capillaries in every part of the frame, and whether there be not communications in it throughout equivalent to the anastomoses of arteries, unlike the cerebro-spinal nerves.

The opinion of Müller, that the ganglions are the source of the nervous influence of this nerve, and that it has intermixed with it throughout sensitive and motor filaments from the cerebro-spinal nerves, just as it gives also twigs from itself to accompany them, appears to be corroborated by the microscopical observations of Ehrenberg and others.

Whether the numerous phenomena of disease

and functions of health, which have been pointed out by Hall and Müller as "reflex functions," do really depend upon the existence of distinct orders of filaments, described by Hall—"excitor and reflex filaments"—must be confirmed or disproved by succeeding anatomists.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of the dissemination of morbid sensibility from the brain and spinal cord, (after it has been propagated to them from any part of the body, or has arisen from derangement of those central organs themselves,) it is but an indication by the nerves of its existence there, at their roots; as we cannot suppose the nervous centres to be in a state of morbid sensibility without some of the nerves informing us of it: the sensitive nerves by pain; the organic by excited or disturbed function of the organs supplied by these peculiar nerves; and the motor by partial or general inordinate muscular action. In other words, when the pulse is quickened, it may not be the heart itself which is affected, but merely the spinal cord, and the roots of the nerves which go thence to the heart.

Enough, however, has been here stated to account for the symptoms both of pain* and inor-

* The well-known fact, that years after an amputation of the leg, there is a false idea of pain felt in the toes, from morbid sensibility in the nerves in the stump, illustrates this still more strongly, as the apparently sympathising organ does not even exist.

The dependence of pain on disease at the root of a nerve is too often overlooked, and pains of the extremities treated as rheumatism or neuralgia of the part, which are caused by disease of the brain or spinal cord, as subsequently evinced by paralysis taking place.

dinate action taking place sympathetically, without the sympathising organ being diseased ; as we see, for instance, occur with the colon and heart in hysteria and dyspepsia ; with the stomach in nephritis, hepatitis, &c. ; with the calf of the leg in diarrhœa ; and in numerous other instances familiar to all practitioners, and in which, if recent, we apply the remedies to the primarily affected organ ; whereas in old cases, where the spinal cord has actually become diseased secondarily, we are obliged to apply remedies (leeches, counter-irritants, &c.) over the vertebræ. In many consultations I have heard discussions whether, in cases of distal pains and visceral disturbances, which had indisputably originated from the uterus, the malady at that period were in the spine or not ; the tenderness on pressure, and on striking the vertebræ, shewed plainly enough that the spinal cord was physically affected, although at first it had been only sympathetically, *i. e.* as to function. In these cases the symptoms, or sympathies, arising from disease of the spinal cord itself have been removed by applications to the spine ; but if care have not been taken to cure the latent and deceptive disease of the uterus, the morbid sympathies have soon returned, unless, as sometimes occurred, the treatment adopted cured both spinal cord and uterus simultaneously.

The existence of at least three sets of nervous filaments—motor, sensitive, and organic—accounts for the nutrition going on by the capillaries in a limb which is paralysed as to sensation or motion, or both ; and, on the other hand, another patholo-

gical proof (if proofs now-a-days were necessary) of the separate existence of motor and organic filaments is, that muscular action will be strong where the capillary organic action is weak in a part which is irritated or inflamed, as we may judge by the tormina and diarrhoea of inflamed intestines, and the vomiting in gastritis. In lumbago, which might seem to contradict this proof, voluntary action is suspended on account of the pain only—not from loss of power.

The action of muscles and of capillaries is produced by the influence of their nerves, but in a very different manner in each: the muscle is made to contract suddenly, analogous to the effect of a shock of electricity;* on the other hand, the contraction of the capillaries is constant, from a constant operation of their organic nerves, analogous to continued galvanic action. It is interesting to consider the effects of the irritation of reiterated shocks of electricity upon the nerves; namely, morbid sensibility, and then congestion or inflammation of the capillaries, caused by their being for intervals deprived of nervous influence, during which they give way to the *vis à tergo*.

From physiological and pathological observa-

* At p. 18 I used the term “discharged into them,” to suggest an intelligible analogy; it remains to be proved, however, whether, after the shock, the organ be left plus or minus—that is, whether the nervous apparatus has conducted something into or out of it: the decision will not affect the above explanation, as the rationale remains the same. Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstone’s application of science to useful purposes by the electro-galvanic telegraph, may perhaps help my readers to some analogies explanatory of sensation and voluntary muscular action.

tion we may deduce, that the nervous influence produces the three phenomena, muscular contraction (voluntary and involuntary), sensation, and capillary contraction. We have seen that some of these phenomena predominate alternately in different parts in the natural routine of life, and under the control of medicinal and other agents. We likewise uniformly see, that when *capillary action* is *stopped* or *diminished*, a simultaneous alteration in the state of the sensitive twigs which accompany the organic nerves of the capillaries is evinced by pain, soreness, itchiness, &c. Capillary action is stopped in two ways (besides by *mechanical*, *chemical*, or other *destructive* injury); viz. either by directly depriving the nerves, and consequently the capillaries, of influence, as by extra heat, or electricity, or capsicum, or cantharides, or such agents, called local stimulants, which expend it; or, on the other hand, by increasing capillary contraction by astringents, cold, &c. until it stops itself by excluding the blood. This second cessation of capillary action arises, not directly from the contraction arriving at its utmost; but inasmuch as the capillary action goes on only whilst there is blood or serum in the capillaries, we may infer that, when they have emptied themselves by contraction, the power of contracting also ceases. Excessive action, therefore, produces loss of power, and inflammation *may* result; consequently, after tenderness, which is the first step, we should have redness, distension, loss of power, and congestion. But if the constitution, &c. be in a good state, the temporary suspension of function of the capillaries does not necessarily produce inflamma-

tion, whether the suspension of function arise from the application of considerable heat, or a mustard poultice, &c., on the one hand, or from cold, on the other, as we may sometimes see the fingers white and dead, as it is called, from cold, and yet not subsequently inflame, though sometimes they do, producing chilblain. We can understand the *rationale* of all the modifications of sensations which arise—the gentle warmth accompanying blushing—the itching of diminished capillary action in the skin or other part, with congestion or commencing inflammation, increased to pain upon still farther diminution of capillary action; each degree depending upon the accompanying impression on the nerves of sensation.

A reference to the direct or sympathetic operation of the nerves upon the capillaries will guide the surgeon in the application of cold or heat, &c., and explain why cold occasionally does mischief, instead of putting back a tumour, when applied for that purpose. If inflammation exist, as after an accident, in a healthy person, or if the reparatory process be going on, the injecting force of the heart, though natural, being too great for the weakened state of the injured vessels of the part, cold usually gives relief, by constringing the vessels and diminishing the sensibility of the nerves. If, on the other hand, from the constitution being unsound, or from other causes, there be diminished vitality in the part, or a weak nervous system, warmth will generally relieve, by stimulating the weak nerves of the capillaries. Goulard is sometimes too sedative. Tincture of opium, combined with astring-

gents, is useful as a collyrium, in cases where belladonna would be too sedative. I have seen the latter prescribed in cases of deficient nervous energy, where, of course, it produced an increase of the debility, which was subsequently relieved by the more stimulant application. Local stimulants have an effect analogous to heat; for though in excess they expend the nervous influence too rapidly, so as to produce inflammation of a sound part, in moderation they are highly useful in some cases of local inflammation, where the nerves are languid; while general (diffusible) stimuli, which produce intoxication and raise the pulse, would be injurious; as we see exemplified in the effect of capsicum in quinsey and scarlatina, in which it is highly beneficial to the mucous membrane as a gargle, or swallowed, when wine would aggravate the accompanying fever, as well as the inflammation, by increasing the *vis à tergo*. This distinction is not in general sufficiently understood or acted upon, and is the reason why students cannot understand how cubeb pepper cures inflammatory affections, such as leucorrhœa, gonorrhœa, &c., in which the capillaries of the part are in a state of relaxation. From this misunderstanding, pepper is frequently forbidden as a condiment in various cases where it would be useful in promoting digestion, and preventing flatulence. In order to shew that pepper is not injurious in discharges, I had an artificial cubebs made (combining the terebinthinate and piperine properties), of two parts of juniper-berries and one part black pepper ground together, which I used with the same good effect as cubebs, and in-

duced some other physicians and surgeons to try it also. The beneficial result in several hundred cases was the same as when cubebs had been employed. One reason why pepper has been supposed inflammatory, is, that high living is so ; but that is not from the pepper which is employed in the made-dishes, but from the wine taken, and over-eating. It has been long known that Ward's paste, so celebrated for relieving the inflammation of hæmorrhoids, owes its efficiency to black pepper. Many are afraid to use cubebs in gonorrhœa ; many who do use it would start at the proposal to prescribe pepper. The quickest and best cure of the disease I have seen was one where the patient, through a mistake as to the verbal directions given, took cubebs in table instead of teaspoonsful, three times a-day, and thus consumed two ounces of cubebs, and was perfectly cured, in forty-eight hours. This was not a chronic case, or gleet, but a recent severe one, with ardor urinæ, &c. The prejudices of education make us start at novel facts ; but in public institutions, where there are opportunities of prescribing a remedy ten or twenty times per week for years, we can draw inferences which may be depended upon ; and when a host of facts are brought forward in evidence, credence is given to the general principles, which would not otherwise receive attention. Ol. terebinth. in doses of from three to ten drops, in mucilage or emulsion, is analogous to cubebs in its action ; and I used it for the same diseases, before cubebs was revived, like croton oil, from the old pharmacopœias. The ol. terebinthinæ sometimes irritates the kid-

neys ; and though this inconvenience may be overcome by combining some opiate with it, yet as the latter tends to confine the bowels, the cubebs, having rather a contrary effect, is preferable to the combination. Creasote much resembles ol. terebinth. in its action, and is even more antispasmodic than the terebinthinate essential oils, as we see by its efficacy in stopping hysterical vomiting, &c., of which there have been numerous cases published in the periodicals.

Blisters act upon the same principle as heat, electricity, sinapisms, capsicum, croton oil, acupuncture, &c. : they all appear to produce an increased influx of nervous influence to the part, whereby the capillaries in the neighbourhood acquire an additional power of contracting, so as to resist inflammation and inflammatory effusion. This we see, when they are employed, in bronchitis, rheumatism, erysipelas, the "housemaid's" swollen knee, &c. : in the last, it has been commonly said they promote absorption, whereas, in fact, they stop inflammatory effusion from the capillaries ; and as soon as this is effected, the absorbents carry off the fluid already effused.

We have evidence of morbid sensibility of the nervous system accompanying the cessation of capillary action, whenever a part, however minute, dies. In this instance, not merely the *function* of the nerves in the part is suspended, as above alluded to, but the *nerves themselves* die with their capillaries, and this consequent shock to the nervous system is evinced by chilliness and shivering. Shivering, called rigor, is a most constant accompaniment of

the formation of abscess, and has usually been attributed to the formation of pus; but it is the forerunner of suppuration—not depending upon it, but upon the death that precedes it; for the formation of pus is part of the process of reparation; though, if it be confined so that it cannot escape, and be not absorbed, it will by its pressure produce additional destruction.

The progress of ABSCESS is as follows: a portion of cellular tissue, gland, or other part inflamed, becomes disorganised and dies, accompanied by shivering; the process of reparation by granulation begins, but as the pus from the granulations cannot run off, as when upon the surface, it is collected, causing a tumour. If this pus be not absorbed as fast as it is secreted, distension takes place, and the pressure of the pus, in consequence of its fluid nature, will be greatest towards the point where there is the least resistance, viz. the nearest surface, modified by the bone and fascia in the parts. When the pressure towards the surface is so great as to stop the capillary action of the parts pressed upon, another layer of the soft parts dies. There is usually a renewal of shivering during this progress of the abscess to the surface, which is called pointing; and as the constitution sometimes suffers much from this repeated destruction of parts, it might be thought that it would be beneficial to anticipate the natural exit of the pus by making an opening; but the objection is, that if the pus be not allowed to make its own way, at least till it nearly reaches the surface (during which the floor of the abscess is, under

favourable circumstances, rising from the growth of granulations,) the healing will be a very tedious process, owing to the depth of the wound; though this lesser evil must be disregarded if the constitution be suffering from the renewal of rigors, &c., called hectic. Rigors, therefore, may be observed in a variety of cases of cessation of capillary action,—as when a spot of cellular tissue dies, which is always the case in the common boil (furunculus); and in carbuncle, which is but a gigantic boil, we may know when it is spreading or burrowing, by the patient experiencing a rigor, and on the following day it will be found that the margin has enlarged. These are the phenomena of abscess, of whatever size—whether a pustular pimple, a boil, a carbuncle, or a deep-seated abscess arising from various causes. In the commencement of erysipelas, in which there is a loss or cessation of capillary action, though the part does not die, there is shivering before any alteration of the skin is perceptible, of which, upon examination, the surface will thus early be found tender and painful, as in shingles (herpes zoster). That there is a certain destruction of the surface of the rete mucosum, is rendered probable by the subsequent separation of the cuticle.

There is no difference between PHLEGMONOUS and ERYSIPELATOUS *inflammation*: it is the same inflammation in both cases; the difference is in degree or situation, and depends on the state of the constitution. If there be no death of part, there will be no slough—no necessity for the supuration—but merely desquamation of cuticle, or even resolution. The stages from a slight erysipe-

latous blush to the most violent inflammation and sudden mortification are not differences, but degrees—exactly analogous to the action of fire, from a slight scorch to the actual cauterising which causes the death of the part instantly; the intermediate stages resembling the action of a moxa, which scorches more or less, as may be desired; producing, as it were, the erysipelatous inflammation, either slight, followed by desquamation, or stronger, with immediate effusion of serum or lymph, and separation of the cuticle; or, if further applied, causing a slough, as *erysipelas* sometimes becomes carbuncle, whereupon it is called *phlegmonous*; the two things which produce the sum of the phenomena being the injury and the constitution—great injury with little debility of constitution inducing the same result as less injury with greater debility. Thus we see the feeble Lascars brought into the hospital with limbs mortified by a degree of cold which the English bear with impunity. Again, inflammation, which would be erysipelatous and superficial in a moderately strong constitution, becomes carbunculous in a debilitated one. We also find that the various degrees of the same inflammation which arise on the backs of persons confined to bed are in proportion to the debility of the nervous system. In fine, I repeat, there is but one inflammation—loss of power in the capillaries—of all grades, from mere loss of tone to actual decomposition—melting away (p. 52). Take a steel spring, and subject it to a blow-pipe* heat; first, you destroy its elasticity, then it begins to give way

* Or the powerful agency of a galvanic apparatus.

and bend with its own weight, and lastly it melts : we have in each of these analogous cases a tissue and an agent, and we witness similar effects in both, from the slightest diminution of tone or tenacity to actual decomposition and fusion.

Although astringents, by contracting the capillaries, usually relieve inflamed parts, yet applied in excess they may cause morbid sensibility, evinced by pain, and increase instead of diminution of the inflammation. The administration of sedatives also, in excess, produces morbid sensibility ; as, from their taking off the injecting force by diminishing the action of the heart, like blood-letting, the capillaries in the organs, generally, will contract too much, and morbid sensibility result ; hence frequent contractions of the heart ; whilst at the same time, from the diminution of the circulation of blood (the appropriate stimulus), each contraction will be weaker. Thus blood-letting makes the pulse quicker but weaker ; so do digitalis and antimony under some circumstances ; but their effect on an *over-acting* heart is to make the pulse slower. The effect of a sedative or bleeding upon the *natural pulse* is to make it at first slower ; then, when morbid sensibility and debility come on, the pulse becomes quicker (flutters) ; and in animals bled to death, the morbid sensibility produces convulsions ; as occurs also from a poisonous quantity of digitalis, or hæmorrhage from a wound, or flooding in parturition.

Morbid sensibility of the stomach, produced in the same way, accounts for the nausea and vomiting

which follow bloodletting, or the administration of sedatives. The pain in the back or head produced by hæmorrhage, by the sedative operation of bleeding, or by whatever sedative operation produces great sickness, is caused by morbid sensibility from over-contraction of the capillaries, in consequence of deficient injection of arterial blood.

This will account for cathartics being assisted by emetics, and both by bleeding: the operation of a cathartic is sedative, producing local morbid sensibility, and consequently increased peristaltic motion; and if a little ipecacuanha or tartar emetic (which are also sedative) be added, the operation will be more certain. Bleeding has the same sedative effect, especially if there be hard pulse from inflammation; but, as mentioned in the previous page, does not alone produce morbid sensibility, until it reduces the pulse below par, though it co-operates with the medicines; and, on the other hand, if there be diarrhœa from inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines, bleeding will diminish the purging by diminishing inflammation; which explains the adage of Celsus, that bleeding relieves obstinate purging as well as obstinate costiveness.

But it must at the same time be remembered, that too great a degree of sedative operation on the intestines will produce stronger contraction of the peristaltic muscles—so strong, in fact, as to close the tube by spasm, called colic, which we see result in the painter's colic from the sedative effect of white lead. An unripe apple, or other fruit, produces a similar local sedative impression on a part of the colon, so that pain (griping) and spas-

modic contraction result, by which the offending substance and fæces are prevented from passing. It is well known that purgatives and other sedative treatment will not cure colic; on the contrary, they increase the tormenting griping, with the misery of sickness in addition, when administered by those who think only of a "stoppage of the bowels,"* and purgatives to overcome it. Stimulants, with narcotics, such as the warm bath, and warm aromatic drink, with opium, especially in enema or suppository, will relax the colicky spasm of the intestine, and most likely produce an evacuation of the bowels; but if the latter does not occur, as soon as the spasm (of which pain is the evidence) has been perfectly quieted, a little castor oil will operate. Here, again, we have examples of the apparent contradictions which occur in medicine—bleeding both opening and quieting the bowels, allaying or inducing morbid sensibility, according to

* Whoever has read the older records of medicine must recollect the published cases of stoppages of the bowels which have commenced with mild colic, and which have been aggravated by colocynth, jalap, scammony, elaterium, calomel, quicksilver, &c. &c., until, when an almost fatal stage of collapse has come on, the half-dead intestine has at last relaxed; or sometimes the patient has died from inflammation and mortification of the intestine at the strictured part, the colicky spasms having been kept up by the irritation of the drugs. But since the treatment of the painter's and other colic has been understood, we do not meet with such cases. It is scarcely ever necessary to bleed patients in colic, unless where the case has lasted so long before application for medical assistance, that there are symptoms of incipient inflammation at the stricture, which is the chief danger in this disease; and one which seldom occurs, as above remarked, under the improved treatment of the present day.

circumstances. We see the peristaltic action, the office of which is to transmit the fæces, actually obstructing their passage, by being inordinately increased—purgatives adding to the obstinacy of constipation of the bowels—opium relaxing them : in short, the same morbid sensibility from sedatives producing the opposite effects of purging and constipation ; and yet that all these contradictions may be reconciled upon rational principles.

Morbid sensibility, as already mentioned, often exists, producing *sympathetic* pain in another part, though none is felt in the seat of inflammation, if that be not pressed or moved ; as in hysteria, and other morbid states of the uterus. Whilst the person is at rest, no pain is felt in the uterus, it being so situated as not to be annoyed, though its tender state is evinced by the slightest touch, or even by the pressure on the perinæum in sitting down. In many cases, certain nerves which communicate, whether through the central organs or otherwise, with those of the uterus, being implicated, the parts in which they ramify are rendered tender on pressure, or painful on motion. Thus the sensitive uterus being quiet and protected, its nerves are not disturbed, and no pain is felt in it, though, owing to the sympathetically affected nerves of the intestines being morbidly sensible to their contents and to the peristaltic motions, there are constant colicky pains. For the same reason, there are pains in the loins from the least movement, or in the hip, simulating sciatica, or producing apprehensions of hip-joint disease ; the parietes of the abdomen do not bear motion or the

slightest pressure, so that peritonitis is simulated. The morbid sensibility in the respiratory apparatus produces cough, and through the mechanical irritation of the latter, even spitting of blood, and thus occasions apprehension of consumption; and the motion of the heart causes pain in the left side, the most constant and tormenting of the painful sympathies of hysteria. The stomach also is morbidly sensitive in these cases,* as well as during utero-gestation, so as sometimes to be affected with pain after eating, sometimes nausea or sickness. In like manner, in some stages of inflammation of the liver, that organ lying quiet and protected, no pain is felt in it unless it be pressed upon; but the patient is annoyed through the morbid sensibility communicated to other parts, as, for instance, by sickness of stomach, pain of the shoulder, head, &c. Inflammation of the kidney produces sympathetic sickness, &c., in the same way; and inexperienced persons do not suspect, or cannot find out, which is the affected organ, when nausea or cardialgia is the most troublesome symptom. This will shew how most diseases disturb the stomach, and consequently the digestion; but in how few cases of indigestion is the stomach itself first in fault! though dyspepsia is a most convenient word, and the poor stomach is blamed for faults not its own. Nor is it clear that the digestive powers were primarily out of order because blue pill cured the

* I do not apply the term hysteria merely to those aggravated cases which are accompanied with fits, &c., which cannot be mistaken; but to those slighter cases also in which the derangement in the uterus is latent, although it induces urgent symptoms elsewhere.

disease which had produced sympathetic morbid sensibility of the stomach, nor that the action of the blue pill was particularly on it; for blue pill introduced into that receptacle will of course find its way into the circulation, and thus to whatever organ is diseased, which will account for the innumerable cases to which it is applicable.

As a third case or degree of disease, let us consider the local affections, such as inflammations of the eye, lungs, or bowels, &c., when they are either too great to yield to the remedies applied, or when they have been neglected, thus keeping up the morbid sensibility of the nervous system; so that, in addition to the increase of pulse, we have other evidence of disturbance in the functions of the nervous system, and in the digesting system, &c. through it. Hence, pains in the head, back, and limbs, with lassitude, or a feeling of weakness, shewing that the nerves of sensation and voluntary action are affected; alteration of temper; hurry of thought, not indeed amounting to delirium, yet enough to shew disturbance of the functions of the brain; want of sleep; wrong perceptions, as fancying that there is a disagreeable smell; chilliness; morbidly increased heat of the skin, with dryness, which shews want of tone from deficient nervous energy; for as long as the vessels of the skin are kept in order by the nerves, the secretion of insensible perspiration preserves it cool and soft. The digestive system is now also deranged, the sympathetic nerves partaking of the morbid sensibility, as well as the cerebral and spinal nerves, and of

course the organs supplied by them (p. 112, *et seq.*) ; there is loss of appetite, and imperfect secretions in the primæ viæ, causing thirst, frequently nausea ; and deranged function of the intestines — constipation, or diarrhœa. The kidneys also evince a loss of power, their secretion becoming dark, reddish, and scanty, as before explained (p. 35).

The combination of symptoms here enumerated constitutes what is called the *constitutional disturbance*, or SYMPTOMATIC FEVER (*pyrexia*), from local inflammation ; and we have traced them successively from the local injury to the constitutional affection : we have observed a part, which we have seen or known to be inflamed, deranging the functions of the brain and nervous system, and consequently the functions of the various organs—the skin, heart, stomach, bowels, kidneys, &c. The symptomatic inflammatory fever might be called *symptomatic synocha*. It is the same assemblage of symptoms which forms Cullen's definition of the *idiopathic* disease SYNOCHA, viz. heat much increased, pulse frequent and hard, urine red, the sensorial functions but little disturbed, and the power of voluntary motion diminished. The idiopathic synocha sets in, in Cullen's words, without primary (or preceding) local disease ; that is to say, the symptoms of lesion of the nervous system are not preceded by any hurt, or local inflammation, or pain, external or internal ; but the lesion of the nervous system in idiopathic fever is, in fact, the local disease. It is, in my opinion, the nervous system itself which, being injured, produces synocha, or idiopathic inflammatory fever ; as it arises in hot climates, and in this country in the

heat of summer, in labourers exposed to work under the heat of the sun ; or sometimes from the opposite cause of excessive cold, combined with deprivations, excesses, depressing passions, or other causes of injury to the nervous system, by infection or epidemic influence, as is the case in the synocha petechialis.*

The treatment in both these fevers, the idiopathic and the symptomatic, is the same, viz. bleeding by the lancet, leeches, or cupping ; low diet and rest ; attention to the bowels ; sedative antimonial, or other emetic or diaphoretic medicines ; and the use of local applications. If the inflammatory fever have arisen from an inflammation which has been brought on by a blow or other injury, as a fracture, or from an inflamed tumour

* In the year 1831, several cases of fever were published in the Lancet, with my clinical lectures, shewing the benefit of antiphlogistic treatment in fever. Besides some cases which corresponded exactly with Cullen's definition of typhus, there were others that were what many at that time called typhus, but which did not agree with that definition : they were cases of Synocha petechialis, which has been prevalent this year, 1838 ; and, indeed, it exists constantly more or less in London. I took the liberty of naming it *S. petechialis*, as the term " febris nova," by which Sydenham describes it, is too vague. From a discussion, however, which took place lately in one of our medical societies, it would seem to be still to some persons a " new fever," though the modification of symptoms is merely one of those changes in the constitution of an epidemic which have been so well and frequently described by Sydenham. In the numerous cases which occurred during the last year (1837) the " constitution of the epidemic" had changed, there being a greater preponderance of gastric than thoracic symptoms ; and I may also mention the coincidence, that the cases of influenza in the spring had less of the pulmonary or bronchial character than usual, and assumed in many instances a marked remittent type.

in the mamma or groin, or an inflamed arm and axilla, after a puncture of a finger,—local applications of leeches and poultices, or lotions, are employed; if the inflammation be in the chest or abdomen, in addition to general means we must use leeches, fomentation, blisters, poultices, &c. If the inflammation be in the integuments of the face and head, in form of erysipelas, lotions or other similar applications, and blisters, should be applied close to the part. If it be idiopathic synocha, still, along with general remedies, we should have recourse to local applications—cold lotions applied to the head, with leeches and blisters, &c., to relieve the inflamed brain or meninges. Sponging the skin with water, either warm or cold, also produces a sedative impression on a large proportion of the nervous system.

In the instances hitherto adduced the practice is straightforward, and the indications of cure evident: viz. to use local applications, to correct disordered functions, and to lower the force of the circulation, so as to diminish the current of the blood into the inflamed part, by blood-letting, sedatives,* &c. the necessity of which is agreed upon alike by those who look upon the throbbing of the arteries as an evidence of increased arterial action, and by those who, like myself, consider it only an evidence of increased action in the heart, and deny that there is increased arterial action in inflammation, whether the pulse be strong or weak. Slight pyrexia (feverishness)

* It must not be forgotten that the sedative medicines, salines, antimonials, mercurials, &c., also reach the inflamed capillaries themselves through the circulation (p. 65).

will arise from local causes, which must be treated without too much attention to the pyrexia, as general remedies would exhaust and weaken without affecting the local disease; for instance, from hæmorrhoids, teething, intestinal worms, hysteria* (chronic hysteritis).

We now come to consider the fourth stage, when, after the foregoing state has existed for some time, the power of the nervous system becomes exhausted by morbid sensibility, want of nutrition, &c., and when the heart, though still under the influence of sympathetic morbid sensibility, deriving less energy from the debilitated nervous system, and being also less nourished, has less power to contract, and really becomes weaker; the pulse, therefore, though still hard, is rendered weaker also. Sometimes the brain, from the same causes, passing into inflammation, or at least congestion, has its functions more impaired, and the thoughts become more confused, until actual stupor, or delirium, succeeds; and the pulse losing even its hardness, becomes soft and weak. The heart being now unable to empty itself, congestion in the lungs is produced,

* I consider the cause of hysterical symptoms to be chronic hysteritis, yet by no means frequently requiring the sedative antiphlogistic treatment: most commonly the tonic antiphlogistic, often the stimulant antiphlogistic (p. 99). The chronic hysteritis, producing hysteria, is often as slight, though not so transitory, as that which Hunter shewed to accompany conception, but which frequently lasts through pregnancy, more or less. From not referring to this source, the notions entertained of hysteria have been very vague. Dr. Addison's little work on this subject contains much valuable practical information.

augmented by their capillaries being also deficient in power; the blood therefore not being purified, causes still greater stupor, and the patient is said to be in a state of typhoid (stupid) or low fever; instances of which may be seen in local inflammations from disease or injury, as when there is inflammation in the chest or abdomen, or after wounds or operations, where the sympathetic fever becomes typhous (typhoid). But if the brain does not become inflamed or congested, the patient may die from mere exhaustion, with all the senses perfect, as in *hectic* fever.

Or, we may see a patient with symptomatic fever typhous (typhoid), without having had any previous strength of pulse, and with a cool skin, as from local injury; when, for instance, with the injury the nervous system has received a shock, as in the case of a severe accident, or of an operation. Thus, we may trace the progress from smaller injuries and their consequences to greater: a slight inflammation with morbid sensibility, as a single inflamed hæmorrhoid, produces shivering, and heat of the skin, *feverishness*, *pyrexia*; the spreading of this inflammation to a greater portion of the intestine producing symptomatic inflammatory *fever*; and a still further extension of the mischief, general inflammation of the bowels, will bring on *typhous fever*, with oppression of the sensorium.

Now, by a similar series of events, the synocha, or *idiopathic* inflammatory fever, may also become typhous, which is Cullen's synochus, a fever "beginning with synocha and ending with typhus."*

* It is a common error to think that strength of pulse *neces*

Cullen therefore divided unnecessarily, according as it might terminate, one fever into two. It is the "common fever" of this country, Sydenham's "new fever," the synocha, or *S. petechialis*, which, whether the petechiæ be visible or not, ought never to have been called synochus, much confusion having arisen from the use of this term.

We have *idiopathic* TYPHUS without any previous "synocha," and with the temperature, from the beginning, even below the natural standard; as when the brain and nervous system are poisoned by contagion, or by concentrated foul human effluvia, as in gaols, transport or slave ships, &c., either with or without predisposing circumstances of over-fatigue of body or mind. Is typhus and typhous fever inflammation of the substance, synocha inflammation of the investing membranes of the nervous system, analogous to the difference between inflammation of the substance and membranes of other organs, as between peripneumony (inflammation of the lungs), and pleurisy (inflammation of their membrane); enteritis (of the intestines), and peritonitis (of their membrane), &c. &c.? Inflammation

sarily exists in synocha. The term synocha does not even imply it, as its Greek signification is merely *continued*; neither has *τύφος* (*typhus*) any reference to the pulse, but merely to the sensorium. Hippocrates applied it to a stupid or comatose state, in which the patient stares without answering, like a person who is haughty or proud, which is the meaning of *τύφος*: the other possible derivation, *τύφω* or *τύφομαι*, having reference to a half-kindled smoking or smothered fire, which could only allude to the low temperature of low nervous or typhous fever, in opposition to the calor mordax of inflammatory or synocha fever.

tion of substance more completely interrupts the function of an organ, than that of the membranes, though inflammation of the membranes produces disturbance of action and pain. In typhus, we see the functions of the nervous system, thought, volition, sensation, &c. especially interrupted.

Typhus and typhous disease are generally considered more difficult to treat than synocha, the indications of cure more complicated, if not contradictory, and medical practitioners are more at variance in their mode of attempting to remove the symptoms. Here, however, as in the former instance, attention must be paid to the local disease; but, above all, in the idiopathic typhus, lotions to the head, to constrict and give tone to the vessels of the brain, and leeches to relieve the congestion, are the essential local applications, and the most unequivocal remedies in our power. Besides local applications, due attention must be paid to the alvine and renal secretions; but the most important question is, as to the administration of stimulants, or sedatives and depletion; and it is only by careful observation of actual disease at the bedside that we can arrive at the knowledge necessary to guide us.

Those (the Brunonians) who looked upon the typhous state as one of debility (which it really is), but considered *only* the effect which stimulants would have on the healthy frame, and that they are often useful and necessary in surgical and other cases, where there is much debility, resorted to wine and tincture of opium, in typhus fever, not considering that the disease always included

an inflamed or congested state of the brain and nervous system, and that though, in some instances, the stimulant might be borne with impunity, yet, that by increasing the action of the heart, the vessels of the head would be still more injected, independently of the specifically injurious effect of the stimulant on the capillaries of the cineritious substance. In fact, experience proves that cold to the head, with moderate saline and other sedative medicine, will cure typhus, or prevent the typhous state from occurring in synocha; whereas when wine, with or without opiates, is employed, the disease frequently proves fatal. I had one very useful opportunity of seeing the contrast of the different modes of practice during the fever which prevailed in Italy in 1817, the proportionate mortality being very much greater in an hospital where the stimulant practice prevailed, than in that under the direction of Aglietti, in Venice, who, I suppose out of compliment, called his manner of practice the English, consisting of "contra-stimulants" (sedative evacuations), and the application of cold water and free ventilation. But though the British may have commenced a similar practice at the same time, the adoption of sedative ("contra-stimulant") treatment in typhus was not introduced into Italy by them, but by Rasori; and that, too, in opposition to the stimulant Brunonian practice which he had learned in Britain.

We may understand the risk of stimulating a typhous patient by supposing, that when an important organ, such as the lungs or brain, is inflamed, or even congested, the weak pulse of the

typhous state of collapse, during peripneumonia or typhus, may be one of the provisions of nature to allow the parts to recover, as they would during the collapse of syncope produced by bleeding; and, of course, when so important an organ as the brain itself is diseased, we should be careful how we set the heart pumping more forcibly than necessary. Let us, however, not go into the opposite extreme, and allow the patient to die for want of a spoonful, or even a bottle of wine or brandy (for the quantity must be relative, depending on the effect), if there be real danger of sinking; and when the rallying point is gained, caution is necessary not to push them too far. There is languor and lassitude in all fevers, but the symptoms of sinking, requiring stimulants, are, fluttering, weak, soft pulse; cold sweat; lying on the back; respiration oppressed; involuntary dejections. Wine, on the other hand, will not agree whilst the pulse is hard or sharp, and the skin decidedly dry, even when there is subsultus tendinum and prostration. Ammonia should be tried before resorting to wine.*

* I have not mentioned ammonia as a part of the treatment of the Brunonians, though it was used by them along with wine and tincture of opium; because ammonia is *not*, like these, a diffusible stimulant. This may appear a bold assertion; in confirmation of it, however, I can adduce proofs. In the first place, ammonia is used empirically by the most able of the profession, in cases where they know from experience that they must not employ wine or tincture of opium. This alone shews that it is not really a diffusible stimulant—it is a local one; and as such, through the medium of the solar plexus, excites the heart momentarily, though not injuriously. Again, so far from being a diffusible stimulus, it immediately unites with animal acids, and then cir-

The functions of the primæ viæ are so uniformly disturbed in fever, whether symptomatic or idiopathic, as has been pointed out, that it is not surprising that Broussais, an accurate observer, should have fixed upon the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels as the seat of the immediate cause of idiopathic fever; but I think I have shewn, that fever is lesion of the nervous system — if commencing there, idiopathic; if induced there by inflammation of other organs, symptomatic. Some inflammations of the viscera arise during fever, and are very truly said to be produced by the fever; that is, the *organ having been pre-disposed*, when it is robbed of its due supply of nervous energy by the derangement of the functions of the nervous centres, its vessels fall into the congested or inflammatory state; and when the cerebral symptoms diminish, if not before, it is observed that some organ is affected. This is the case most frequently with the mucous membranes of the intestines and lungs in temperate climates, and with the intestines and liver in hot climates; so that it is a doubt with many whether the fever has brought on the hepatitis, or the hepatitis the fever; or whether the inflammation of the mucous membrane brings on the fever, or the fever the inflammation of the mucous membrane, as in acute dysentery. Sometimes the disease in the first in-

culates or is *diffused*, not as a stimulant, but as a *sedative* saline; so as to perform the double operation of a temporary local stimulant (p. 119) to the stomach and heart, and a sedative to inflamed capillaries elsewhere (p. 65), although the latter indication be not contemplated in its administration.

stance is the fever; but even then the brain has been rendered more susceptible of the exciting causes of fever by the previously debilitated state of the organs—the liver, the bowels, or the brain itself; and the moment the fever begins, the organ has its congested or inflammatory state increased, and so rendered evident, though it was latent previously.

From the very nature of FEVER, which I have described to be a disease essentially affecting the whole nervous system, it follows that the functions of the viscera must be disturbed; and though, as just pointed out, sometimes disease of one organ predominates, sometimes of another, yet *every organ* suffers more or less congestion in *every fever*, from the loss of nervous influence. Hence those who are advocates for fever being a something that pervades the whole system, say, you cannot refer it to any one fixed seat; and, on the other hand, those who have taken up the notion of fever being seated, some in one organ, some in another organ, seldom or never fail, in morbid examinations, to find proofs of their own opinions; for, as no organ escapes, that which is sought for will be found, whether the opinion lead to cerebritis, gastroenteritis, or pulmonic congestion, &c. &c. The temporary congestion of organs during the febrile state affords an explanation of the obstinacy of some agues: in bark, arsenic, &c., we have certain remedies for the poison of simple ague; but when cases are found to resist them, practitioners resort, one to the lancet, another to mercurials, a third to leeching the epigastrium, &c., with success. The cause

which prevents the ague from being cured is visceral disease, which may either have existed before the ague, or have arisen during its continuance. The ague and visceral disease, whether of bowels, liver, lungs, or spleen, &c., act reciprocally as cause and effect—the ague aggravating the visceral disease by causing congestion at each fit; the visceral disease, by keeping up morbid sensibility during the intermission between the paroxysms, prevents the nervous system from being cured by bark: but if by leeching, mercury, &c., the visceral disease be cured, then the bark stops the ague.

We can understand how an unjust prejudice against bark formerly arose, in consequence of finding that, after ague was cured, visceral disease remained, which was attributed to the bark “causing obstructions;” and it must have often been fortunate for a person suffering under a combination of visceral disease and ague, that, from the bark failing, recourse was had to mercurials, or to those remedies which cured the visceral disease, but which many called helping the bark. It is thus that arsenic often acts as equivalent to a union of bark and mercury; for arsenic, besides being a tonic to the nervous system, has the power of increasing the bile, and otherwise acting on the liver: it possesses also the power, like mercury, of curing chronic inflammations; and even farther resembles it in occasionally producing the inconvenience of salivation.

Considering disease, then, as depending on the conjoint affections of vessels and nerves, and knowing what agents will influence their actions, we

may in our practice always have a reason for the application of remedies, and be able to combat such cases as we have not before seen or heard of. Acute diseases are those in which the feverish or other constitutional symptoms are the most urgent, so as to threaten life. Chronic diseases prove fatal only when the gradual alteration of some organ undermines the constitution by interrupting some of the nutrient processes—as in decline, from disease of the mucous membrane of the intestines, or from slow disorganisation of the lungs, liver, &c.

Men who consider themselves opposed to each other in theory, coincide nevertheless in the essential points of practice; as Broussais, Rasori, Tommasini, Frank, Stieglitz, Hamilton, Armstrong, Clutterbuck, and others. The object being to diminish local inflammation, congestion, or by whatever name the local disease may be called, and to counteract the derangement in the organs of circulation and digestion, all agree upon the necessity of rest, diet, and unloading the lower intestines; I might perhaps say, that all agree upon the propriety of abstracting blood, either by leeches or otherwise: they differ as to the use of drugs. Broussais says that the others irritate the mucous membrane by emetics and cathartics, though he does not entirely neglect to empty the bowels by enemata; but as this mode of opening the bowels does not produce such a sedative controlling influence on the circulating system, &c., as the cathartic and emetic substances, he is obliged to abstract more blood by venesection or leeches. The others may object that this loss of the *pabulum vitæ* does more

harm than the drugs. One man treats fever by venesection, leeches, diet, and scarcely any medicines : another by abundance of them (calomel, &c.), with cold water externally applied, and perhaps little or no blood extracted. One man deprecates blisters, because he may have seen them applied by very unskilful practitioners, and put on in pairs in cases where the patient died in consequence of other causes ; but we almost all know that blisters are useful in very many cases. There are medical men in this country who appear to me almost to coincide with Broussais in his opinion as to medicines irritating the mucous membrane, and who object strongly to repeated doses of calomel and purgatives in febrile complaints, and say that emetics act on the principle of counter-irritation. It is interesting to observe how various writers confirm my opinion of emetics being sedatives, and the practice of the " new Italian school," which considers them to be contra-stimulants acting like venesection in controlling the circulation ; as Clutterbuck, for instance, says, that he " found emetics have a beneficial effect, before he knew the value of venesection in fever."

The state of low or typhus fever being in reality debility, it is difficult for the beginner to satisfy himself of the necessity, or even the safety, of using depleting sedative remedies : nevertheless, all who have experience (except the Brunonians) allow its expediency, in whatever way they may explain it ; and it is necessary to be as well assured as possible on this point. The student can more readily be

convinced of the necessity for depletion in a state of complete prostration produced by inflammation of the lungs or other organs; because he can understand the cause of that state to be, that the capillaries of the organ are overloaded, and that by lightening them their power of action may be restored. But the low fever being thought to have no fixed habitation, and being considered as a something pervading the system, the rationale of treatment is found not so evident. Fever pervades the frame, it is true, because the nervous system, which is its seat, pervades it. The phenomena of idiopathic fever shew that the nervous system is first implicated—debilitated by a morbid poison from the first: hence the necessity for unloading the debilitated congested capillaries of the nervous centres by sedative treatment (p. 65, l. 14, and p. 66, l. 4); in addition to this, as post-mortem examinations prove that there is uniformly some visceral inflammation in typhus, the expediency of an antiphlogistic treatment becomes more obvious.

Although the fevers produced by local inflammations, symptomatic fevers, closely resemble the idiopathic fevers produced by infectious effluvia, there is in the latter an immediate impression on the nervous system, caused by the morbid poison of the infection, independently of the inflamed or congested state of the capillaries of the nervous centres, which exists alike in both symptomatic and idiopathic fever. And though symptomatic inflammatory fever may resemble idiopathic inflammatory fever as much as the inflammatory eruption produced by tartar emetic resembles the idiopathic

eruption of small-pox, yet there is more lesion of the nervous system in idiopathic than in symptomatic fever: there is, as it were, some chemical or electric effect produced by the poison; and the duration of the violence of the fever appears to be in proportion to the power of the dose of poison received. We see that one morbid poison produces fever followed by small-pox eruption, another poison produces fever followed by the carbuncles and abscesses of plague; and that the severity of the disease is proportionate to the dose of the poison, allowing for the state of constitution; for there is mild plague, as well as mild small-pox, or mild Asiatic cholera; there being all degrees of those diseases, from that which kills in three or four hours, to that which never confines the patient to bed, but allows him, on the contrary, to attend to his business with a carbuncle, or inguinal or axillary abscess of plague, or a few spots of eruption of small-pox, or the diarrhoea of slight cholera. Continued fever, remittent fever, and ague, also differ in degree according to the strength and dose of the poison—from the mild ague, synocha, or typhus, to those severe cases which prove fatal in a few hours; from the mild agues and remittents of this country, to those of hot climates, which are fatal in the first, second, or third paroxysm. If the dose of poison has been too great, it will stop the machine, unless remedies can be applied to relieve the parts most oppressed, until the nervous system recovers sufficiently to renew or re-secrete that influence, the power of doing which is diminished by the poison, and without which it cannot impart energy to the organs.

One thing necessary to the recovery of the nervous system is arterial blood: to produce this of a good quality, digestion and free respiration are requisite; yet, in fever, from the very loss of power in the nerves, the process of digestion is imperfect, and the lungs become congested.

The digestion having been disturbed in the first instance, and the food which was in the bowels being thereby spoiled, it must be removed by purgatives, as it cannot furnish good nourishment, even if, from its undigested state, it be not a source of irritation: it is therefore of no use to supply other than light drink, until some renewal of energy takes place. And stimulants will not expedite this process; for in whatever way the cineritious tissue generates nervous influence, and supplies the medullary with it, it requires time for the operation, as during sleep: we know from experience that stimulating, except there be a state of inanition, only oppresses; but in fever it is acknowledged that the opposite state of the capillaries exists—plethora, active or passive. The lungs being congested, it is useful to take away some blood, by which means the remainder is better arterialised, and will thus more quickly restore the nervous system; besides that, in inflammatory fever, there is a direct indication of the necessity of bleeding, to relieve the inflamed parts, whether the brain itself or other viscera be the seat of the inflammation.

We have more difficulty in making evident the advantage of bleeding and sedative remedies in typhus fever, in which there is universal debility: the nervous system, digestion, secretion, circula-

tion, and respiration, being weak. But how different is the sudden functional debility in fever from that real debility of the frame induced by starvation, wasting disease, loss of blood from a wound, &c. ! Febrile debility is relative, in consequence of which the ordinary quantity of blood in the system becomes disproportionate and oppressive.

Under these circumstances, the object is to restore the nervous system to strength : stimulants, however, do not strengthen it, but rather, by temporary excitement, still farther exhaust it : it must be through a gradual supply of arterial blood that it will recover itself. Supposing even that the heart were still capable of being stimulated to increased action,—increased action only tends to overload the congested capillaries of the brain with blood which, from the congested and adynamic state of the lungs, has been less perfectly arterialised, as is evident from the lividity of the lips, dusky colour of the skin, &c.,—thus adding to the oppression of the nervous system, and rendering matters worse, so that the animal powers must begin to decline. But the heart is not always capable of being stimulated to increased action. In typhus the heart is really weak, from deficiency of nervous influence ; stimulants may increase its sensibility to the presence of the blood, causing it to make more, though inefficient, effort ; so that it struggles against an overload, and thus only becomes more exhausted. As stimulants do not give power, but only call forth that which exists, you may compare the entire system, and the

heart in particular, in typhus, to a tired horse in a loaded cart, coming to the foot of a hill, and unable to ascend it: the stimulus of the whip may make him struggle to the attempt, but if urged, he will at last sink; if, however, some of the load be taken off, he can ascend the hill; and if some of the load of blood be withdrawn, the pulse will rise, as is well known and admitted in its sunken state in severe inflammation of the lungs or bowels, but which is not so generally acknowledged in typhus, where bleeding is, however, sometimes resorted to, either on account of the fever itself, or some of the "complications" of local inflammation of the chest or abdomen.* But, again, if the horse, without being either stimulated by the whip or having his load lightened, be allowed to rest, he will be able to ascend; and thus often without either stimulating on the one hand, or venesection on the other, the heart will recover, and the pulse rise.

This leads to the explanation of the manner in which saline, antimonial, and other sedative medicines, and means, such as cold externally, and bleeding, are beneficial in fevers, both where the pulse is *too strong* and where it is *too weak and rapid*. In both cases, sedatives, by repressing the expenditure of nervous influence, cause the heart to struggle less, and take repose. At the same time, the action of the capillaries throughout the frame being increased, by the constringing pro-

* Much valuable information—the result not of theory, but of the well-earned knowledge of clinical observation—may be obtained from the work on fever by Dr. Southwood Smith.

perty* of the sedative circulated to them, the nervous system recovers power. Thus febrifuge sedatives diminish the coma of plethora which exists in typhus, and which results, not from over-power of the heart, but from weakness of the capillaries of the nervous centres; and it is thus that they become powerful allies of, or even substitutes for, bleeding, in cases and stages where bleeding is either not necessary, or contra-indicated.

* I have formerly spoken of the tonic operation of mercury in chronic diseases: its antiphlogistic property in acute inflammation is also universally acknowledged, which antiphlogistic property I call sedative; and as a sedative, it is by many considered most valuable—nay, indispensable—in bad fever. It is highly valuable, but not so much so as antimony and the neutral salts, and certainly not indispensable. To prove this to my pupils, as some were to practise in the naval or military service abroad, and might have the misfortune to be left without calomel, I undertook to shew them how to cure fever without its assistance, and took the next dozen of cases as they occurred—some very bad, some middling, and some slight. We lost but one, an old person, who had very mild fever, but died of a diseased state of the lungs, as we ascertained by post-mortem examination. This was no experiment, but a demonstration of the truth of principles well established. I commonly use calomel with the other medicines in fever, when indicated as already explained in various passages; but one medicine may be substituted for another. It is proverbial that an experienced workman does not find fault with his tools: if a carpenter have broken or lost his chisel, he can use his plane-iron for the moment as an efficient substitute. I here rather wish to point out the abuse of calomel, and salivation by mercury, by those who consider mercury as a specific for fever. In the first place, it requires more time to affect the system by mercury than by tartar emetic and salines, &c.; so that some cases are saved by the prompt use of antimony, bleeding, &c., which would not have waited for mercury. Again, salivation puts the patient to very unnecessary inconvenience, independently of the

Thus we see two modes of diminishing the exertions of the heart, the necessity for which is universally acknowledged when the pulse is too *strong* and frequent; but it is not so generally acknowledged that when the pulse is frequent and *weak*, the heart is also over-exerting itself: the blood, however, is in each case not only the load which is to be moved by, but the excitant of action to, the heart.

The diminution of organic action in the heart by sedatives will diminish its efforts equivalent to reducing the quantity of blood: that this is the effect produced on the heart by salts, antimony, and other emetic and purgative substances, as well as by digitalis, prussic acid, and other sedative remedies, is obvious to every one who has observed or felt the effect of a dose of salts, or of an emetic, on the pulse. The effect of cold drink, or of cold externally, is also sedative; as is shewn by persons who, when exposed to inclement weather in travelling, can swallow brandy, though unaccustomed to it, which, under ordinary circumstances, would produce a sense of burning in the throat, and intoxication. By the continued application of intense cold, the sedative effect on the nervous system and heart produces total loss of sensibility (which has been miscalled sleep), and death by asphyxia.

weakness produced by its prolonging the convalescence. I have seen the other useful means overlooked in the treatment of fever, by a too exclusive attention to mercury. And I may add, that, however valuable mercury is in all stages of peripneumonia, we know well that we cannot wait for its action in the acute stages without employing other active sedative treatment, especially bleeding and tartar emetic.

Although emptying the *primæ viæ* by purgatives and emetics is useful in fever, it is not merely to the evacuating properties, but also to the sedative and constringent effects of those medicines that the benefit is attributable; and of this we have sufficient proofs. First, antimony controls fever, without either producing vomiting or purging, as we know in the present day when we use small repeated doses of tartar emetic, with or without salines, as a “febrifuge” medicine. Again, James’s powder was formerly much used for the same purpose, and it was a common observation, that it appeared often most efficacious where it produced no evacuation of vomiting or purging: perspiration I do not call an evacuation, being only an evidence of returning function of the skin from decline of the fever. The saline medicines appear (besides their constringing effect on the capillaries) to have some influence in giving to the blood that arterial property (colour at least) which is so connected with nervous energy. Armstrong and Clutterbuck empirically confirm the benefit of sedatives in fever, without having accounted for their action. Armstrong was one of the few persons who thoroughly understood the use of *digitalis* as an antiphlogistic remedy.

In surgical cases the symptomatic fevers often require antimonials to cool them; and though surgeons have resorted to emetics to promote the absorption (as they say) of abscesses when formed, they are not in the habit of resorting to antimonials sufficiently to prevent the mischief of their formation. I have cut short the rigors, burning skin, and pain in the glands of the groin or axilla, from

puncture or other injury of the toe or finger, in the course of an hour or two, by an emetic, which removes the above symptoms, produces perspiration, and prevents abscess: the influence should be kept up for twelve or eighteen hours by an eighth or a sixteenth of a grain of tartar emetic (= xv or xxx drops of vin. ant. tart.) every two hours, or just so much, according to the stomach of the patient, as will keep up the influence without causing the inconvenience of sickness.* Lind,

* A young surgical friend called me one evening to see his brother, saying that he had fever, and so much shivering and occasional bursts of perspiration, that he feared it would turn out to be small-pox. I saw at once, by the patient's eyes, that it was not idiopathic fever of any kind. On inquiring if he had not hurt his foot or hand, he said he had run a splinter into his middle-finger the day before; but that he had been so wretchedly ill all day with headache and shivering, that he had never thought of that, so as to mention it to his brother. There were already red streaks up the back of the hand, slight swelling, and great tenderness, on pressure, in the axilla. I prescribed an eighth of a grain of tartar emetic every quarter of an hour until vomiting should come on, and afterwards every two hours until the tenderness should subside, or half the quantity if it should produce more than very slight nausea. The second dose produced the full emetic effect, with instant relief of the headache and of the rigors, which never returned; and when I called the next morning, he had no pain in the axilla. The red streaks of the lymphatics on the wrist remained, which will suffice to remind any surgeon what might have been expected if the inflammation had not been cut short. I have pursued the same practice in other similar cases, with equally rapid and decided relief. When pupils puncture their fingers, they often apply caustic, which is very bad treatment of the wound. The best plan, if the finger be hot and painful, is to keep it in a basin of cold water, and to take tartar emetic in the manner just mentioned, which will soon allay throbbing, inflammation, &c.

when speaking of the destructive fevers of Senegal, describes the power of an emetic in arresting the fever; but complains that an emetic failed of producing so good an effect on the return (exacerbation) of the fever the following day. Had the influence been kept up as just described, with bark in addition, the fever would have been controlled.

The successful practice of Broussais is a proof that the sedative effect of abstracting blood, watery diet, and withholding stimulants, can operate sufficiently in many instances, in spite of what others call his neglect of the bowels. At the same time that I grant this, I cannot consider gastro-enteritis to be the *cause* of idiopathic fever; though it is true, as was shewn above, that in every instance, from the secondary loss of tone of the primæ viæ, and consequent unnatural state of their contents, more or less gastric morbid sensibility, and indeed congestion, if not inflammation of their mucous membrane, of their glandulæ agminatæ, &c., must be a constant *concomitant* of fever, as, in fact, dissection proves. Arguments drawn from successful practice are sometimes fallacious; and I consider the cure of fever by abstracting blood from the abdomen by leeches no proof of gastro-enteritis being the proximate cause of fever; any more than that the seat of the disease is in the arm, if cured by taking blood from that part. I once met with a publication asserting that the seat of hooping-cough (pertussis) was the head, because leeching the temples relieved it: leeching any other part would have

had the same effect ; as, in fact, by some persons' blood is taken from the feet to relieve affections of the head, in preference to taking it from this part.

I have endeavoured to explain why in typhus we should avoid stimulants as much as possible, inasmuch as the nervous centres being in a diseased state of congestion or inflammation, neither they nor other organs have their power increased by them ; whereas, by *indirect* practice, as it is called, we relieve the organs, and give them an opportunity of recovering themselves.

Leeching or venesection in typhus is by no means more indirect practice, considering the symptoms, than in many cases of peripneumonia; or of synocha in the advanced stages. These three states of disease, side by side, present the same aspect, neither of them having the direct indications for bleeding, if, as such, strength of pulse and flushed hot skin be required to be present. A patient in typhus has the same proportion of blood in his system twenty-four or forty-eight hours after the attack, as if he had been seized by synocha or peripneumonia, in which no one would hesitate to bleed ; and the prostration of strength, &c. in the three diseases is, in many instances, exactly similar. Every practitioner knows that patients in peripneumony have the dusky colour of skin, the weak rapid pulse, and lie supine like typhous patients : nay, more—when in this most dangerous state, they scarcely cough from oppression and insensibility, and the cases may be easily mistaken by the inexperienced ; yet who would think a patient too weak to be leeches or bled when he is suffocating and coma-

tose from congested lungs, however weak the pulse ? Where is the difference in the physical strength of the patient ; or why may not an exactly similar set of symptoms be relieved in typhus by similar means ? Sometimes a patient in peripneumonia cannot at once be bled from the arm when much sunk, any more than in typhus, lest fatal syncope should ensue ; but by applying leeches, and drawing the blood gradually, the patient will be so far relieved that blood may subsequently be freely taken from the arm, to subdue that inflammation which had been but slightly relieved by the leeches ; or without leeches, by skilful management, a little blood may at once be taken with a lancet. No man before Rasori had the determination to try “ contra-stimulants” (bleeding, antimony, &c.) in typhus ; and he cured his patients by these means.

But it must be remembered that the disease has a certain number of days to run, like small-pox ; and therefore the patient must not be bled from day to day when symptoms continue severe : nature can only be lightened of a load to a certain extent, and so helped to totter through the weary journey with the assistance of medicines.* Patients may be bled

* I may here give an example, which approaches closer than peripneumonia to what is called typhus. My clinical clerk told me one day that a patient had arrived much sunk in typhus : we went to the bed-side, and found that he had all that appearance ; dusky skin with *petechiæ*, eyes dull, lying on the back, answers incoherent, the pulse small, soft—120; the skin dry, but rather below the natural temperature ; the tongue dry and brown in the middle, with a margin of white fur. He *did not cough* ; but on applying the ear to the chest, there was rhonchus sonorus, gravis, sibilans, and crepitans—thanks to Laennec for enabling us to discover

with advantage in ague ; but men have been inconsiderate enough to attempt to stop the ague by mere repetition of bleeding, the result of which may be easily imagined. In cases of simple typhus I have

the last symptom: The man had been ill nearly a fortnight : and how often have we seen patients plied with wine in such circumstances, from the supposition that they were sinking from debility ! I pronounced the case to be synocha petechialis, " complicated" with the bronchitis of the epidemic (December 1831) in an aggravated state, if not with peripneumonia. This was a case to shew students that the debility of febrile disorders is oppression from relative over-load of blood, and the severity of disease—that depletion will lighten both, and that at the end of a fortnight it is not too late to adopt antiphlogistic practice. I recollect one student asking me if the man could bear bleeding ? My answer was, " Do you think, if a scaffolding fell upon you, you could *bear* to have it lifted off ?" We bled the patient immediately to sixteen ounces, gave him a purgative draught of salts and senna, and ordered it to be followed up by one drachm of sulphate of magnesia, and one-eighth of a grain of tartar emetic in solution, every fourth hour. The next morning he was nearly free from delirium, and sat up in bed ; the bowels were still confined, and he had *some cough* (p. 155, l. 30). The cathartic was repeated ; but by mid-day, the medicine not having operated, he relapsed into stupor, the skin having become hot, and the *relieved* pulse 84, and full : he was immediately bled again, had another purgative draught and a purgative enema, and the saline antimonial continued. The next day, after the free operation of the medicines, he was relieved, and the skin softer, but he *coughed more*. As he had been very delirious in the night, and the sensorium was still slightly affected, he had ten leeches to the temples ; and from this time he quickly recovered.

In another of these petechial cases of fever, " complicated" with pleuro-peripneumony, which had been treated exactly in the same way—bled and leeches, &c. freely at the commencement—the patient (a girl æt. 15) became, on the fourteenth day of confinement to bed, much oppressed (sunk), feeble, lying supine, delirium increased, skin dusky, pulse weak and frequent, rhon-

seldom thought it necessary to bleed from the arm, but almost uniformly from the head, with leeches, using at the same time cold lotion, and saline purgatives and antimonials. But in typhus, complicated with inflammation of lungs or other viscera, I have not hesitated to bleed from the arm, which has been followed by as marked benefit as when the fever was not of the typhous character.

After all this, it may be asked, how it happens that stimulants sometimes save the life of patients in typhus? In the states hitherto considered, the heart was not deficient in perception of the presence of the blood—it exerted what strength it had; but from the violence or long continuance of the fever it will sometimes flag, before the nervous system, upon which the vital powers depend, has made any progress towards amendment: the patient will, in fact, begin to die, the pulse fluttering, with cold clamminess on the skin. It is now that artificial stimulus will sometimes renew enough of

chus crepitans. One of the students asked if I did not think she was sinking from debility, accelerated by the former loss of blood? My answer was, “Put your ear to her chest, and then bleed her;” and that there might be no mistake, I stood by until seventeen ounces flowed: from which time her pulse rose, and she gradually recovered. It is only clinical experience that can teach how apparent debility may be relieved by bleeding, or how late in a disease it may be resorted to with the most gratifying success.

I would now ask, had these cases been called (according to Cullen) synochus, and the latter stage considered to be typhus, and stimulants resorted to, as they would have been by those who employ them in typhus, and do not resort to auscultation, what would wine or brandy have done for these cases, which were cured by bleeding, purging, tartar emetic, &c.?

action to gain time for the nervous system to recover, if not already too far exhausted, or the respiratory function too far gone to arterialise the blood, in which case life cannot be sustained; as may have been seen when the pulse has actually been kept up unavailingly by stimulants for many hours before death. The point at which stimulants may be administered with benefit is one of the utmost consequence in practice, involves great responsibility, and can only be ascertained by experience at the bed-side.

Those who stimulate too early, by making the heart over-exert itself, and by expending the nervous influence, actually bring it and the nervous system sooner to that state described, in which a continuation of stimulus will be necessary to carry the patient through; for upon every remission of the stimulus, they find the patient drooping; and therefore, from observing this phenomenon, they become persuaded that they have been pursuing the right plan from the beginning. I have shewn that sometimes there is a necessity for stimulants at the last, when the fever is gone (p. 139), which has been called the crisis ("the diathesis of disease being changed"), and yet not enough of natural strength left to carry on life. But how is it to be known when fever is gone? By referring to its *essence*, the *loss of function of the nervous system*. The fever is gone when the nervous system begins to regenerate nervous influence; when the intellect becomes clear, and volition free, however weak—for *subsultus may still remain*, and other marks of *great debility*, and there *may be debility of brain*, amounting to childishness, but deli-

*rium is gone, and the eye follows objects,** besides the evidence of renewed secretion in the mouth, nose, skin, &c. &c. Patients themselves can often refer to the exact time of the fever passing off, by the mere return of consciousness, although they may not have had power of moving or speaking;† but even then we may have some difficulty in conducting them to perfect health, by food, tonics, narcotics, stimulants, and occasionally perhaps a recurrence to sedative evacuations, according to the changes which take place. The *collapse* produces a state of inanition favourable for the action of stimulus: nevertheless, if capillary action, *contraction*, do not recommence in the cineritious

* This is the great distinction, *the eye*; for even in this stage there may still be delirium: but after the crisis or change of diathesis, it is no longer the dull-eyed typhoid delirium, but the delirium (*tremens*) of inanition; and it is at this point that the experienced practitioner uses stimulants and opium with masterly effect.

† A friend of mine, commander of a ship, on the crisis of fever becoming suddenly conscious, though still apparently dying, and unable to move or speak, heard his men talking over the mode of sewing his body up in his hammock, to consign him to a watery grave with the greatest propriety and respect. A lady told me that, after having been "given over in a twenty-one-day fever," she became suddenly conscious in the middle of the night, but unable to move or speak. Her maid and a hired nurse were discussing the hopeless state of the patient over a jug of porter. She managed somehow to make them understand her desire to have some of it; upon which they consulted together, and coming to the decision that it could not make her worse than she was, gave her nearly a tumblerful. She immediately fell asleep; and, awaking in the middle of the next day refreshed and strengthened (*see* p. 159, l. 25), startled her servant by speaking to her in a distinct voice.

substance of the nervous system, death must take place in spite of stimulus.

Those who, on the contrary, relieve the system early by sedative (antiphlogistic) treatment, will diminish the *duration of the violence* of the fever; but, as there is in every fever a poison introduced into the nervous system, from which each requires, under all circumstances, a certain time for the latter to recover, the young practitioner must not be induced to think that, by any means or measures, fever can be "*cut short*" all at once, or that it can be more than *checked*. There are some cases recorded which apparently support the opinion that free bleeding, &c. can stop idiopathic fever at once; but I am more inclined to think those have been symptomatic fevers, depending on some internal inflammation; or, if idiopathic, of that rapid course which sometimes takes place during epidemics—sometimes malignant, but not always so. Or it is possible that idiopathic fevers have been in some instances so completely checked as to have appeared cured, as patients in chicken-pox or mild small-pox feel well and able to exert themselves after the fourth or fifth day, though the disease is not gone for many days after. As a general rule, idiopathic fevers, as far as I can judge by experience, run a definite course, though we have not such accurate information with respect to the duration of synocha and typhus, as we have concerning small-pox, measles, and other febrile diseases produced evidently by infection, which also may be mitigated, though not stopped, and of whose existence the spots are evidence, even when

completely mitigated ; as cases of mild small-pox frequently occur, as above alluded to, in which, if it were not for the danger of infecting others, the patient could go about his business long before the crusts have fallen off ; still, in those cases we know that there remains a spark, a smouldering fire, which is capable, during a short period, of being relighted. In many cases of *fever* also, the *symptoms relax* a week or a fortnight earlier than in others ; and, on the other hand, severe typhus or synocha, like small-pox, may be protracted much beyond the ordinary duration, even when not eventually fatal. Thus the ordinary duration of fever is about fourteen days ; but when it is protracted to three weeks, the popular term applied to it is “ a twenty-one-day fever,” implying that it has been unusually severe.

It may appear as if, having said so much against the misuse of stimulants, I were inclined to deny their utility, in fever ; but, on the contrary, I have shewn one state in which they become indispensable ; and that they are often of great benefit the moment the fever has ceased, when the influence of the poison has passed off, which has been called the *CRISIS* : there is then often so much real debility, that the patient's recovery (convalescence) would be very tedious, or perhaps the powers of digestion, &c. not equal to restoration, unless assisted by stimulus ; and when fever is gone, to promote appetite and digestion, wine may be of the most marked benefit, if not indispensable (pp. 159 and 160, *note*).

I must here observe, that narcotics are fre-

quently useful *during* fever—nay, necessary—as may be understood by referring to the *essence* of fever, and knowing that sleep is nature's restorer of the deficient nervous influence. The obstinate wakefulness which takes place in some cases of fever must have a deleterious tendency to produce collapse—hence the benefit of gentle opiates;* and in support of this opinion and practice, I may quote two good recent authorities, Dr. R. Williams, in his useful and interesting work, the *Elements of Medicine*; and Dr. P. M. Latham; the opinions of both having the value of being formed on extensive clinical experience.

The eruptive fevers (exanthemata) are to be treated precisely on the principles already laid down. I cannot too seriously caution the young man against implicit reliance on the nosologists, as the exceptions to their rules are endless. For instance, scarlatina is put down amongst the exanthemata as occurring once only in life. I have known it occur three times in the same individual—frequently twice; in one instance, in its exquisitely marked form, as to inflamed tonsils, appearance of tongue, eruption, and desquamation of skin, twice within ten months. It is said that the rash comes out on the third or fourth day. I have seen a child in good spirits, and perfectly well in every respect (having examined it on account of the other children in the family having scarlatina), one even-

* From the congested state of the nervous centres in fever, syrup of poppies, or a few drops of laudanum, will produce an effect equal to that of a larger dose of opium in other states of disease.

ing, and before the next as red as a boiled lobster with the rash of scarlatina, with sore throat, and swelled tonsils. An eighth of a grain of antim. tartariz. produced vomiting, with relief of the difficulty of deglutition, and stopped the swelling of the tonsils, within an hour. At this time the tongue was, as represented in the plate to Bateman's edition of Willan, with a white fur, and scarlet papulæ staring through it. The following evening, a state of collapse came on, delirium, the pulse rapid and weak, the breathing laborious, lips purplish, skin cool, and rash faded. It is in similar rapid cases that death takes place on the third or fourth day. I gave another dose of the tartar emetic, which produced vomiting in a quarter of an hour. In two hours after, the breathing was relieved, the pulse fuller, though still 130, and the skin returned to its redness and full heat of regular scarlatina. The lips also lost their lividity, shewing the relief of internal congestion by the antimony; yet, in similar cases, how often have I seen wine, and even brandy, given to children of the same age (five years), who did not recover! On the third evening, less than seventy hours from the commencement, the child asked for animal food. I felt certain that the crust must be coming off the tongue; and on inspecting it, found, in fact, that it was loosening at the edges; and it began to come off in flakes during the night, and from the tonsils, which had never swelled any more after the first emetic. Thus the disease went through its phases within seventy hours, which we usually see occupy seven or eight days. The child was well and walking about the

house, with the skin desquamated, on the fifth day. This patient, being a relative, and living near me, I saw six times at least every twenty-four hours. I gave sulphate of quinine and sulphate of magnesia in water acidulated with sulphuric acid, about every six hours, and lemonade in abundance as drink; one dose of pil. hydrarg., and pil. aloes et myrrha the first day. I may fairly attribute the immediate relief of symptoms to the treatment, though not the rapid progress of the disease; for, on the contrary, it shewed a rapidity of malignity in itself, as we too often see in fatal cases. I do not consider that the quinine has much influence on any continued fever; but I am satisfied that it makes the convalescence more rapid in all cases. The sulphuric acid I esteem of the greatest use as a lotion to the fauces and *primæ viæ*,* which are in an inflamed or congested state, as well as the lemonade drink, or lemonade made with lemon-peel and the mineral acid; and which, I think, in this case prevented the croupy state which sometimes destroys life in scarlatina, as there was a copious coriaceous lymph in the fauces when the laborious breathing came on.

I may observe, that small-pox differs from the

* The nitro-muriatic and other acids have been recommended by many experienced practitioners, in fevers, as well as for gargles; and I may observe, that their utility, when applied to the mucous membrane within view, as in the fauces, will explain the efficacy of the vegetable or mineral lemonades in relieving the tenesmus, griping, nausea, &c. of bilious diarrhœa, more quickly in the first instance than opiates alone; as they not merely constringe and relieve the congested or inflamed capillaries of the mucous membrane, but help to wash away the acrid bile.

other eruptive fevers in one respect as to its nature, which does not alter the indications of cure, but only increases its difficulty. Small-pox is dangerous in proportion to the quantity of eruption; whereas the others are rather the reverse. (I do not include chicken-pox, in which there is no danger.) Independently of the fever, small-pox destroys life, when there is a great amount of confluent eruption, by the depression of the system, produced through destruction of a large surface of the skin, such as takes place from extensive burns or scalds, which are very fatal. The large number of terminal branches of nerves destroyed in these cases fully accounts for the degree in which the constitution suffers.

I will here shew the distinction between disease in an organ arising during fever secondarily, and primary disease of the same organ exciting fever. It will equally illustrate our subject whether we select an organ in the chest or abdomen. Let us take a case of idiopathic continued fever, in which, from the disturbance in the secreting organs, gastric morbid sensibility comes on early; the mucous membrane of the intestines being irritated by their unnatural contents, there is uneasiness of the abdomen on pressure, and great heat and dryness of the epigastrium, without either diarrhoea or any obstinate constipation; and along with this, languor, prostration of strength, more or less confusion of ideas, or delirium, evincing lesion of the nervous system, the essential marks of fever.

On the other hand, let us take a case in which, from any cause, there is a deficiency of good bile

in the intestines, the food, instead of being digested in the natural way formerly described, becomes putrid, acid, or otherwise acrimonious, not affording nourishment, and at the same time irritating and producing morbid sensibility. We shall here have the same gastric symptoms; but instead of fever, there will be but *feverishness* (*pyrexia*), from the disturbance (morbid sensibility) communicated to the nervous system, inducing heat of skin, quick pulse, &c. (pp. 105, 108, 112); headache perhaps, but not delirium; and little languor, until actual debility from inanition ensues.

Now, as to treatment, if tartar emetic be given in the dose of about one-eighth or one-fourth of a grain in water every hour, the effect upon the case, depending upon mere gastric morbid sensibility, will be to produce sickness, by which the patient will be relieved, and immediately cooled, particularly if the bowels be opened by it at the same time; and a repetition of the tartar emetic will produce sickness each time.

But the effect of tartar emetic on the case of fever will be less marked; for though it may produce nausea at first, with some diminution of febrile symptoms, yet the relief is not so decided; and if the medicine be repeated, it does not produce nausea, but only diminishes the febrile symptoms, and requires to be persevered in to continue the control over the fever, or may even require increased doses, and to be assisted by bleeding. This latter case exemplifies what in the new Italian doctrine is meant by a strong diathesis, in which there is great tolerance of contrastimulant medicines.

Now, either case of disease may prove fatal: the idiopathic fever by the gradual failure of the functions of the lungs, heart, and brain; the sympathetic fever from gastric disease, by rapid marasmus; for though the sedative tartar emetic cools the patient, and subdues the symptomatic fever for the moment, if digestion cannot be restored, the patient will rapidly sink under renewed symptomatic fever and inanition; and the same result takes place whether the disease be gastro-enteritis (that is, inflammation), or gastro-enteric morbid sensibility, caused by the irritation of undigested aliment from want of secretion of good bile. The latter case is an illustration of what takes place in infantile fever (the infantile remittent), or gastric fever of children. It is often cured in the commencement by a dose of calomel, either alone or with castor oil or other purgatives evacuating the primæ viæ; whilst at the same time the mercurial renews the secretion of bile, so as to restore digestion, and all goes on well, either permanently, or only requiring a repetition of the same remedies. But often the case is more obstinate, and a torpid, congested, or perhaps we should say sub-acutely inflamed state of the liver, requires not merely repeated doses of calomel or other mercurials, but leeches and poultices, or cold wet cloths, to the epigastrium. One of the embarrassing symptoms in these cases is a purging of a dirty watery fluid; but this must not dissuade the inexperienced from persevering with calomel; for as soon as it makes the motions yellow, this state will cease; or if chronic diarrhœa then continue,

as it will sometimes, from a chronic inflammation or congestion of the mucous membrane having been induced, astringents, such as catechu or hæmatoxylum,* will cure it. These cases, though

* Medicines and dietetic directions sometimes fail merely from being too energetic. Thus, a child aged eight was very pale and wasting, with no evidence of disease except total loss of appetite, which had ensued after mild scarlatina. She had slight swelling of the submaxillary gland, but could not be called strumous. A medical friend who saw her prescribed animal food and fermented liquor, compound infusion of gentian with a little quinine, and gentle laxative doses of calomel and rhubarb, as the bowels did not act. Finding in a week that she was no better, and annoyed with flatulence and acidity in addition, he consulted me.

The prescription was excellent, could it have been borne, but there was too much debility of the mucous membrane and glands of the primæ viæ; therefore a milder medicine and diet were indicated, viz. half an ounce of decoction of hæmatoxylum, with an equal quantity of chalk mixture to counteract the acidity and flatulence, and half a drachm of Epsom salts to keep up the peristaltic action, three times in the twenty-four hours; and a diet of the animal food made into a strong soup, with milk and bread. In ten days this produced appetite and digestion, and then she was able to resume the medicine and diet at first prescribed, which soon perfected her cure.

The logwood, from its slightly sensible qualities, is very much undervalued as a mild tonic, and is too much looked upon as a mere astringent, though it contains little or no tannin. It is so commonly considered as a mere astringent (on account of its great efficacy in checking diarrhœa and dysentery), that the prescribing it with a saline laxative would be thought contradictory by those who do not consider that it was given in the above case as a mild and efficacious tonic. Some think it contradictory to give an astringent with an aperient, because astringents have been usually exhibited along with stimulants and stimulant narcotics—in diarrhœa, for instance; but enough has been already said to shew the benefit of astringents with salines where the diarrhœa is combined with an inflammatory congested state of the mucous

called infantile remittent, unlike the genuine aguish remittents, are little relieved by bark.

Notwithstanding that we have made out clearly enough that there is a synocha and a typhous fever — *i. e.* fevers which begin, continue, and terminate with the characters given of those diseases; and that in those cases called typhus there is the strongly marked difference of sensorial oppression — the question arises, whether these states are really specific, or only accidental differences: and whether there be really a specific typhus or not? — in other words, whether there be any simple continued fever but the one which, arising from the same infection, or other exciting cause, may assume the garb or type of synocha or of typhus. Cullen's making a synochus fever shewed that he could not establish a diagnosis, and therefore produced a hybrid. The synocha petechialis, for instance, is constantly called typhus, when seen for the first time in the sunken state above described, or synochus by those who observed that the fever was not typhous at the commencement, but did not notice the petechial eruption. In the assertion that its nature has been frequently undetected, I am borne out by the opinion of that accurate and talented physician Dr. R. Bright.

We have some analogies in the well-defined exanthemata, which would make us doubt the

membrane and a febrile state at the same time; and that simple narcotics and astringents in themselves are not "heating," any more than tonics: though the patient will become heated if the requisite collateral treatment be neglected (p. 87 et seq.).

existence of a *specific* typhus ; for instance, the eruptive fevers in their ordinary routine are synocha (*i. e.* Cullen's, with strong pulse, &c.); but it is well known, that where scarlatina attacks several members of a family, some of them will have a typhous fever from the beginning, with scarcely any rash. Measles may shew the same phenomena. The spots of synocha petechialis frequently do not appear till about the ninth day. Should the disease have taken a typhous turn before that time, the spots may have never been seen, or, if discovered, were faint, so as not to be distinguished from the typhous petechiæ (which are little ecchymoses, not rash,) with which they were mixed.

It has been remarked by experienced practitioners, that when typhus has been prevalent, some cases (which they still called typhus) have occurred in which the sensorium was not much oppressed—some with a strong pulse at the commencement, some with hot skin, &c. &c. ; in fact, that “ no one symptom could be found uniformly present.” This confirms my opinion, that *there is but one simple fever, and which is exanthematous, petechial ; that it is continued, synochous* (synocha, συνέχω), *whether with high or low pulse, high or low temperature ; and that, when the sensorium is oppressed in addition* (p. 135, note), *it is typhous* (typhus).

Having taken a view of the train of symptoms denominated FEVERS, symptomatic and idiopathic—which we have traced to a loss of the functions of the nervous centres, and subsequently of the organs depending on them,—we next have to consider

other diseased states, denominated NEUROSSES, which, like fevers, consist of derangement of the nervous system, though differing from them in the phenomena; and the leading characteristics of which are pain, and a tendency to spasmodic, convulsive, involuntary motion. It is necessary to keep distinct views of these different states of disease (febres and neuroses), though they sometimes run into each other, pyrexia (feverishness) participating somewhat in the characters of each.

In explaining these disorders of the nervous system, neuroses, we must still refer to the principle, of disease being only the *alteration* of healthy *actions*. Hence a sound physiology is absolutely necessary as a substratum to the practice of medicine; for however much has been gained in pathology in general by mere experience, the student will observe, as he advances in the study of the neuroses, how completely we are dependent upon a knowledge of the manner in which the functions of the nervous system are carried on in health, for any correct principles which must guide us in their treatment.

When the sensibility of a part morbidly increased becomes pain, and this takes place without perceptible accompanying inflammation, pathologists name it a state of NEURALGIA, implying merely *pain of nerve*, in contradistinction to *pain from inflammation*, in which there is always palpable evidence of the *vessels* being implicated. Neuralgia has been known by the term "irritation," or "irritable state of a part," as the "irritable testis," "irritable mamma," &c. This morbid sensibility is in the

nerves, and is local, existing often without that participation of the vascular tissues which constitutes inflammation, though sometimes inflammation is induced by it.

Now, when there is this state, which I call morbid sensibility, of sensitive nerves, there is pain. But it may exist in the organic (and incident?) nerves without pain; and thus the disordered state be set up in the nervous centres, producing evident symptoms, by spreading thither from a part in pain, or from a part not in pain, according to whichever class of nerves is injured.

Let not the import of the term morbid sensibility be misunderstood, because I apply it to a state of the central organ of which the patient's sensorium is not conscious: he does not then feel the morbid sensibility; but the central organ, the spinal cord, does feel—it is over-susceptible to impressions on its nerves: therefore the state is morbid susceptibility, excitability, or sensibility of the spinal marrow, independent of *animal* sensation (p. 109).

An inquiry into the nature of the proximate cause of morbid sensibility ("irritation"), or the actual state of the minute filaments composing the nerves and central masses of medullary matter when they evince the phenomena of morbid sensibility, offers an extensive field for research. Is it inflammation? It has occurred to me that it will hereafter be proved, perhaps, by means of the microscope, that it is inflammation of them, neuritis (p. 43), either in the tract of the nerves, or at their union with the nervous centres. It is necessary to observe, however, that as in external parts, so

also in the nervous centres, morbid sensibility, with or without pain, exists with a state short of inflammation, viz. with that state of inanition or contraction which we see sometimes to precede inflammation, but which is not always followed by inflammation (p. 67, l. 18, and p. 117, l. 28, p. 125), as in case of hæmorrhage, sudden fright, excessive cold, or an excessive quantity of digitalis; all of which causes produce the convulsions of morbid sensibility, and all evidently induce the contracted state, which is opposite to inflammation. Some of the symptoms of general morbid sensibility result from the inflammation which ensues upon excessive contraction: the two opposite states of contraction or of dilatation, therefore, are accompanied by the same phenomenon, morbid sensibility ("irritation"); an exemplification of the latter is the morbid sensibility which accompanies symptomatic ("irritative") fever; so that, in order to cure, we ought to know whether the indication be to employ stimulants to dilate the capillaries, or sedatives and tonics to constrict them.

The consequence of the brain becoming in a state of morbid sensibility, is, that its healthy actions are deranged: that is to say, in health the brain communicates to the muscles of voluntary motion the dictates of the will only; but if the origin of the voluntary nerves of a part in the brain be in a state of morbid sensibility, that part is thrown into action independent of the will, or even against its dictates. This is the explanation of those involuntary motions, convulsive or spasmodic, arising from a spicula of bone within the skull, or a tumour

pressing on the brain, which produces convulsions called epileptic; or a depressed fracture of the skull, which also causes convulsions. Similar local injuries of the spinal cord are followed by the like results. The same effect is even produced when nerves, being injured at a distance from the nervous centre, the injury, whatever it may be, whether physical (neuritis?) or an alteration of the dynamic or electroid property of the nerve, spreads, whether of sentient or of organic (or incident?) filaments; so that the injury of the nervous centre at the origin of the nerves of motion makes it re-act and throw the muscles of voluntary motion into involuntary action, which is the *rationale* of locked jaw, tetanus, hysteria, some kinds of epilepsy, &c.* It is well known to those who have seen much surgical practice, that epileptic convulsions, as well as tetanus, will come on occasionally from morbid sensibility in the nerves of a fractured or wounded limb.

Mental excitement, such as anger, grief, fear, &c., analogous to the direct *irritation* of the brain or spinal cord by a depressed fracture or spicula of

* The morbid sensibility from long-continued voluntary action of the sphincters induces reaction in the form of the convulsive motions called rigors, or shivering. Every nurse knows, when she feels an infant shiver, that it is about to make water; and the shudder produced by the sphincter vaginæ is well known, as also the shivering produced by the painfully continued action of the sphincter ani caused by piles, or by the necessity of retaining the fæces against the natural inclination. These instances of shivering are convulsions independent of temperature. We see an almost involuntary reaction when a person under the influence of pain clenches the hands or grinds the teeth.

bone, will produce the state of *morbid sensibility* of the nervous centres indicated by involuntary, or almost involuntary, muscular actions—even epileptic fits. Laughing and sobbing (convulsions) are produced by the cerebral excitement of good acting, and of various kinds of eloquence. Again, analogous to the injury of nerves at a distance from the central organ, we know that a person may be tickled into fits; that certain pleasurable sensations in excess may produce epilepsy. All the instances of morbid muscular actions produced through impressions on the *brain* shew that, notwithstanding the independence of the spinal cord as to some of the functions or properties of the nervous system, a most intimate connexion exists between them, although the mode of connexion has not been hitherto satisfactorily explained.

Impressions upon the nervous system, distinct from the brain—for instance, any continued irritation of an organ, as of worms in the intestinal canal, though scarcely or not at all perceived by the individual, or disease of the nervous centres even in the foetal state—will produce partial or general convulsions, or a permanent spasm of certain muscles, as of the gastrocnemii, &c., giving rise to the production of club-foot, as shewn by Dr. W. J. Little in his treatise on the cure of that disease by cutting the tendo-Achillis, or other tendons.*

* There have been at all periods attempts made to cure contractions of the joints by mechanical apparatus alone, without cutting the tendons of the contracted muscles; and the success in some has made the instrument-makers and others, who do not

Or a higher degree of injury at the root of the nerve may produce paralysis, which, by destroying the equilibrium of the different classes of muscles, is another cause of club-foot and other contractions of limbs. The well-known fact of diarrhœa producing cramps in the calves of the legs is an additional illustration of this subject. These partial and general convulsions, or spasms, arising from irritations at a distance from the nervous centre, are instances of morbid reaction (deranged "reflex" actions) of the spinal marrow; and the tenderness (morbid sensibility) of the abdomen in hysteria, without inflammation, is an

understand physiology and pathology, think that all cases are curable by this means. Dr. Stromeyer and Dr. Little, both in their publications and practice, prove that many cases are curable by apparatus, without dividing tendons. Dr. Little has farther shewn that there are certain cases in which even instruments are not required; but that, being spasmodic affections, they are curable by medicine alone, combined sometimes with a little manipulation. The latter has also clearly pointed out the cases in which the tendons *must* be divided; thereby setting aside the absurd assertions which have been made through want of sufficient experience in the actual treatment of these diseases, or through not having sufficiently considered the subject. Granting that there is a certain class of cases which might, with great care and attention, be cured by instruments in the course of from one to six or seven years, by adding the operation, which is scarcely painful, and not in the least dangerous, these cases may be remedied in as many weeks—sometimes, it might almost be said, in as many days; for in many instances, as the minute wound invariably heals by the first intention, the patient begins to put the foot to the ground in a day or two; so that, independent of there being cases not curable by instruments alone, the cases curable by them are remedied by the Stromeyerian plan without any comparison of time, expense, or pain, or according to the old adage, *tuto, cito, et jucunde*.

example of the morbid sensibility of the spinal cord (induced by neuritis ?) propagated from the uterus (p. 111). To compare small with great things, there is an analogy between globus hystericus and hydrophobia ; and I do not despair of a cure being discovered for the latter in some medicine which has a rapid effect in allaying that state of the nervous system common to the neuroses, and which I have ventured to designate neuritis. In fine, we see that convulsions,—involuntary actions of the voluntary muscles,—are produced by whatever excessively excites (produces morbid sensibility of) the nervous centres, either locally or from a distance.

In neuralgia there is no perceptible alteration of structure, as in painful chronic affections of the heart, stomach, uterus, mamma, testis, colon, &c. ; whereas many serious and destructive inflammations, combined with pyrexia, give but little pain. The degree of constitutional or general morbid sensibility is also not proportioned to the local pain, or inflammation, but often much greater ; nor has it been hitherto explained why one gun-shot wound of a limb should produce fever, and an apparently exactly similar one locked jaw. The difference, however, I am inclined to believe, depends upon whether the cineritious or the medullary part be principally affected : fever consisting of congestion of the former—tetanus, of disturbed action in the latter—the state of morbid sensibility (neuritis ?). Fever and general morbid sensibility must be well distinguished ; for though fever be accompanied by morbid sensibility, as nausea, headache, rigors, &c.,

and continued severe constitutional morbid sensibility may be accompanied by febrile excitement of skin and pulse, we must be cautious in depleting in the neuroses, as depletion increases the sensibility of the nervous system; and this, in some of the neuroses, is a difficult point to discriminate in practice, when an organ of importance appears to be implicated, as when hysteria simulates peritonitis, pericarditis, pleuritis, or phrenitis. We must not, however, underrate the consequence of morbid sensibility, though it be not fever, for it sometimes proves fatal, as in tetanus, hydrophobia, &c. We may consider gout of the stomach to be a mixed case, and it is relieved by treatment different from what we should resort to in inflammation of that organ with fever, in which we should employ depletion and antiphlogistic means; for in gout in the stomach* we must immediately resort to laudanum,† and sometimes, if the pulse flags, to brandy, for the relief of the morbid sensibility. Again; another instance of morbid sensibility—without fever, though sometimes with considerable pyrexial flush of surface—

* Gout commences with neuralgia, inflammation follows: the painful morbid sensibility may stop the action of the heart, through the nerves of the solar plexus, and cause death before there is time for inflammation,—like a blow on the pit of the stomach, or the swallowing an inordinate quantity of ardent spirits.

† Laudanum will be enough, if the heart has not begun to flag. A young practitioner nearly lost a gouty patient by treating him for gastro-enteritic inflammation with leeches, &c.; when a clinical clerk of mine, who happened to call in, recognised gout in the stomach, and speedily set him to rights by a large dose of laudanum.

occurs sometimes after parturition, where, in many cases, an inexperienced person would suppose, from the tenderness on pressure of the abdomen, that there was puerperal peritonitis and a necessity for bleeding; whereas all that is requisite is an opiate and repose. Bleeding or purging would be highly injurious, the tenderness being only morbid sensibility of the part, arising from the origin of its nerves being rendered morbidly sensible by those of the uterus (p. 111).

In many instances where there is inflammation, if there be also much morbid sensibility, evinced by pain, the latter is a most urgent and dangerous symptom; as in cases of poisoning by oxalic acid, cantharides, and other acrid substances (p. 58, *note*), in which, besides getting rid as much as possible of the poison, large doses of opiates are necessary. Remedies which are of use in inflammation with fever are of little avail, if not injurious, in the immediate treatment of cases wherein morbid sensibility is the predominant symptom, as in the case just alluded to, or in gout in the stomach.

There is great difference between fevers and neuroses, both in proximate cause and treatment. In fever there is, in my opinion, lesion of the cineritious part of the nervous system chiefly, rendering it insusceptible of being beneficially affected by ordinary stimuli, as above explained, the delirium or coma of fever being that of plethora or oppression. In the neuroses the nervous system is subjected to some noxious local influence or impression, which produces altered sensibility or spasms

of various recurrence and duration: as seen in a healthy animal convulsed from loss of blood; convulsions in a healthy child from teething, worms, &c.; tetanus produced by cold; hysteria, chorea, &c.

Most or all of these forms of neuroses—variously modified indications of the state which, in opposition to fever, I call morbid sensibility (“irritation”)—appear to depend more particularly upon diseased action of the medullary parts of the central organs, however produced, whether arising there primarily, or induced there by disturbance in the periphery of the organs. The delirium or coma of inanition—delirium tremens, delirium from loss of blood—depends upon a state of the cineritious tissue the reverse of fever, anæmia rather than plethora. But, although upon a careful analysis of the symptoms and the different forms of the neuroses, we may, with attention to physiology, refer some to an affection of the cineritious (in which I include the cineritious parts of the cerebrum and cerebellum, the grey matter of the spinal cord, and of the sympathetic system), others to the medullary parts of the nervous system, we should, *à priori*, from our knowledge of the connexion and mutual co-operation of these two divisions of the nervous system, expect to meet with disease depending upon simultaneous disturbance in both. Thus, from the violent operation of sedatives, or when an animal is bled to death, the first to suffer is the most vascular, the secreting and the sensorial part, the cineritious substance; hence the indistinctness of the perceptions and thoughts, and the weakness of the involuntary and voluntary actions.

If the operation of the sedative be increased, or the analogous injury of further loss of blood take place, the medullary part of the nervous system evinces its effect by general spasmodic muscular contractions. The state of the medullary matter during this time is represented by the symptoms which I designate morbid sensibility, which may exist in all grades constituting the various forms of neuroses—from a slight neuralgic pain, to the most distressing *clavus hystericus*, *tic douloureux*, or agonising pain in the back of the head and loins, as in hysteria or from hæmorrhage; from the spasm of one or more muscles, the *gastrocnemius* or those of the jaw, to the universal spasm and universally increased sensibility of tetanus and hydrophobia. Epileptic convulsions from terror must be a compound affection—the disturbance of the medullary part depending upon the previous affection of the sensorial. The actual condition of the capillaries of the medullary tissue, or the proximate cause of the symptoms of morbid sensibility, or whether the phenomena of the latter depend solely upon an alteration of the dynamic state of the nervous tissue, *i. e.* independent of any physical change in the capillaries,—is a more difficult subject to determine. Whatever it be, it is a state relievable by narcotics and tonics with stimulants, and injured by sedatives, in opposition to fever.

Delirium tremens affords a good contrast to fever. This disease is analogous to the state (described p. 80) of a weakened action of the brain induced by forced watching. In delirium tremens the weakened action of the brain is produced by

the absence of accustomed stimulus ; thus, in those who are in the habit of using much stimulus (of fermented liquors), the heart being accustomed to it, its actions proceed with regularity : if suddenly deprived of it, either from accidental cause, or from voluntary refraining, or from its *being forbidden on account of some disease*,*—the want of it causes the pulse to become weak, as if from the operation of digitalis, or other sedatives ; the absence of stimulus being equivalent to the influence of sedatives. The brain at the same time is sound, and remains in full activity, but weak from the want of arterial injection, and of the usual stimulus. There is, therefore, a succession of thoughts, rapid but weak (delirium), wakefulness (pervigilium), and weakness of volition, causing trembling, whence the denomination “tremens.”† Delirium tremens is a state analo-

* Young practitioners are frequently at a loss to account for the state of a patient under such circumstances, seeing that he is very ill without marked symptoms arising directly from the primary disease. Thus in the case of a gentleman in the habit of living generously, rather high, though by no means intemperately, and whose brain had been during health in a state of constant activity, being moderately leeches and purged, with a very low diet, for common sore throat, on the third day he fell into delirium tremens, which required the copious and long-continued administration of opium, with brandy and water, to subdue it.

† I here give but the leading symptoms ; the detailed description will be found in the London Medical and Physical Journal, January 1813, and in various works since that date. A clinical lecture by Dr. Roots, printed in No. I. of the St. Thomas's Hospital Reports, forms an excellent treatise on this subject ; and in one of his lectures reported in the London Medical and Surgical Journal, 1832, there is a clear exposition of the treatment of another form of morbid sensibility, viz. colic. In fact, every

gous to that produced by sedatives, which if slight will pass off, but to which at last, if not relieved, succeeds the coma of inanition and death. The only mode of counteraction is by narcotics and stimulants; by which, in addition to the counteraction of the sedative state, a greater tendency to sleep is produced. The stimulant narcotic opium, or the simple narcotic morphia, should be used—not the sedative narcotic hyoscyamus, which itself produces delirium tremens (p. 83). At the same time that the patient is using incessant muscular action (jactitation) and raving, the pulse is frightfully weak, as in persons dying of hæmorrhage; stimulants and opium must therefore be given freely until they counteract this state, and the patient must be confined to his room; for if allowed to run about, as inclined to do, owing to the delirium, syncope will ensue, and probably terminate fatally. When the stimulants begin to produce their good effect, we first perceive the brain recovering power, evinced by more steadiness of the ideas and rationality; succeeded by calmness, then sleep; and we cannot with safety relax stimulation until the patient does sleep, as the raving will otherwise return. Sometimes the patient will sink into sleep previously to becoming rational; but some degree of calm of the sensorium will usually be perceived first, and increased firmness of the nervous system, evinced by less trembling, &c.

Friends or attendants who do not understand the nature of the affection, and have been accus-
practical observation given by this estimable physician is worthy of attention.

tomed to consider that all delirium depends upon what has been called determination to the head, and that depletion is required, have resorted too often to bleeding, purgatives, and other sedative medicines, which increase the malady; and they will even remonstrate with the physician sometimes against the exhibition of the only remedies which are efficacious. The bowels are usually torpid in delirium tremens, and will remain so until *stimulants cause them to act*, by restoring that state of the nervous system in which the nervous principle is developed and distributed to the alimentary tube as to other parts, besides their stimulant agency upon the muscles of the intestines themselves (vide p. 75); and hence the administration of the sedative cathartics is not merely useless, but, by counteracting the stimulants, rather retards than promotes the cure of the patient. The bowels in general act of themselves, therefore, as soon as the energy of the nervous system is restored by stimuli; and when the urgent symptoms are removed, it is time enough to give laxatives, if then required.

This is analogous to the constipation of bowels in tetanus. Has any one ever succeeded in purging a tetanic patient by the most drastic medicines, until the nervous system was relieved? or if patients do recover from tetanus, when purgatives, calomel, aloes, salts, &c. have been administered, may not the mischievous sedative effects of the latter have been neutralised by opium and stimulants taken at the same time? or when we find tetanus being so often fatal, even when opium and stimulants have

been resorted to, is it not probable that sometimes the quantity of sedative and drastic medicines has counteracted the effects of the former, which might have cured?

I think, from the various statements I have already made, it may be deduced that the diseases of morbid sensibility, were it proved that they depend upon inflammation, are not curable by common depletion: the medullary tissue is too fine to be affected by the force of the circulation, or relieved by taking off the *vis à tergo*, by bleeding, digitalis, &c.; hence neuralgia, tetanus, hydrophobia, chorea, hysteria, &c. must be reached through the circulating fluid, by what have been called tonics, iron, bark, arsenic, &c., combined with narcotics, and with stimulants according to circumstances.

The jumble of treatment usually adopted in tetanus has been such as to defy any calculation as to what has done good: opiates and stimulants have been counteracted by purgative sedatives—hot baths by sedatives—stimulants and narcotics by cold baths; bleeding opposing wine, brandy, and opium. Cases of tetanus occasionally recover under the employment of warm baths, stimulants, and narcotics; from which, and various analogies, I adopt the treatment by opium in tetanus: if any addition be made, it should be that of tonics and stimulants when required, not sedatives. We have succeeded in finding the mode of curing tic douloureux and delirium tremens, which were once *opprobria medicorum*. Why may we not, by inves-

tigation and analogies, succeed at length in curing tetanus with more certainty,* or that most dreadful of human inflictions, hydrophobia?—recollecting that, when the patient cannot swallow, medicines may be introduced into the system, either by applying them to a surface from which the cuticle has been removed by a blister or cauterly; or more certainly by enema, or by the stomach-pump tube passed through the nostril, &c.

I think one point is clearly made out, that where there is fever, idiopathic, or symptomatic from inflammation—loss of power from lesion of the nervous system, so that nervous influence is deficient,—it is vain to attempt to excite action by stimulants, until, from the cessation of the operation of the morbid poison or the inflam-

* Since the above was first published, I have had two cases of the disease: the one, locked jaw (trismus) in a debilitated habit, got well with an opiate every night, and a tonic medicine (inf. gent. co. c. vin. ferri), with nourishing liquid food and fermented liquor. The other, aged seven, traumatic tetanus, (locked jaw, with opisthotonos in frequent paroxysms,) recovered also. The treatment in the latter case was (third day of the disease) an opiate immediately, to be repeated every night, and a narrow blister along the spine. Fourth day the report was, felt better, and bowels acted; but blister appearing to irritate, ordered an enema, with Battley's liq. opii gt. xx., ol. terebinth. gt. xxx. every third hour; the second dose produced calm. Fifth day, better, and jaws relaxing. Sixth, no opisthotonos since opiate last night; muscles of neck and abdomen still rigid, bowels confined. A purgative was given by a medical friend, which acted towards evening, producing griping and *return of opisthotonos*: I consequently ordered an opiate enema, with gt. xxx.; a second in four hours produced calm and sleep. Seventh day, no return of spasms; from which time the patient gradually recovered. The amelioration as evidently depended upon the opiate as the relapse upon the sedative (purgative).

mation, or from a state of collapse, or the operation of sedatives, the capillaries of the cineritious substance have resumed sufficient contraction to renew the nervous influence, through which the delirium or coma of plethora ceases; and that, on the other hand, when the nervous system is in a state of morbid sensibility, combined with the delirium or coma of inanition, stimulants and narcotics are directly indicated; and tonics should be added according to circumstances.

There is an analogy between the circumstances under which trismus nascentium usually occurs, and the coma of inanition of infants (p. 79).

A state analogous to delirium tremens is well known to surgeons to occur after accidents and operations, which induces some to give an opiate almost uniformly after an operation; and the surgeons formerly often gave one before it. This state comes on sometimes in hospitals in the persons of patients who have been in the habit of drinking much fermented liquor: but we must not imagine that delirium tremens, or delirium sine febre, comes on in those only who use stimulants freely; it will occur in a variety of circumstances where there is morbid sensibility and over-excitement of the nervous system, with exhaustion, or a debilitated instead of plethoric constitution. Some cases of this kind occur after parturition, from exhaustion, constituting some of the cases of puerperal mania sometimes misunderstood; in hysteria; in hypochondriasis; after apoplexy or wounds of the head, when much depletion has been necessarily resorted to; after hæmorrhage, sensual ex-

haustion, over-study, and anxiety. It is but within twenty-five or thirty years that delirium tremens has been recognised and described as a disease distinct from inflammatory affections of the brain requiring depletion; and though experienced surgeons knew how to treat the symptoms when they arose after accidents and operations, it is but latterly that they have been identified with delirium tremens, any more than the medical cases just alluded to.

In these cases tonics are generally useful; and in some, stimulants with opiates are necessary to prevent collapse, and in many to excite the brain to an increase of action. In those cases where there is want of sleep, opium is generally preferable to stimulants alone, through its producing the tendency to sleep, without so much increasing the force of the pulse; which may, in some instances, such as the cases after apoplexy and injuries of the head from accidents, be contra-indicated, on account of the risk of increasing local injury; and in which the preparations of morphia are most valuable, as not stimulating.

In many other instances of nervous disease besides delirium tremens and tetanus, opium opens the bowels: it will do so in diabetes, in which the increase of secretion of the kidneys is at first functional disease from sympathetic morbid sensibility, analogous to that in hysteria, or from teething; it will do so in colica pictonum from white lead; and in other cases of colic from sedatives. On the other hand, it is well known that it will stop the diarrhoea of morbid sensibility from sedatives;

so that, what Celsus said of venesection, we may say of opium, that it relieves obstinate costiveness, as well as obstinate diarrhœa; but these merely empirical assertions, without explanation (p. 126 et seq.), might lead, on the one hand, to the injurious employment of sedative treatment in colic; or, on the other, of narcotic remedies in enteritis, without sufficient antiphlogistic treatment.

Many cases of mania are delirium sine febre, and would be aggravated by depletory or sedative treatment, and the patient would either die, passing into the coma of inanition; or, when the constitution began to give way, a change would take place, and a febrile relaxation of the capillaries of the brain change the entire character of the complaint; as we know deranged persons have become sane (or, as it has been quaintly denominated, had "a light") before death. This, as to proximate cause, is the reverse of what I have elsewhere described as taking place sometimes in the crisis of fever.

Local inflammation produces sometimes fever, but at others general or constitutional morbid sensibility ("irritation"), which are different states, but alternate and pass into each other; so that we are obliged to vary our treatment according to circumstances. For instance, as, in surgical cases, so long as the inflammation is producing fever, we use antiphlogistic means; but when the diathesis changes, and morbid sensibility prevails, as when tetanus occurs, we resort to narcotics, with tonics and stimulants.

Again, visceral disease converts ague into continued pyrexia. Pulmonary consumption is accom-

panied by hectic, a mixture of morbid sensibility and pyrexia, from inflammation, to which the term "irritative fever" also is sometimes applied in surgical cases.

Thus we see that inflammations destroy life in various ways: some by fever alone, as the acute inflammatory diseases—such as pleuritis, and the results of accidents; others, besides inducing fever, interfere with the functions of the organs, as peripneumonia and enteritis; a third set, again, kill by morbid sensibility and wasting, as those which induce hectic; and a fourth set by the consequences of morbid sensibility alone, as tetanus and hydrophobia. The constitutional disturbance of cancerous disease has more the character of morbid sensibility than of fever. Fever is not a higher degree of disease than morbid sensibility, since the latter may prove fatal without fever, as we see in tetanus, epilepsy, &c. This important distinction between fever and morbid sensibility will be found useful; and I believe, if followed up, may lead to more definite and successful practice in many cases than has hitherto prevailed.

Inflammation, at least so much of it as to cause perceptible change of structure, is not absolutely necessary for the production of morbid sensibility; for though there be some slight inflammation preceding or causing hydrophobia or hysteria, fright, as we have observed, will produce the diseased state of morbid sensibility sufficiently to bring on epileptic convulsions in an instant, without discoverable change of structure in the nervous centres, though morbid sensibility be permanent, as evinced by the

returns of the fits. We see convulsions arise from morbid sensibility, without any degree of inflammation to call for depletory remedies; but which, on the contrary, are aggravated by them, as we find hysteria increased by debility, and hysteric fits brought on or increased, when, for some really inflammatory affection, we are obliged to deplete a patient who has tendency to hysteria; and in these cases sometimes delirium, with pain of head, comes on, simulating phrenitis, but which is mere morbid sensibility, curable by tonics, with or without narcotics or stimulants, and not by the treatment which cures phrenitis, though the skin be flushed. These examples suffice to shew the necessity for making a distinction between a state of constitutional morbid sensibility and symptomatic fever; so much resembling each other in some respects, and yet requiring such opposite treatment for the safety of the patient; and, moreover, as it was shewn that these states run into each other, the treatment must sometimes be suddenly varied.

I may here bring forward some cases in which severe morbid sensibility was the urgent symptom, depending, however, upon different causes, and therefore cured by opposite treatment.

A boy was brought into the London Hospital who had been confined to bed for some time with a swelling of the knee, which was in constant pain. He had been for some days under the care of Sir W. Blizard when I saw him: he was much emaciated, irritable, and languid; consumed by symptomatic feverishness; got no refreshing sleep from opiates; the pulse 130, thready, or rather wiry

— very hard. He was too weak to bear more leeches to the knee, although that was red, hot, tender to the touch, and did not admit of the slightest motion, as he kept it constantly bent owing to the pain. The indication was to take off the injecting force, as the vessels could not be otherwise relieved; fifteen drops of tincture of digitalis were ordered three times in the twenty-four hours. After the second dose, he got better sleep than he had from the opiates (p. 106, last line)—the pulse becoming immediately slower; and in less than a fortnight he grew stouter, as the swelling subsided, and was able to walk home.

A medical student had swelled knee without redness, with great pain, preventing rest. He was treated *secundum artem* by several practitioners, amongst whom was one of the best surgeons now living in England. He had not fever, did not emaciate, but was tormented with pain, and sometimes with painful applications, besides occasional purgative and other sedative medicine. One night, in despair, he took a sup—what he imagined to be about a tea-spoonful (sixty or seventy drops)—from a bottle of tincture of opium; after which he slept twelve or fourteen hours, awoke free from pain, and very soon walked to the hospital without any more medicine.

I may mention another case worthy of attention, as not of unfrequent occurrence, and of the nature of which it is of great consequence to be aware. A young female had, for two or three weeks, been treated by bleeding, neutral salts, and low diet, for what was called determination to the

head, supervening upon a supposed pleuritic affection. When I saw her, there was jactitation; sense of oppression at the chest; incoherence of speech; severe pain of head, occasionally causing her to put her hand to it, and to cry out; intolerance of light and sound; flushed face; weakness, but not sluggishness of the voluntary motions;—there was no fever; the pulse was jerking, as we find after hæmorrhage, but not firm; the tongue not foul, but white, as we always find it with an empty stomach.* I ascertained the pain to have been at first in the *left* side; and, from other hysterical symptoms, felt satisfied that the present state was *clavus hystericus* of the head, kept up by inanition. She had been allowed the day before a little weak chicken-broth; but as she became worse, it was supposed she was unable to bear even that, which caused me to be consulted. Wine and animal food immediately and gradually

* I say always; and there is not a more common error than to consider this natural appearance morbid. Thus, persons who are in the habit of thinking themselves “bilious,” and taking physic, look at their tongue when they get up in the morning, and find it white. A good breakfast will make it look red, unless they take a dose of salts, seidlitz powder, or sometimes even whether they do or not. The same persons will perhaps poke out the tongue before a looking-glass just before dinner-time; and, seeing it white, forego a part of the wholesome meal which would bring the tongue to the natural colour of redness which it assumes after eating, from its natural paleness before eating, unless they be gourmands and hypochondriacs at the same time; in which case they will run the hazard of eating, and take a calomel “peristaltic persuader” afterwards. I have been constantly in the habit of warning my young medical friends to consider, when they see a white tongue, what time of day it is, and *not to purge* for merely a white, or more properly a *pale* tongue.

administered, without any medicine except a few drops of *vinum ferri*, soon calmed all the symptoms of what was called inflammation and determination to the head (p. 179); and health was restored in a few weeks.

These three cases will illustrate several points. We see, 1. Local inflammation producing morbid sensibility and symptomatic fever; hence food and wine afforded no nourishment, narcotics no rest (as they would have done, had there been only morbid sensibility without symptomatic fever). Cured by a sedative, *digitalis*.

2. Local inflammation, producing, not fever, but general morbid sensibility, chiefly evinced by loss of sleep; no indications for stimulants, sedatives, or tonics, and no want of strength or appetite. Cured by a narcotic,* which, by procuring sleep, gave the nervous system time to regain its natural state, so as subsequently to give energy to the vessels of the inflamed part.

3. Local affection (chronic hysteritis) having produced, not fever, but constitutional morbid sensibility—hysteria; debility, arising from depletion and want of nourishment; so that narcotics could procure but temporary relief, as they afford no nourishment, and sedatives aggravated the delirium of inanition. Stimulants and food, by giving

* We have shewn here how a narcotic alone can effect a cure. It is in this way that it cures tetanus, or sometimes with a tonic combined. The narcotic, in some instances, gives only temporary relief; as in *tic douloureux*, which it is necessary to cure by a tonic; but we may infer that this relief promotes the cure, inasmuch as we have shewn that the relief by a narcotic alone, in some instances of morbid sensibility, effects the cure.

strength, acted as a tonic, and restored power to the nervous system, and consequently to other parts; and, moreover, the stimulant gave almost instant relief, by counteracting the over-sedated state of the capillaries of the brain.

Though keeping the bowels open is useful in chorea, and in a variety of nervous affections, to promote the digestion, &c., constitutional morbid sensibility, hysteria, &c., are always aggravated by much depletion, especially of blood; so that, until food and tonics give strength, there can be no cure. Now, sometimes in neuroses the patient cannot eat, any more than in fever, though from a different cause: in fever there is anorexia, from a congested state of the mucous membrane of the *primæ viæ*; in the neuroses, from morbid delicacy of the senses of taste and smell; or sometimes, from morbid sensibility of the *primæ viæ*, the first mouthful swallowed produces a sense of repletion; and this nervous anorexia sometimes increases the difficulty of distinguishing between fever and constitutional morbid sensibility; and particularly when the primary local affection is in the *primæ viæ*, from indigestion (p. 167), simulating inflammation of the mucous membrane (gastro-enteritis).

In distinguishing actual (idiopathic) fever from morbid sensibility, which is of so much consequence, we must not confound that languor which arises from nausea and other affections of the *primæ viæ*, such as diarrhœa, &c., with the languor of want of power of volition, from the weakened nervous system of fever.

Morbid sensibility is an affection of nerve ; but nerve, considered in relation to disease, is nothing without capillaries—capillaries nothing without nerves. The isolated consideration of either leads to the error in practice of attempting to relieve the vessels at the expense of the nervous system, or of resorting to nervous medicines exclusively, to the prejudice of the vascular system.

What I mean by mere nervous medicines is, in the common acceptation, anodynes, which allay sensation for the time, but, having no effect on the vascular system, do not cure the disease ; neither will tonics have the effect in many cases, without skilful adjustment of the secretions, digestion, &c.

Apoplexy and paralysis depend upon disease of the nervous centres, produced by mechanical injury or spontaneous inflammation, or congestion only ; and may either be cured, and the paralysis pass off, or the usual results of inflammation, tumours, abscess, effusion, softening, &c. may cause the paralysis to be permanent. As the nervous centres are hidden from inspection, we cannot discover the degree of lesion ; we ought therefore to persevere in our efforts to cure, which will often at a late period be crowned with success. The principles of treating these injuries of the nervous system, recollecting the importance of the organs involved, and the necessity of energy in acting, and care in watching the phases of the disease, are precisely the same as the treatment already laid down for inflammation in other parts of the body, though a mystery was attached to them by the ancients, and a much too depletory and lowering treatment

was formerly indiscriminately employed, and frequently with an entire neglect of tonics, from the fear of their being stimulant, except mercury, which was not considered a tonic, though I have shewn it to be one of the most powerful (p. 92).

The principles of treatment, I repeat, have been already laid down : active and decided antiphlogistic and anticongestive in acute cases and plethoric patients ; in passive inflammatory states, that is, with debility of constitution, just barely enough of local depletion of vessels, with tonics, and even stimulants, when the constitution and the stomach require them, and a long and steady perseverance in the appropriate remedies, with a careful attention to the ebb and flow of power in the constitution.

The point to which I particularly wish to direct the attention of the practitioner is, that there occurs in old people a paralysis from mere debility of the nervous centres, from local congestion, without either inflammation, softening, tension, rupture of vessel, or other organic injury, and which will appear sometimes on one side, and afterwards on the other. These cases will recover under gentle and judicious attention to the constitution, by careful non-stimulating support and tonics, including a cautious administration of mercury. I have treated many old persons in this way, adding digitalis when there has been a strong hard pulse, and recovered them from paralysis, first of one side, and afterwards of the other, which depended upon mere temporary local congestion ; which was proved when they eventually died from some other cause (general dropsical symptoms, &c. &c.), as there was no

organic disease of the brain. In advanced age this chronic disease of the nervous centres sometimes produces a sufficiently evident paralysis, hemiplegia, paraplegia, or partial paralysis, sometimes combined with affection of the sensorium, sometimes not. But the symptoms of affection of the spinal cord are also sometimes obscure; and I have seen the muscles of respiration and circulation attacked periodically,* so as to simulate (and be called) spasmodic asthma, the respiration being besides permanently though slightly embarrassed. This I have known take place from obscure chronic disease of the nervous centres, and is precisely analogous to those symptoms which arise from the evident disturbance of the spinal cord from curvatures of the spine, which Mr. Hale Thomson has shewn such consummate skill in treating.†

I must here mention, that I consider nothing can be more faulty than the term (local) "stimulant" applied to rubefacients, such as cantharides, capsicum, croton oil, &c., unless it be the application of

* There is an interesting resemblance between some of these cases and the obscure cases of ague mentioned p. 217, and note; the nervous centres being the seat of disease in both cases, though from a different cause.

† This mode of practice was commenced in this country by Mr. Ward, and followed up—I might say improved upon—by Mr. Thomson, one of the surgeons of the Westminster Hospital. It is a union of medical treatment and bodily exercises, directed by ingenious mechanical contrivances, but which are not worn by the patient, and is similar to the plan so skilfully adopted by Stromeyer of Hanover, and in some respects to that of M. Guerin of Paris, and others.

the term "increased action of vessels" to the state of inflammation. The former error arose from the latter; for it having been assumed that inflammation was *increased action*, those substances which produced the phenomena were called *stimulants*; whereas, having proved that inflammation depends upon a diminished action of the capillaries, it is evident that they are *relaxants*, either directly or secondarily, and that the real local *augmenters of capillary action* are cold, astringents, salines, &c., which are also sedatives of the general circulation. The terms *stimulant* and *sedative* should not be used in relation to the local operation of agents upon the capillaries, but as regards their constitutional or general effects, viz. upon the heart, &c.; and when speaking of local effects on capillaries, I prefer the terms *relaxant* and *constrictant*, as I have shewn that the substances which are stimulant to the heart *relax* the capillaries when locally applied to them, and consequently are not local stimulants; and, *vice versá*, those which contract the capillaries diminish the action of the heart. Referring, therefore, to my former proposition, that the nature of inflammation is intelligible only by considering that the heart and arterial capillaries are acting in opposition to each other (pp. 24 and 99), it follows that that which increases the action of the one must tend to counteract that of the other. One of the great errors in practice has been that of not attending sufficiently to whether the indication of cure was general, upon the circulation; or local, upon the capillaries. Thus persons have been bled to death for some severe inflammation by those who

had their whole attention turned to diminishing the *vis à tergo*; whereas, by sending a quantity of a local constringent, such as antimony, and mercurial, neutral, and other salts, through the circulation, the capillaries would have been contracted, and inflammation stopped thereby, without shedding so much blood. I have already shewn that these means, besides their local effect, actually diminish the *vis à tergo*.

We have another thing also to take into consideration, viz. that the apparently *direct local relaxants* of the capillaries ("rubefacients," "stimulants,") are only so from intense action; for in a diluted state they are constringent. Weak solutions of capsicum and mustard are constringents; but when concentrated, produce rapidly the secondary relaxation or inflammation, as explained in the production of chilblain by cold (p. 67); being, in fact, least "stimulant" when they have been thought to be most so (p. 65).

There is nothing contradictory in these different phenomena being produced on different structures or organs by the same agents, through the medium of the same influence of the nerves. I have before shewn the analogy between muscular and electric, capillary and galvanic action (p. 116). In electric and galvanic phenomena the agent is the same, yet how different both in the action and in the mode of production or distribution! the one being sudden, requiring a freedom from damp, the other needing moisture for its production;—as the galvanoid action of the capillaries is increased by the agents which will stop and destroy the

action of the heart and other muscles, and *vice versa*. Substances which produce the electroid action of muscles, and are hence named stimulants, weaken and even annihilate the galvanoid action of the capillaries.

It will now be seen why the stimulants which increase the electroid power of the heart stop the galvanoid power of the capillaries of the brain. Feel the strong bumping pulse of a drunken man, whose brain is in a state of childish weakness from the relaxant effect of the alcohol upon the capillary congeries composing the cineritious substance:—see how much less intoxicating the same quantity of alcohol is in wine, especially red wines—the astringent circulating to the brain with it—than brandy and water of exactly the same strength, and consequently how well-known less injurious to the health—excepting in a few cases, where wine disagrees with the digestive organs.* Observe the effect of the astringent green tea on the galvanoid capillary action of the brain: when, either from stimulants or fatigue, the latter has become relaxed, and the individual drowsy, the energy of the mind is restored, and continues until, if in excess, the astringent—which had at first contracted the capillaries to a normal state—reduces them below a normal state; and the weakness (delirium) of inanition ensues, just as delirium tremens comes on, when the stimulus which the brain

* I have observed that persons—publicans, for instance—who drink constantly spirits or sherry to excess, suffer more frequently from delirium tremens than those who drink red wine.

had been so long accustomed to, that it kept it only in a normal state, being left off, the capillaries contract too much; through which the delirium (tremens) of inanition takes place, which may be removed by the administration of stimulants to relax (re-distend) them to their normal state. And we must further recollect that, subsequently to the extra contraction with debility, the opposite state of plethora may secondarily result, so as to change the diathesis (see p. 190, l. 14).

We have uniformly seen that the effect of sedatives is to constrict the capillaries, and in the first instance, independently of their effect upon the *vis à tergo*, to diminish inflammation; so that, however necessary to attend to the heart's action as influencing the pulse,* we must continually refer to the

* From what has been above stated, we may understand an apparent anomaly in the effect of digitalis as a diuretic, which was remarked by Withering and others,—that though its effect is to lower the pulse, it failed as a diuretic with patients in dropsy who had the most strength of pulse and constitution, and acted with those who, from the weakness of their pulse, did not seem to require digitalis. The cause of this is, that the local constringent action of a given quantity of the sedative on the weak capillaries of the kidneys would of course be most efficacious when there was the least injecting force of pulse to counteract it; and what has been here advanced will render it evident why, when diuretics fail alone, bleeding, or even active purging, will assist them in producing an effect. I have another observation to make upon astringents as diuretics. It is well known that uva ursi and tinctura ferri muriatis are useful for this purpose, when there is sand in the ducts of the kidney and ureters, causing by the irritation of their presence a congested, inflamed, and consequently swollen state of the membrane, by which the tube is narrowed. The sand causes bloody urine; here a powerful astringent, the muriated tincture of iron, contracts the vessels of the inflamed

local action of remedies on the capillary and nervous systems when circulated to them. We must bear in mind, also, that morbid sensibility accompanies opposite states of the capillaries—either that produced, through over-distension from inflammation, by rubefacient relaxants, such as fire, cantharides, or capsicum; or through excessive contraction by sedatives, such as cold, astringents, &c.

This will lead us to the explanation of the tolerance of sedative treatment when there is inflammation and fever, but not when there is morbid sensibility alone, as in the neuroses. When the nervous influence is deficient in consequence of the injury and debility of the nervous system, during the symptomatic fever of local inflammation, or during fever from morbid poison, it requires a greater quantity of any agent which is capable of inducing contractile action of the capillaries, so as either to bring them to their natural standard and diminish inflammation, or to bring them below it in sound parts, as when we wish to produce morbid sensibility with therapeutic intentions, as in the mucous membrane of the intestines or stomach by emetics and purgatives, causing increased peristaltic action, griping, or vomiting. Let not the employment of the term *morbid* sensibility, to express the state produced by remedies, be objected to. All medicines may be said to be but small doses of poisons; our very food, fruits, wines, &c. in excess, become deleterious—produce morbid sensibility.

membrane; and by taking off the swelling, the tube of the duct is enlarged, the sand is allowed to pass off, and the blood and mucus are diminished.

But when the nervous influence is abundant, as in health, a smaller quantity of sedative will produce that effect upon the capillaries which induces contraction. There is therefore less tolerance of medicines in health than in the state of disease for which they are indicated, which will explain an error into which many have fallen, of over-estimating the powers of new medicines : * for instance, a small dose of colchicum given to a stout healthy person will produce a depression far greater than if given to a weak patient labouring under rheumatism or inflammation. A healthy individual will be purged by touching the tongue with the cork out of a croton-oil bottle, not swallowing half of a drop, whereas it will take perhaps two or three drops to purge a person who is feverish. This is equally the case with sedatives, stimulants, and narcotics. It is universally known what large doses of tartar emetic may be tolerated in inflammatory and febrile diseases, and how little in health, or in chronic affections, as well as the large quantities of opium and brandy which are required to produce an effect in delirium tremens, gout in the stomach, &c. &c.

Persons who are in the habit of taking opening medicines injudiciously upon every trifling occasion, find that a teaspoonful of salts acts freely ; but we know that, when feverish, it will require four

* It must not be supposed that I consider either croton oil or colchicum really " new under the sun." We have an accurate account of the croton oil in Murray's *Apparatus Medicaminum* ; it was only out of fashion for about a hundred years : and colchicum was described by Dioscorides as a remedy for gout.

times as much, combined also with senna, &c., to open the bowels. For the same reason, a very small dose of calomel will nauseate a healthy person; so that those who dose themselves unnecessarily, and have found calomel "disagree with them excessively" when they were in reality well, will often beg of their medical adviser not to prescribe it for them. I have here explained why the young practitioner must not attend to such requests, when his judgment tells him what is necessary.

Delicate people, on the contrary, whose nervous systems are weak, often have great tolerance of purgative medicines, requiring constantly to resort to them; but free exhibition of tonics, by strengthening the nervous system, will be a much better and more certain mode of keeping the bowels in order. Stimulants will have the same tendency, provided there be no feverishness. The subject of tonics is very interesting as relating to every-day complaints; such as acidity of the stomach, and habitual costiveness. Every one knows that an alkali, as soda, or absorbent, as magnesia or chalk are called, will neutralise acid when it has been generated in the stomach, and relieve for the time; but the way to cure is to *prevent* the formation of the acid, by tonics, and nothing better than by an *acid*, such as the diluted sulphuric acid, three times a-day, either alone or with quinine or other tonics; and I have frequently cured habitual costiveness by similar means: for instance, by a quarter or half a grain of sulphate of quinine or of iron three times a-day.

The griping of purgatives is accompanied by

languor, the over-sedated state of the capillaries producing morbid sensibility, but not inflammation or pyrexia.

The excessive application of a sedative, as cold, by debilitating the nerves, produces inflammation—chilblain; antim. tart. does the same externally; and so might *excessive* quantities of drastic purgatives internally. Still, however, danger from ordinary purgatives, which the Broussaians apprehended, does not exist, as the peristaltic motion of the intestines prevents the continued application of the sedative to any one part.* If one grain of cayenne pepper were applied for some time upon a spot on the back of the hand, it would produce inflammation; whereas a teaspoonful is taken by some persons into the stomach with impunity, on account of its being mixed with the ingesta, and not applied permanently to any spot of the mucous membrane. It is the same with croton oil, mustard, squill, tartar emetic, &c.

I feel satisfied that Hamilton's work upon purgative medicines was of infinite use, by doing away with prejudices which had been inculcated by some of the ancients; and that though it has led to a somewhat indiscriminate use of purgative medicine, that has been, in the hands of ignorant persons, an error on the safe side, instead of their resorting perpetually to opiates, which was the

* In one of those various cases of post-mortem examinations which have taken place in consequence of the exhibition of quack medicines, little lumps of half-softened pills were found collected in masses in the intestine (colon), where they had produced fatal ulceration of the spots on which they had lodged.

empirical mode of giving relief formerly, and by which many inflammations were increased—not by the opiate, but by the deceitful ease obtained causing neglect of antiphlogistic remedies, and thus allowing the inflammation to gain ground. One abuse I consider too serious, however, to omit mentioning; it is the ill-judged administration of purgatives to puerperal females. The uterus, though not in a state of inflammation after natural labour, is of course in a state of morbid sensibility, and the effect of lowering the female by purging is in many instances to make her hysterical; there are then induced sympathetic pains of the abdomen, with tenderness on pressure, flushed skin, restlessness, &c., as in hysteric unmarried females. The inexperienced or ignorant attendant, mistaking these inconveniences for symptoms of inflammation, resorts to the lancet, and other depletion; and the woman becomes more hysterical, with increased pain, debility, jactitation, &c. &c., occasioning serious embarrassment to the practitioner, if nothing worse results.

I commenced the pathological part of this work with the consideration of the nature of inflammation, and the principles of its treatment; and having afterwards discussed the nature of the two grand groups of diseases which constitute fevers and neuroses, and shewn that, although they are both essentially affections of the nervous system, they are widely different from one another, I propose now to add a few observations upon some particular diseases. Although, in discussing their proximate

causes, I may be met by doubts on the part of some of my readers, from the novelty of some of the opinions advanced—which it may require farther observation to substantiate,—yet their practical utility, or the principles laid down for their treatment, will not be founded on a less solid base than those which concern the treatment of inflammation, fevers, and neuroses in general.

There will have been observed nothing of humoralism in the preceding pages; for though I admit the influence of imperfectly assimilated nourishment, and its consequent deterioration of the blood chemically, producing gravel or scurvy, &c.; I ascribe the effects, whether remedial or noxious, of agents, mineral, vegetable, or animal, taken into the circulation, to their producing changes of the solids. All *diseases*, in fact, commence, as I have already repeatedly said, by disturbance of the function of the solid parts of the machine; and, first of all, of the nervous system. This is solidism, or neuro-pathology. The nervous system, it is superfluous to repeat, regulates and supplies all with energy. There is no organic sensibility, or organic contractility, independent of the nerves. Every natural impression is received by the nerves; every morbid agent is first felt by, and operates upon, the nerves. Inflammation of cellular tissue, bone, conjunctiva, &c., through mechanical or other violence, result, as we have shewn, in consequence of injury to the peripheral nerves and to the capillaries; fever from injury to the centres of the nervous system, which arises either from peripheral injury propagated to them, or

through lesion by miasma, which, by the route of the circulation, directly poisons them—most probably by chemical combination and alteration,—instantaneously lowering their power or energy. I have shewn throughout, that the immediate effect of the lowering of the power and energy of the nerves or the nervous system is inflammation, or congestion of the capillaries, the first degree of inflammation. The diseases of morbid sensibility (neuroses), we have seen, depend also either upon a partial or general derangement of the nervous system; arising, when general, either from the disordered state being propagated to the central organs from a distant region of the body, from a wound, in traumatic tetanus; a poison, in hydrophobia; from the uterus, in hysteria, &c.; or originating there through the gradual operation of a debilitating cause, as delirium tremens, paralysis agitans, idiopathic tetanus, chorea, &c.; or when general morbid sensibility is suddenly produced by loss of blood or fright;—so that neuroses, as well as fever, may be produced suddenly or gradually, and, like it, may be either idiopathic or symptomatic. Fever essentially depends upon a diminution of the power of the nervous system—the nervous influence, whatever that be, is deficient; whereas the diseases of morbid sensibility appear to arise, not from a want of sensitive and motor nervous energy, but from a derangement of the machinery of the nervous centre, or a disturbance of that connexion of the nervous centres with the nerves, which not only induces, but regulates action. Thus, neither in tetanus nor hysteria is there deficiency of power

either in the nerves or muscles — as the morbidly increased sensibility, and the powerful spasms and convulsions shew—but a derangement in the direction of it. In fever there is a want of steam, or moving power, to use a mechanical illustration; in the neuroses the machinery is out of order: for instance, when fever is fully established, sensibilities of every kind are blunted, both what are called animal and the organic; and there is debility also of the voluntary and involuntary muscular systems. In the diseases of morbid sensibility, epilepsy, tetanus, neuralgia, hysteria, chorea, hydrophobia, &c., either all the sensibilities, animal and vegetative, are rendered morbidly acute, or the motor energy is distributed to the muscles irregularly; if not too abundantly, as we see in chorea and paralysis agitans, volition would guide the hand to the mouth, but in consequence of the deranged nervous centre, the hand is thrown in other directions in spite of the will, from the antagonist muscles not being under its direction. Or the derangement of the functions of the perceptions and volition, incidence and reflexion, is simultaneous, as in hydrophobia, and some cases of hysteria. In fever there is abundant evidence of lesion of the cineritious tissue, interfering with its function, the generation of nervous energy: in morbid sensibility we have only an evidence of deranged actions in the distribution of it in the medullary white tissue. In morbid sensibility we do not find the faculties of the sensorium interfered with, unless when, in the advanced stages, a degree of fever coming on, induces the delirium or coma of congestion;

or, on the other hand, inanition produces delirium, as in hæmorrhage, delirium tremens, &c.

Among the diseases which I intend hereafter briefly to discuss, are, first, ague, cholera, and influenza — allied naturally to fevers, but which I have preferred considering after the diseases of morbid sensibility, inasmuch as, following what I have said upon these, and concerning the use of sedatives, their treatment will be better understood. Afterwards I shall say a few words upon those affections of the skin and fibrous tissues called erysipelas and rheumatism, upon phthisis, and on those diseased states of the capillaries which produce catarrhs, dropsy, hæmorrhages, and chronic cutaneous eruptions.

I will not enter here into the description of ague, as I am not writing for those unacquainted with the meaning of the term, but for such as have learnt it from lectures, books, or observation; and under the denomination of ague I include remittent, as well as what are called intermittent fevers.

Ague is essentially fever; it forms, however, a connecting link between fevers and neuroses, as a considerable degree of morbid sensibility exists in it. Ague is, besides, closely allied to Asiatic cholera and influenza, which are also essentially febrile diseases, as I demonstrated in 1832, when we had daily opportunities of seeing the former epidemic.

I consider it of the greatest consequence to investigate these connexions of diseases which are separated by nosologists. In fact, the very close examination of them for this purpose increases our

intimate knowledge, so as to enable us the more easily to form a diagnosis; as a schoolmaster distinguishes his scholars, or, more surprising still, a shepherd knows the individuals of his flock, though to another person they are πάντα ἀμειννὰ κάθηνα. By shewing points of essential coincidence in diseases which are separated by nosologists wide as the poles, we shall account for those individual diseases, though antipodes, being benefited by the same remedies. Let us just reconsider what are the essential symptoms of fever—those which it is of consequence to remove, and the efficient means of doing so.

The urgent symptoms are those of debility of body, or of body and mind together. Let us not have our judgment obscured by the numerous and varied non-essential, though sometimes even epidemic superadditions: as in one case there will be costiveness, in another diarrhoea; in one case full pulse, in another weak; in one case hot skin, in another cool; in some cases accidental inflammation of one part, in others of another: all of which non-essential superadditions must, notwithstanding, receive their due share of attention, as aggravating the case. But the patient will recover from the fever, if we can relieve his debility of body and mind: that debility we have shewn to be caused by an overloaded state of the nervous centres; and we uniformly see that the only successful means of relieving them consist in diminishing the injecting force when the pulse is strong, and, at the same time, increasing the contracting action of their capillaries by antimony, mercury, salines, bark, &c.

&c. ; or even when the pulse is not too strong, we find bleeding sometimes necessary to diminish the actual quantity of the load, as the constringents alone may not be sufficient to produce contraction ; so that, as indicating bleeding, we have much more to consider the state of plethora of the internal vessels than the state of the pulse or *vis à tergo*. And though emetic substances have an influence similar to that of bleeding, in lowering the *vis à tergo*, they are, nevertheless, of most essential advantage when the pulse is even almost gone, by their immediate constringent effect on the internal capillaries ; hence it is evident that the pulse, which was so long considered as the indication for the use of bleeding or sedative medicines, is often no guide at all ; while the necessary practice by sedatives, from having been hitherto unexplained, has always been called indirect practice. I do not admit this term, and never practise indirectly : my indications are always founded upon physiology, as I have explained them up to this point.

We must again separate clearly in our mind phenomena from causes ; for instance, rigors, cold shrunk skin—the cause of which has been said to be spasm of the extreme vessels. The contracted state of the latter is, however, mere effect, not cause : convulsions, again, are the mere result of morbid sensibility, and have no direct connexion with the fever ; on the contrary, they have been considered by experienced men rather favourable in the eruptive fever of variola,—which I would explain by regarding them as evidence of morbid sensibility incompatible with much fever.

What are the steps from the invasion of the poison till the development of the fever? The first is a debilitating influence on the nervous centres: the mind is at this time clear though languid; the pulse is small, the skin cold, and the limbs tremble, or are convulsed, from the morbid sensibility of the nervous centres, evinced also by pain in the head and spine. From the weakness of the circulation, therefore, all the external capillaries contract, not by spasm, but by their natural contractile action—through not being sufficiently injected; the blood is consequently congested in the internal parts of the trunk, producing nausea, and other disturbance of the *primæ viæ*, augmented by the morbid sensibility of the sedatived nervous centres, sometimes causing vomiting and diarrhœa.

Now, this is the first stage of fever; in which, if the dose of poison has been sufficient, death has been known to occur, and that very suddenly, not only in the Bombay fever, but, as it has been stated, in the severe yellow and other fevers, attacked with which patients have died at once, without any reaction or rallying; as, for instance, soldiers have dropped on parade, and died immediately: the heart having been unable to propel the blood to the brain, fatal syncope or asphyxia has ensued.*

* From the histories of fevers, and from observation, it appears that the poison of continued fever is generated by animal matter, as in crowded ships, jails, &c.; the poison of ague and remittent fever, by vegetable matter, some cryptogamous species, as those fevers prevail chiefly in situations where these are met with, such as marshes, uncultivated places, &c. For instance, those parts of Rome in which the malaria exists are among deserted buildings, where, in the shade, cryptogamia abound. In

This stage of *depression* may last for minutes, hours, days, or weeks, as evinced in the ephemeral continued fever, regular agues, and those irregular agues vulgarly called dead ague, to be described hereafter.

The next stage of fever is commonly named the hot stage; but as that designation is totally inapplicable to typhous fevers, I prefer the term relaxed, as that implies the actual state of prostration of nerves and capillaries, which is so evident, and which I consider the proximate cause both in "synocha" and "typhus." The severity of this stage will depend entirely upon the dose of poison and state of constitution; whether, for instance, the individual will return to a state of health immediately, with but a slight degree of languor for a few hours after the chill; or whether the phenomena of a continued fever, or the hot fit of an ague, will result, owing to the poison having been sufficient to cause the more permanent relaxation of the capillaries of the nervous centres.

It has been previously shewn how sedative influence ultimately produces relaxation, which state now ensues in the nervous centres; and it will depend upon how much they are relaxed, whether the

London we have many cases of ague arising from malaria, in places inhabited by the poor, where there is warmth, shade, and manure, favourable to fungi, &c. When marshes are drained and cultivated, the cryptogamia are destroyed, and agues are not generated. The tremendous remittents of hot climates appear chiefly where the ground is at times covered with water, and where, after the rains have subsided, it remains half-wet, and then produces rank and unwholesome vegetables, especially where there are un-cleared woods.

fever will be hot or not. If too much relaxed to allow of their secreting nervous influence, as when the fever is typhous, the circulation and respiration will not have power to produce a full pulse and hot skin; if otherwise, we shall have flushed hot skin, as in continued fever and in ague. But in either case the skin will be reinjected; for even in typhous fever, though the heart be weak, the superficial capillaries, having lost their tone from deficiency of nervous influence, relax, and are refilled even by the weak heart with a dusky blood. And a similar state may be seen in some agues where, after the chills, there is a typhous state, and a livid colour of skin, with dreadful languor, as may be observed in individuals with ague in the Pontine marshes. Thus, even in ague, the student must not expect to find always the *hot* stage of the nosologists.

These are the only two stages of fever and ague. There is no third stage of ague; the sweat which succeeds the hot stage is nothing but an indication of renewed secretion by the capillaries, which, after having lost their tone, and been consequently in a relaxed, distended, non-secreting state, renew their secretion on being restored to a normal condition; and, of course, as they are returning from a relaxed state, they will pour out fluid sweat at first, until recontracted sufficiently to secrete insensible perspiration — a mere vapour.

It has just been mentioned that the ague exists frequently without shewing the hot stage; in fact the patient remains in a continued state of depression, with a languid circulation, cold livid skin, and the sensorium more or less oppressed. It is very

common for patients in this state to present themselves at the hospital, and, when questioned, not to be able to give any account of their symptoms, as is also the case with them when they apply during the cold stage ; in either case the practised physician will see at once that he has before him the subject of ague. Sometimes the patient with irregular ague just described will answer at once, when asked what is the matter with him, that he has the "dead ague," the name given by the peasants to this state of disease, which they know originates amongst agues ; and which they also know sometimes turns to regular ague, that is with rigors ("shaking") and sweating. In such a case, when I have asked a patient who did not use the term dead ague, "Have you the ague?" the answer has been, "I wish I had ; I should be much better if I could shake out" (outright).

It is an interesting subject for a student to watch the effect of a tonic, such as bark or arsenic, on one of these cases, as the uniform evidence of improvement is, that a paroxysm of regular ague is produced as a step towards the cure.

I became acquainted with this circumstance in the first year of pupilage. A patient was admitted into the hospital with *cough*, looking very ill and sallow ; he was ordered some calomel and squill mixture, with a blister to the chest. The effect of the calomel, the comfort of the hospital, and change of air, was, that the next morning he felt better, and was soon after attacked with a fit of regular ague. This was an early and useful exemplification of the "larvatae, or masked agues." Plentiful doses of

bark (quinine had not then been heard of) cured the ague and cough together.* Men of experience, especially in aguish districts, have seen all the modifications of these larvatae, such as aguish apoplexy, aguish paralysis, aguish sore eyes, aguish rheumatism (called intermittent neuralgia,† &c.) and which are well described by Macculloch.

* A lady consulted me on account of troublesome cough, uncertain as to expectoration, occasionally rather dry, and sometimes producing towards evening difficulty of breathing, which lasted generally through that night until towards morning, when profuse perspiration came on. She and several of her friends apprehended tubercular consumption, some of her brothers and sisters having died of that disease; other persons told her it was spasmodic asthma. The tongue was very slightly coated, the pulse above 100, and the skin rather dry: these were some of the symptoms of consumption; but the stethoscopic signs of asthma or tubercles were absent, and I remarked that the colour of the skin was rather muddy and sallow. As she had been my patient before she went abroad, I asked if she had not had "the fever" (ague) in the West Indies, whence she had returned about five months. She said she had, and had not felt quite strong ever since; upon which I decided that she had caught cold (catarrh) upon the dregs of an ague, and therefore gave her quinine to cure both together, and a little mucilage with squills and syrup of poppies to pacify the cough when troublesome, and allowed her to go into the country. In about a week she returned, saying she felt much better, but had had a regular fit of the ague the day before. I desired her to double the quantity of the quinine, and assured her that she would be well in another week. She observed that a mutual medical friend had told her she must leave off the sulphate of quinine, as it was not safe to take it with such a cough. By following my directions, however, she was quite well in ten days, and has continued so now five years.

† In the last note I gave a case of masked intermittent; I may here offer one as a caution against confounding inflammation with neuralgia. A gentleman, aged forty-five, caught cold, which was followed by a cough and severe pain in the head, shooting from

Ague frequently degenerates into continued fever; and I must add a few words upon the nature

the right eye to the back of the head, which was aggravated when he coughed or walked, and at those times extended to the top of the head; pulse generally about 100, hard. When this state of things had existed some weeks, his medical attendant called in a celebrated veteran physician, who prescribed guaiacum for the pains, considering them rheumatic. After this he was cupped on the neck to fourteen ounces, without relief. In about a month he found the sight of the eye weak; the pains became excruciating, especially periodically from one o'clock A.M. till six, and he got no sleep; even during the day the pain would not permit him to read or write. Another physician was now called in, who administered anti-neuralgic medicine and laxatives for about three weeks unavailingly. The gentleman's ordinary medical attendant consulted me at this period, and I recommended bleeding, considering that there was chronic inflammation of the membranes of the brain; but the patient refused to allow it, partly on account of feeling so weak, but principally because he had had an increase of pain after the cupping, though I expressed my opinion, that that was merely because the cupping had not been sufficient. My diagnosis was soon confirmed by the coming on of paralysis of the eyelid and of all the muscles of the eye except the trochlearis (which may be accounted for by the root of its nerve lying about a finger's breadth out of the line of the other nerves where the inflammation ran); there was also a degree of deafness, besides numbness and pricking in the side of the nose, cheek, lip, and teeth. A consulting surgeon was now called in on account of the eye, who recommended blisters and mercurial medicines, but without success; as, however, he coincided with me as to the propriety of bleeding, the patient at last gave way to our united entreaties, saying that he thought himself too weak to bear it, but he could not exist under the pain, and therefore consented to lose "a small quantity of blood." We, however, got away about twelve ounces, which relieved him so much, that he did not object to being bled again repeatedly for some weeks, and occasionally for five or six months, until he was quite well, as he has continued now for about seven years. The eye and its muscles have recovered their functions; but there is still a disagreeable extra sensibility in the skin of that side of the face. See p. 217, note.

and variety of the degeneration. When the fever is of the simple continued kind, synochous, with hot skin, the ague is called a remittent; when it is of a typhous character, it assumes the form I have described as dead ague.

Ague constitutes the link between fevers and neuroses; but in ague, besides the state of morbid sensibility of the medullary tissue, we have abundant evidence of the plethoric congestion of the cineritious tissue also; so that a compound treatment becomes necessary,—different from that of the neuroses, as well as from that of fevers. The sedative treatment which suits fevers suits agues, and more especially the irregular ones; for the irregular dead agues, or remittents, which are deteriorated agues, will be brought to the regular state (if not cured) by sedatives: and this is also the case with influenza and cholera, which are closely allied to the ague. The regular agues, which approach more closely to the neuroses, will be, like them, cured by tonics alone; and, like the neuroses, bear stimulants much better than fevers, remittents, influenza, or cholera, which are curable by sedatives, requiring sometimes the addition of tonics in convalescence. In cases of fever, and in all kinds of ague, influenza, and Asiatic cholera, there is an internal congestion of the viscera, including the nervous centres, which is relieved by sedatives; though, in regular ague and cholera, from peculiarities which may be explained, stimulants are borne with more or less impunity.

In regular ague, constitutional morbid sensibility is prominent. There exists, it is true, a great

degree of congestion of the nervous system, as well as of the viscera, during the paroxysm, succeeding to a morbid poison; but rarely is real fever produced. There is the pyrexia, equivalent to what occurs in hysteria, but seldom actual fever—not that loss of power in the capillaries of the nervous system which prevents the generation of nervous influence; for in ague, stimulants, unlike the effect they have in fever, do not produce the coma of plethora—the nervous centres being little injured, though debilitated, are relieved by the stimulant narcotic tincture of opium; and consequently fresh energy is communicated to the capillaries, even in the hot stage, by which they resist the heart's injecting force. Thus we may explain the apparent inconsistency of using venesection and laudanum simultaneously in ague, which has been recommended by some. The venesection, which we know produces the best effects, is not to relieve inflammation, but congestion; and hence is not often necessary, except, for instance, to relieve some organ, as the brain or lungs, which may be evidently suffering during the paroxysm, through its having been previously in a morbid state, as we see in the hemiplegic modifications of ague, which form an exception to the use of laudanum. In the latter the paroxysms are accompanied by coma or hemiplegia, the brain being previously unsound, though the pulse is weak; as in the state of debility after apoplexy and wounds of the head; and as the aguish congestion passes off, the hemiplegia or coma passes off also, until the renewal of the paroxysm.

If severe cases of Asiatic cholera be taken in time, they may be cured by acting upon a similar principle, viz. by relieving the internal congestion; unless indeed, analogous to what takes place sometimes in continued fevers, the individual have received so powerful a dose of the epidemic poison as will certainly prove mortal, despite any mode of treatment. If the blood, however, has begun to coagulate, the patient is dead to all intents and purposes, even whilst breathing and speaking, and the heart acting; for I have heard the sounds of the valves of the heart contracting just before death in cholera, when I am satisfied clots were already formed in the ventricles: at this stage, of course, neither sedatives, stimulants, bleeding, nor any thing else, can produce any effect. The slight or middling cases of cholera have a tendency, like ague, to remit of themselves; and hence whatever treatment had been adopted, the practitioner used to think he had cured them: and thus I have been told over and over by practitioners that they had found the right thing to cure cholera. But the next time I met them there was a long face upon mentioning the specific. Any person, however, who will treat the disease on principle may defeat it by a variety of weapons, only using them with energy,—antimony, all sorts of salines, acetate of lead, sulphate of zinc, common salt and water, even cold water,* calomel—but the last, if used in the quantity ne-

* The constant desire for cold water in cholera is an example of natural instinct which is thwarted by man in his wisdom; while every thing hot, both as to caloric and stimulants, is often poured into the patient.

cessary to be sedative, afterwards produces havoc on the mouth. Stimulants in moderation do little good or harm, except the evil of augmenting the secondary fever, or actually inducing it: as the hot or febrile stage of many cases of cholera would have been scarcely perceptible, if stimulants had not been used freely during the collapse, which might have been safely combated by the sedative constringents. Considering, then, the constringent effect of the various sedatives, antimony, mercury, lead, neutral salts, alkalies, &c. &c., we can understand how, as they ultimately coincide in the indication of cure, they have been adopted by different persons to effect the same purpose; and each, finding some particular substance efficacious in certain cases, has subsequently used that in preference to others. I think, however, I have done something towards reconciling apparent contradictions, by pointing out the principles which ought to guide us.

Before I had an opportunity of personal observation, I was led, by reading, to make a too-limited estimate of the symptoms of cholera, referring chiefly to the affection of the stomach and bowels (old English cholera morbus) as the cause of the collapse. When, however, I encountered the enemy hand to hand, I saw at once that it was like ague, not merely as regards its epidemic and miasmatic origin, but almost, if not altogether, an ague of a fresh type; and I often thought of what the great Sydenham candidly said of his first encounters with new epidemics. I inculcated therefore a treatment in cholera successfully adopted in ague, and

borne out by the previous experience of Kennedy, Lefevre, and others, *i. e.* bleeding, with emetics and neutral salts, but modified and combined with opium and stimulants in some of the stages. Subsequently, both in the cold stage of ague and cholera, I have depended much upon antim. tartariz.* with or without neutral salts, and resorted

* In order to exemplify more definitely the mode of treatment, I will give a couple of cases from my note-book; taking, first, one with all the marked symptoms of the worst form of the disease from which patients can recover.

March 14th, half-past ten, P.M. Patient aged 40, had been out attending to business, and rode in an open carriage from about 3 till 5 P.M., in good health and spirits, as remarked by his wife. About 6 P.M. attacked with pains in limbs, back, and abdomen, chilliness and coldness of the skin, with frequent vomiting and purging; supposed to have had thirty watery motions up to the present time; the matter passed rice-water (congee), with white farinaceous-looking sediment; no urine, thirst, but tongue clean, moist, and cool; pulse 110; very feeble, countenance cadaverous, skin livid (blue-black), hands cold, and the skin shrivelled; fingers crooked like a bird's claws, and in pain from cramps in hands, arms, feet, legs, neck, and trunk both back and abdomen; voice shrill, complains chiefly of the cramps, cold, and nausea. Ordered antim. tartariz. two grains, magnesia sulph. half an ounce, in half a pint of water, a table-spoonful to be taken every half hour.

Two, A.M. (three hours from last visit.) All the symptoms relieved: no sickness, only two more motions of the same appearance; cramps gone from hands and arms, and less in the trunk—still in the legs; hands less cold, does not now feel chilly; began to feel warmer along the back after the second dose, *i. e.* little more than half an hour after commencing the medicine, though the previous efforts of his attendants with hot flannels, bags of hot bran, &c. had not produced the slightest effect, and were laid aside by me on my first arrival.

15th, eleven, A.M. All the symptoms relieved: pulse full, soft, 76; still rather thirsty, and skin warmer than natural, and dry;

less to bleeding, and with more flattering success. The rationale is explained p. 211 et seq.

Upon this analogy between cholera and ague I would address a few words to men of practical

tongue clean, rather whitish; has had refreshing sleep within the last hour—none before; feels only weak, no cramps, but pain in muscles on motion; only three motions like the former during the last nine hours, amounting to about two pints; none for the last three or four hours; no urine; slight nausea after the last dose of the medicine—let him take only half a table-spoonful every two hours, and five grains of calomel immediately.

Six, P.M. One yellow, fœtid, feculent motion, and nearly a quarter of a pint of natural urine.

Eleven, P.M. Has had some sound sleep, feels comfortable, but weak; and muscles feel tired and rather painful after the cramps.

16th, mid-day. Feels well, but weak; pulse 84, full, and soft; skin still warmer than natural. Ordered to continue the mixture every four hours, with half a grain of sulphate of quinine each time.

Having alluded to the very slight cases, I may subjoin one. Called at 10, P.M. to a lady. She had been attacked in the morning with a shivering, slight nausea and diarrhœa; about six watery motions (rice-water and white sediment), unaccompanied by griping, no cramps, but some pain in calves of legs; the shivering continued, and she took a hot bath without any relief; she then went to bed, and could not get warm until after drinking a great many cups of mixed tea (a sedative), when profuse perspiration came on, with relief, in which state she was at my visit. There had been a dry heat before the perspiration, but even then a tendency to shivering; and she remarked, that upon stretching out the hand, or even turning the head round, there was a sense of shivering produced (morbid sensibility, independent of temperature). I recommended her merely to drink some more cool tea if thirsty; and, in case of any return of the diarrhœa the following morning, to take a dessert-spoonful of the saline antimonial every half hour. It did return, with nausea, and the second dose removed it entirely.

In these cases will be found an exemplification of the various peculiarities pointed out above in treating of cholera. It is the

experience. What is called "the fever," so well known in India, beginning with chills and shivering (rigors), &c., followed by intense heat, after which, in favourable cases, there is perspiration, with relief of symptoms, observes occasionally a different course; for, as we also see here in ague, sometimes the sweat does not come on, but the skin remains hot, in a state of continued or remittent fever. Who that has seen much of the cholera does not recollect some cases with this routine? Again: "the fever" of India, when it goes through the ague stages, does not, like our agues, continue for weeks; a second, or at most a third paroxysm, is usually fatal in the severe cases which the physician cannot check. Who has not seen patients die in cholera after they had become quite hot, that fever-heat exciting fallacious hopes? There was once an epidemic, the Bombay fever, which is said to have destroyed the patients in the cold stage; and it was inferred that had the patient lived, the hot stage would have come on. Who will decide now whether that was cholera or ague, or which is which? for, though called fever, the description agrees with cholera. Whoever has had much experience in ague has seen all the modifications of cholera; the cold stages, with convulsions (spasms)—spasmodic cholera; ague, with nausea and diarrhœa, and of course little or

principle of treating the disease which I wish to illustrate, and not a preference of my own remedies; for had I had no tartar emetic or Epsom salts, I could have treated the case with the sedatives employed by other practitioners, acetate of lead, ipecacuanha, common salt, &c.

no urine—the purging cholera; ague, with blueness of the skin, and shrivelled fingers, like a drowned person—blue cholera; ague, passing into continued fever—a common termination of cholera; &c. &c.

One of the most successful modes of treating ague is to give an emetic in the cold stage, followed up of course in the intervals by bark, or other tonics, with calomel, purgatives, &c. *pro re nata*. I have frequently shewn my clinical pupils that bleeding in the cold stage is perfectly safe, and analogous to an emetic as to efficacy; but as it is not often quite necessary, and there is a feeling against it, I do not frequently resort to it, as the emetic will do; and I content myself with bleeding the patient, when requisite, between the paroxysms. It is pretty well known how valuable an adjunct bleeding has been in cases of cholera; but the evidence is complicated, from the variety of treatment which has been adopted in conjunction with the bleeding. The treatment of cholera by antim. tartariz., which I found most efficacious, proved remarkably so, according to the reports of several talented medical friends, in London, Paris, and elsewhere. I had no means of shewing the treatment to my clinical pupils, as cholera was excluded from our hospital; but as many of my former pupils were placed as medical attendants in the various temporary cholera hospitals, I had, independently of private practice, but too frequent opportunities of investigating that dire disease, from which we know not how long we may be exempt.

It would be quite beyond the limits and scope of this work to enter farther into the description

or treatment of cholera; but in Dr. James Johnson's Med. Chirur. Review, April 1832, will be found ample valuable information on the subject. At p. 627 there is a note by the editor especially worthy of notice, shewing that the gruel or rice-water evacuations which constantly occur are not specific, but merely the result of all the bile and fæces which had been in the intestines being carried away; or, as he says, "ex nihilo nihil fit:" and I may add that, so far from a "discharge of bile completing cure," the discharge of bile is merely the ordinary event, evincing remission of the disease, or convalescence; and a renewed aguish paroxysm of cholera would soon wash that away too. This clear-sighted and experienced physician also inculcates the use of sulphate of quinine, as I have done on principle. In fine, I may repeat, that I consider cholera an essentially febrile* dis-

* One or two striking facts illustrative of the probable connexion between fever and Asiatic cholera have been mentioned to me since writing the above. A gentleman practising in a densely populated neighbourhood by the water-side, where the latter disease, which there scourged for an unusually long time, was preceded and followed by numerous cases of *synocha petechialis*, denominated by him "spotted fever,"—had noticed in 1830-31 that the prevailing fever was accompanied, besides pulmonic disturbance, by some soreness of the throat, and a peculiar eruption upon the surface of the body, "something between the eruption of scarlatina and purpura;" and was surprised, during the prevalence of cholera, at observing that, in some of his patients, after they had passed through the diarrhœal, vomiting, and blue stages of Asiatic cholera, the consecutive fever was accompanied, not only by the same degree of sore throat noticed by him in the fever of the preceding years, but also by a precisely similar eruption. The same gentleman corroborated my opinion that, *subsequently* to the cholera passing over our island, the epidemic

ease, whether it assume the intermittent, remittent, or continued form; that it is not a new disease, but the same described by Sydenham in 1669, and subsequently by Frank—the same which occurs in Madras, Bengal, Italy, Russia, England, and elsewhere; that when I, as above, use Sydenham's terms, “fresh type” and “new epidemic,” I do so not as implying a new disease, but, as he does, a modified form of a disease according to the “constitution of the epidemic in the year in which it occurs;” just as he speaks of the great peculiarities assumed by the identical disease small-pox at different periods.

We have been suffering from another scourge, the influenza, which is somewhat akin to cholera, or rather perhaps is of a mixed nature, between the cholera or ague and Sydenham's “new fever” (*synocha petechialis*), and which may be rapidly

“spotted” fever was ushered in and accompanied by symptoms of derangement of the intestinal mucous membrane (diarrhœa, &c.), rather than of the pulmonic (bronchitis), which was notably affected in 1830-31. Nor had the probable affinity of the miasmata of influenza and cholera escaped him: the practice of a patient follower of the Sydenham school, and a diligent investigator of nature, is highly worthy of being recorded. He found the most successful treatment of cholera to be that of small doses of calomel with anodynes in the first stages, and neutral salts during the febrile state: copious libations of cooling drinks in both. In influenza, he stated that he was unquestionably most successful with mild “antimonial treatment”—small repeated doses of tartar emetic.

A physician who has paid great attention to the eruptive fever (“exanthematous,” *synocha petechialis*) which has prevailed so much the last few years, not only in these islands, but on the continent, has also informed me, that at St. Petersburg many patients, during the consecutive fever of cholera, presented the identical eruption of the epidemic fever.

cured by an emetic, followed by saline antimonial medicine, and, as soon as the febrile state is passed, light tonics. I have only to observe on the subject of bleeding in influenza, that it is seldom necessary except when the epidemic is complicated with internal inflammation of the lungs and bronchial tubes, or other parts (as it has been in many cases); and then the patient will run great risk of dying if not bled. This I mention particularly, because I have so often heard it asserted, that the influenza does not bear bleeding or "lowering" treatment.*

* Of this I may offer one or two examples. A young woman presented herself as an out-patient of the London hospital, with influenza of forty-eight hours' standing, flushed, chilly, headache, pain in chest, soreness of throat. I took the opportunity of shewing the pupils the antiphlogistic treatment of influenza: sent her direct to the clinical wards, had her bled to a pint, and gave the saline antimonial mixture and calomel. This treatment my assistant followed up with the addition of leeches to the chest. She recovered speedily.

Another case is that of a particular friend, who is in the habit of what he calls curing himself—which I translate, taking the wrong medicines, so as to render his case more complicated, before he sends for me. He wrote to me a note during the prevalence of the influenza. "I have been taking * * * * * for two days; nevertheless I am so much worse that you must come and do something decided for me." I found him labouring under an aggravated attack of influenza, flushed, catarrhal, headache, incipient short cough, pain at epigastrium. I took immediately twenty ounces of blood from the arm, and gave him a quarter of a grain of tartar emetic and a drachm of Epsom salts in an ounce of water every two hours. With this treatment, and sundry doses of calomel, rhubarb, and magnesia, which he took besides without my directions, he speedily recovered from the influenza, which is said not to bear "lowering" treatment.

The effect of the antimony and salts on cases of influenza

The benefit of sedative (antiphlogistic) treatment in these cases, and in various fevers, indicates the propriety of using the *sedative* narcotics when an anodyne is required to allay cough or procure sleep during their progress: hence, though many use opium, syrup of poppies, or laudanum, I prefer the preparations of morphia; or, where the skin is hot, hyoscyamus, belladonna, conium, or stramonium (see pp. 162, last line; 96, l. 20; and 82, l. 24).

Notwithstanding that rheumatism exists in organs of which, as pointed out by Bichât, the fibrous tissue constitutes the major part, I do not consider that arthritic disease, rheumatism and gout, depends upon a lesion or inflammation of that tissue in particular, as is often supposed. The fibres of the tendons of muscles, the fibrous tissue of ligaments, and cartilage, like the osseous tissue, must be viewed apart from the connecting cellular tissue and the accompanying nerves and blood-vessels; and we shall be led to conclude that, however important they are to the animal economy, by serving as the basis or characteristic material of individual organs, they are second to the highly important cellular tissue and the arteries and nerves in the production of pathological phenomena. By this explanation the student will understand how it is that the comparatively lowly organised structures, ligaments, fasciæ, articular capsules, &c., precisely like the more highly organised skin and mucous membranes, are so intimately connected pathologically with the

without local inflammation, is to take off the painful chilliness and nausea, exactly as pointed out in the case of cholera related p. 224.

general condition of the individual: he will not wonder that indigestion should produce an attack of rheumatism or gout, or that either may be suddenly translated to a vital organ, constituting what is called metastasis, and thus prove rapidly fatal; or that cold and damp, alteration in the electrical states of the atmosphere, should be so keenly perceived, through the occurrence or increase of disease, before even the ordinary senses have been able to apprise the individual of the change; thus making a rheumatic patient a barometer.

The ideas of young practitioners are apt to be narrowed by names, as I have elsewhere to observe; and they are hence led to suppose that rheumatism, being inflammation of the fibrous tissue, as it is called, is something quite peculiar, quite different in its nature from inflammation of other parts. When it is considered, however, that it is the same inflammation as exists in other parts, the same lesion of nerves and blood-vessels, the symptoms being modified in consequence of the nature of the aggregate tissue, the practitioner will be led to rational treatment, according to the principles I have laid down for the treatment of inflammation in any part of the body; in every instance of which he has not to act for a name, but to reflect upon the proximate cause of the disease under consideration, and the constitutional condition of the patient; for he will have noticed in how many instances of disease bearing the same name he has had to operate with different means, and according to what, in a superficial view of the subject, might be looked upon as opposite principles.

Some forms of chronic rheumatism it is extremely difficult, if at all possible, to diagnosticate from neuralgias; so direct is the connexion between the nerves and rheumatic disease. Indeed, I believe that all rheumatism commences with lesion of the nerves of the part: to which it may be objected, that in *acute* rheumatism the other tissues are red and swollen. Even so; the process of inflammation begins by functional, if with no physical derangement, in the nerves, and spreads, owing to the diffusion of the nerves, through the cellular tissue of the skin, muscles, sheaths of tendons, pericardium, &c. This affords an explanation of the phenomena, and of the utility of the remedies employed: many cases are curable by tonics, while most are relievable at all stages by narcotics; some imperatively requiring bleeding, a few injured by it: the perception of which last-mentioned fact was the reason that bleeding was quite out of fashion at Edinburgh when I visited it; so much so, that patients with their wrists and ankles swollen, and the chest oppressed, were not bled, because, as was truly asserted, bleeding *sometimes* caused the convalescence to be tedious. No doubt this happened when discrimination was not used. All my life I have seen men prescribing for diseases by name: one man bleeds always in acute rheumatism, another never, or scarcely ever; one gives emetics and bark in all cases, another mercury, another colchicum, &c. &c.; one man finds digitalis of great use in rheumatism, another stares at his assertion. From what has been already said on the subject of inflammation, it may be deduced

why and where these remedies suit; why, for example, digitalis and bleeding will procure sleep better than opium when the brain is plethoric and feverish; and, on the other hand, that wine and other products of fermentation will procure sleep better than even opium when there is a state of inanition.

I must beg pardon of my senior readers whilst I set down a few directions for the juniors, in further explanation.

Do not neglect to bleed in acute rheumatism (rheumatic fever), if with a plethoric appearance you have the external redness and tenderness, combined with oppression at the chest, indicating tendency to pericarditis, or if there be symptoms of meningitis.

Do not bleed in acute rheumatism, unless emetics and other treatment have failed, if there be *only external* pain and swelling, and a patient not strong, lest you have a *slow convalescence*, as any one may expect if a patient be bled unnecessarily.

But, on the other hand, always have the fear of internal inflammation (metastasis) in your mind's eye, or you may have *no convalescence* at all, but death for want of bleeding. If your patient gets severe pericarditis, you will either have death soon with fever, as I have known happen from neglect of bleeding, or a lingering death from adhesions and enlargement of the heart (such as may be seen on the shelves of every museum), with dropsy.

Never neglect, in acute rheumatism, to examine the chest, and inquire about it; for the patient will scarcely ever complain of it, even when affected, in

consequence of his attention being drawn off to the severe pain in the limbs and muscles of the trunk.

Opiates are useful in almost every case of rheumatism, particularly in order to procure sleep, as sleep restores the nervous system; tonics are beneficial, as already explained, by their influence on the nerves; emetics operate favourably as sedatives, diminishing the *vis à tergo*, without debilitating. And, besides, to relieve the external inflammation, antimony, colchicum, &c., in doses short of producing nausea, when circulated to the capillaries, act like the tonics commonly so called, as already explained. The efficacy of veratria and the allied alkaloids rubbed on the skin and absorbed, is similar to the internal use of colchicum.

In referring rheumatic inflammation to the nerves, I have only gone a step farther than some who call certain kinds of it neuralgia. The exciting cause of rheumatism is usually cold and damp together, not either alone; intense cold will seldom produce rheumatism, if the atmosphere be dry; but if the skin have been perspiring previously, so that it or the inner garment is damp, rheumatism results; warm damp does not produce it. A cold fog or rain will produce the effect, though the person has not been previously perspiring. Moisture has an effect on the electric state of the nerves; but if the parts be warm, that is counteracted,—the cold and damp together are noxiously sedative. Every person can recollect illustrations.

Erysipelas also commences in the nerves. Cold

air does not produce the inflammation, unless the part have been previously warm and damp, and then a continued stream of cold air will produce erysipelas. Slight erysipelas of the face or ear is frequently produced in this way, and called by the peasants a blight or blast.

When erysipelas is about to appear, the part becomes painful long before there is any redness;* it begins, in fact, with lesion of the nerves. It is well known that severe pain long precedes any blush or other evidence of inflammation in shingles (herpes zoster).

This circumstance of inflammation resulting from cold and damp has been commonly attributed to *checked* perspiration; because it has been thoroughly ascertained, empirically, that perspiration had preceded the injury. But the reason is as I have stated—the perspiration acting merely as

* Some time ago I had an interesting exemplification of this fact, having been called to see a youth said to have inflammation of the arm, supposed to have been brought on by a liniment. It was erysipelas of that kind which on the waist is called shingles (exactly portrayed in Willan's plate). The application could not have produced it, as that was a mild soap liniment; but the interesting fact is, that the severe incipient pain of the erysipelatous disease, commencing on the Monday, was supposed to be rheumatism, and the arm rubbed; and no redness was perceived till the Wednesday evening, when the liniment was blamed. In this way I have known leeches falsely accused of bringing on erysipelas, having been applied to the temples for the severe pain and heaviness of the head of its incipient stage: although in some individuals with "irritable skin," or in elderly people, the bite of a leech, the prick of a pin, or the bite of a non-poisonous insect, particularly if the injury be where the tegument is lax, a degree of erythematous inflammation may result, but not genuine erysipelas.

adjunct to the cold. In ague, we know that the nervous system is injured by malaria, a well-authenticated cause of rheumatism also, which resembles ague in phenomena as well as cause, being often intermittent;* and to carry the analogy to the treatment, there is none more efficacious for either than Haygarth's for rheumatism—emetics, followed by bark; and the emetics repeated if the symptoms are obstinate. But it will be said that malaria exists in hot climates. I answer, observe how careful Italians and natives of other warm climates are to avoid night air. Their nights are often piercing cold, and the air deleterious; whereas our night air is not so. The sedatively poisonous effects of cold and malaria are powerfully increased by their acting together. Pleurisy and peritonitis arise in the same way; and pleurisy, as well as pericarditis, is not so often "metastasis" as has been thought, but an inflammation synchronous with the rheumatism.

Now, on the other hand, we must be on our guard, as there are cases of apparent neuralgia (neuritis) which are chronic inflammation of serous membranes, and which I have cured by active bleeding and antiphlogistic treatment, as if they were of a day old, though they had existed for many months. Those that I have seen have occurred chiefly in the meninges of the brain, or in the pleura or pericardium. How are they distinguishable from neuralgia? By accompanying obscure pyrexia, malaise,

* Macculloch's work on this subject is very interesting and instructive ("Essay on Remittent and Intermittent Diseases. 1828").

altered temper and appetite, frequent pulse, and generally bad sleep (p. 219, note).

I may in this place bring forward some exemplifications of the principles of applying remedies. Without referring to what has been said upon delirium tremens (p. 183 et seq.), it would be difficult to understand how, in some cases, genuine narcotic or hypnotic medicines fail of procuring sleep. I have before mentioned (pp. 106, 193,) that, when digitalis, a sedative, is indicated, it acts as a soporific, whereas opium in that case would fail; sometimes, on the other hand, when fully indicated, a stimulant will procure sleep.

Thus, in a case of subacute rheumatism (recent severe sciatica), extending down the leg, with pain on pressure, the *secundum artem* treatment, by colchicum, calomel, and low diet, did not relieve. Moreover, morphia did not procure rest; for the night before I was consulted about the patient, a grain of muriate of morphia (equal to three, if not four, grains of opium) failed. I found the patient's pulse frequent, but moderate as to strength; the fauces relaxed, and the tonsils swollen and rather purple, shewing a debilitated constitution. I ordered bark and soda, instead of the medicines previously used, and some wine at dinner; and instead of the morphia, half a pint of good ale at bed-time. The patient slept well; and the next morning the tonsils were of a good, that is, an arterial, colour, and less swollen. The rheumatic pains were relieved much within thirty hours of the change of treatment. Such cases may be considered the triumph

of principle : both the rheumatism and sore throat, as inflammatory diseases, were considered to require antiphlogistic remedies, with which morphia was consistent ; but the inflammations being accompanied by debility, stimulants proved *antiphlogistic*, and therefore procured sleep (p. 134, note, and p. 99). It may be said that this was a case of rheumatism of the sciatic nerve, curable, on Haygarth's plan, by bark. Be it so ; but the practice I adopted is unique (and deduced *à priori* from the principles I have laid down),—to give wine and ale to cure inflammation, which was evinced by pain on motion and pressure, frequent pulse, restlessness, and a recent sore throat in addition ; but the pulse was not hard, the tongue was not foul, and the skin was not dry. I trust the pupil will learn to prescribe on principle, and not empirically apply a nostrum to a disease because it has a name. If diseases could be so labelled, the practice of physic would be as easy as some young gentlemen, judging from the little attention they pay to the opportunities afforded them in the hospitals, seem to think it, but which they bitterly regret in after-life, when they incur the responsibilities of practice.

I would contrast with the last-mentioned case one in which a sedative was required, followed up by the same tonic treatment of bark.

An old friend and pupil asked me to visit his child, about which he was very anxious—it being much sunk by a large suppurating tumour of the submaxillary gland, from which there was an erysipelatous inflammation spreading across the lower

part of the face. The application of leeches the day before had not checked, but, by increasing the debility, seemed rather to augment the malady, as the inflammation was spreading. In this case, tonics were absolutely necessary to give power to the capillary arteries (to increase their action): but we could not wait for the slow operation of tonics (pp. 87, 91 et seq.), as the erysipelas would have spread; I therefore gave an emetic, and requested the parent to watch how its action would produce a paleness in the increasing boundary of inflammation. The emetic did stop the inflammation without debilitating; and the tonics, with nourishment, prevented the renewal of it; so that there was only the trouble remaining of the tumour, which had suppurated before I saw it. Some calomel was also given, as part of the tonic plan, to act on the capillaries, not as a purgative—the child having been well purged before.

It may be asked why I made the distinction in this case, and gave a sedative instead of a stimulant, as in the preceding. The former was neuralgia (neuritis?) of the sciatic nerve, and not likely to be augmented by an increase of the force of the heart, especially if sleep could be procured, which was our object. The second was not neuralgic, but inflammatory—relaxed capillaries evident to the eye, which the *vis à tergo* would have increased, as may be deduced from the instant good effect of taking it off by lowering the pulse by the sedative (emetic); and this shews the great value of emetics as a substitute for bleeding in cases where bleeding would be required if it could be

borne; and also how powerfully emetics must assist bleeding, where they would not be sufficient without it.

Here, in two words, is the epitome of the treatment of erysipelas—emetics and tonics. Tartar emetic, to check the inflammation, which being one of a debilitated diathesis, though benefited by leeching or bleeding at the moment, much evacuation will even increase the tendency of the disease to return, as is well known empirically. Tonics, including calomel, take away that tendency or disposition of the disease to return; and the latter, by its tonic effect on the liver, promotes the digestion, and consequently the strength of the patient, who must be well nourished after the paroxysm. Practitioners well know that it is the nature of erysipelas to return periodically like gout, or even more frequently, and thus undermine the constitution. I can assure them from experience that the plan I have laid down, persevered in, and modified according to circumstances, will eradicate it.

I must here repeat a caution against being deceived by symptoms arising during the administration of a remedy (tonic, for instance), which are frequently ascribed to it, though not really depending upon it. It is frequently observed that after a person, especially a child, has taken a purgative on account of indigestion or acidity, the patient becomes even hotter before the bowels are relieved; but this is merely the effect of the transit of the acrid matter through the intestines, equivalent to that heat and flush which is produced by the aci-

dity of indigestion in children, which commonly relieves itself by vomiting. In some cases of debility, especially in convalescence from acute diseases, as measles, scarlatina, &c., quinine or other tonics are absolutely necessary to prevent a strumous state from coming on; but as heat of skin constantly supervenes in these cases from weakness of the digestive organs, it requires the confidence of practical experience to persevere with the tonic (thought by some to be "heating"), which will strengthen them, and prevent the recurrence of the heat.*

* I will trespass on the reader's patience now to give an example, on the other hand, of the failure of empirical practice, which is so common. Several years ago, one of my pupils, just before commencing practice, called on me to examine his chest with the stethoscope. He thought he had hypertrophy of the heart, from constant, annoying, forcible palpitation. On inquiry, I found that he had pain after eating, without acidity; and sluggish bowels, without deficiency of bile. "You have been over-anxious about your examinations," said I, "and have got atonic indigestion." "So I thought at first," he replied; "but as I have tried *every thing* for that, and lived very regularly and sparingly, and taken no fermented liquor, I begin to fear hypertrophy." My prescription was, "Go home, eat and drink, and take half a wine-glass of vinum ferri three times a-day, and no purgatives; and when you come again this day week I will examine your chest." He called on me in a week to say he was well, and laughed when I asked him if I should examine his heart. Now comes the empiricism. After some three years he consulted me about one of his patients, who had "symptoms exactly like his own, but the vinum ferri did no good." "You have not yet mentioned the sex." "A young lady." "Is she very pale, then?" "Quite the contrary," &c. "Have you forgotten our clinical wards?" "Oh, I suppose you would recommend a drachm of cubebs three times a-day, and a grain of calomel about twice a-week." To which I assented. He called

We have now to inquire into the nature of DROPSY, which is an undue deposition of watery (serous) fluid by those capillary vessels of the serous membranes and of the cellular tissue which, in a healthy state, supply merely sufficient to keep those parts moist. Dropsy is inflammation ("leucophlegmasia"), or congestion (p. 26): the proximate cause of the acute or chronic being the same—a weakness, and consequently giving way or enlargement of the capillaries concerned.

I cannot agree with those authors who consider congestion to exist only in the veins, and to differ from inflammation in the cause being mechanical. We know that a mechanical obstruction in the circle of the blood must cause congestion as surely as damming a river stream, and that not solely in the veins; but there are causes of dropsy which do not act mechanically, and mechanical causes which produce venous congestion for a long time without dropsy resulting; as it is not until the capillaries themselves are congested, in consequence of relaxation from loss of nervous energy, that dropsical effusion commences, which occurs often when there is no mechanical obstruction—as in acute anasarca from cold, which is inflammatory, as its name implies, and which occurs often in robust persons, like *acute* hydrothorax (sometimes misnamed empyema), from pleurisy; or acute ascites, from peritonitis; or in chronic anasarca, *chronic* hydrothorax, &c. from chronic uterine and

on me in about a month to let me know that, by persevering in those remedies, the action of the heart was become as "regular as a pendulum."

other affections in the young or old, or even from a bad compound fracture of a limb.

I hold relaxation of capillaries to be sufficient for the explanation of the phenomena of dropsy; and in like manner as I denied arterial action to be increased in inflammation, so I deny that it is necessary to refer, as many do, to a diminished action in the absorbents as a cause of dropsy. I consider the action of the absorbents to be uniform, and that it is not necessary to suppose any alteration as to absorption as a cause either of inducing or removing dropsical effusion; for, considering the action of the absorbents to be uniform, merely to take up and carry off what is offered to them, it is evident that in case of too great a quantity of fluid being poured out, the absorbents will not be equal to the taking it up fast enough; but when we act upon the capillaries, so as to check their exhalations, we know that the absorbents, continuing their action, will gradually carry off the overplus of effused fluid; and we know that we can restrain the effusion from capillaries in two ways, either by constringing them, or by allowing less fluid to go to them. But of the absorbents we know no demonstrable mode of *directly* altering their action.* I

* Indeed, the only mode in which we undoubtedly affect the action of the absorbents—and that is *indirectly*—is evinced by some of the phenomena succeeding the experiment of the introduction of a poison by incision or injection into the cellular tissue, or serous sacs of an animal, or even into the stomach. It has been noticed, that an increase or diminution of the plethoric state of the animal affects the rapidity with which the poison is absorbed, or produces its poisonous effects. Thus, if it be bled after the administration of a poison in either of the above-mentioned modes, poi-

believe, therefore, that the *medicines* which are commonly said to increase the action of the *absorbents* act on the *capillary* vessels so as to check their deposition ; and that this is the true account of the removal

sonous effects will be evinced earlier than in another animal which has not been bled. On the contrary, injection of warm water (98° Fahr.) into the veins of the animal under such circumstances retards the operation of the poison. In opposition to the opinion that, in such experiments, absorption is in any way accelerated, it might be stated, that by depletion the animal is weakened, and that consequently a smaller quantity of the poison then suffices to produce the pernicious results. But it can hardly be maintained that that explanation will apply to the well-known fact of persons who do not labour under disease, but have been bled whilst in health as a preventive, (which in former times was so much in vogue,) having the absorption of chyle so greatly increased that their robust plethoric state becomes augmented, and fat accumulates in most parts of their frame. It certainly appears that the function of absorption, or that phenomenon evinced in the living body which out of it is called endosmose, is, according to physical laws, modified by the nature and quantity of the fluid contained in the system of hydraulic tubes—the elastic arteries and capillaries, and the veins,—the diminution of whose contents facilitates the emptying of the absorbents into them, and of course quickens the flow in the absorbents ; in other words, increases absorption. This increased activity of the absorbents, through the depletion of the blood-vessels, is an admirable adaptation of structure and function of parts of the living body to the intended end. How wise a provision for the more speedy reparation of accidental loss of the fluid parts of the machine !

The knowledge of these facts suggests the immediate utility of depleting remedies—venesection, salines, antimonials, purgatives, elaterium, &c. even in dropsies not ostensibly inflammatory ; hence the utility of depleting remedies combined with tonics, and the reason why, in cases of poisoning in the human subject, no depletion should be resorted to for checking the inflammation of the viscera until the whole of the poison has been voided or extracted from the stomach.

of dropsical swellings by the action of mercury and other medicines, which either cause an alteration in the action of the capillaries so as to stop their depositions, or, by causing evacuation, actually diminish the quantity of matter supplied by the arteries to the exhalants, whilst the evacuation increases the current in the absorbents,—not any action of theirs, and which, indeed, is the beneficial operation of elaterium in dropsy.*

Dropsy is most frequently not a primary disease, but a symptom—a state of debility of the nervous system, and consequently of the capillaries, induced by disease of some organ, and increased, as in organic disease of the heart, liver, lungs, &c., by mechanical obstruction of the circulation. The partial sudden

* It is surprising how many medical men are afraid to use elaterium: having perhaps in early life ascertained that its effects are great, they think they are violent, which, however, is incorrect, *if it be judiciously administered*. If the eye be made to weep by an actual injury, such as sand, or a blow, or other cause of inflammation, the effect is very different from the weeping produced by holding an onion before it. The analogy is perfect between the operations of these two substances: the elaterium produces a weeping from the exhalants of the bowels, which carries off dropsical fluid without the slightest injury to the membrane of the intestinal canal. It is just as erroneous to fear employing elaterium to relieve the chest and other parts of a patient who is oppressed and suffocating with dropsy, as to fancy that a water-logged leaky ship could not bear the action of the pumps which draw the water from its hold. Some of my medical friends into whose hands this will come have seen the effects of elaterium in saving a sinking vessel. It is to dropsical cases that elaterium is peculiarly applicable, and not in those where merely purgatives are indicated; in fact, *if elaterium be continued as a purgative after the dropsy has been removed, it begins to distress the patient, who, up to that time, felt decided relief from it*.

effusions which sometimes take place from inflammation of a serous membrane, such as the empyema of Laennec,* from the pleura (which, as above stated, is not the empyema of Cullen), should rather be called inflammatory effusion than dropsy.

Dropsy may be induced by any protracted disease, which, by morbid sensibility or slow fever, robs the secretory organs of their nervous energy, as the kidneys, skin, and intestines, but particularly the kidneys and skin. And when they cease to secrete, the redundant fluid oozes from the capillaries, which are not merely overloaded, but weakened in consequence of the deteriorated state of the nervous system; and unless we can restore energy to the nervous system, so as to check exudation, by giving tone to the capillaries, we in vain resort to tapping, or diuretics, or cathartics such as elaterium, to evacuate the dropsical fluid, as it will speedily re-accumulate.

Thus dropsy is not to be treated as an isolated or single disease, except when for a time, to prevent

* I take this opportunity of acknowledging our obligations to Laennec: any man who practised for some years (as I did) before the introduction of auscultation, and felt the difficulty of diagnosis in many diseases of the heart and lungs, can estimate the blessing it confers, by enabling us to distinguish the varieties of these affections. Compared with what we now know of diseases of the viscera in the chest, the degree of information attained five and twenty years ago was but "darkness visible." It appears ungenerous to detract from Laennec by saying he has not assisted us much in prescribing: he has done every thing in helping us to distinguish the disease—the application of remedies depends upon our own skill afterwards. As for any objection to auscultation, I have never known any one who understands it who is not glad to avail himself of it.—(See "*Advertisement to Second Edition*," p. xvi.)

a patient from being overwhelmed by the fluid in the cavities, we turn our whole attention to getting rid of it, either by tapping or by profuse evacuation, as by hydragogue purgatives, or diuretics, and other medicines.

When we see a patient with dropsical swellings, our great object must be to cure the disease which produced the dropsy—the latter being but a symptom.

It is true that both are sometimes cured by attending to the one symptom alone, as when dropsy is the consequence of inflammatory disease of the lungs, pericardium, or liver; in which, besides bleeding, squills and digitalis are employed as diuretics, with purgatives to evacuate the fluid by the kidneys and bowels, some form of mercury being at the same time used empirically. Here, although the whole attention be given to the symptom of dropsy, the treatment is also applicable to the local affection; and in such a case the primary and secondary disease are often cured together. By referring to local inflammation as the origin of some dropsies, we can understand how, in many cases, the abstraction of blood becomes a most useful assistant in the cure, as well as the advantage of bloodletting for the mere object of taking off the injecting force of the heart, when the heart and capillaries do not balance in power; as, for instance, when other diuretics fail, from the congested state of the kidneys, venesection often proves the most powerful diuretic, as we have mentioned that it is sometimes a most efficient adjunct to cathartics.

On the other hand, in dropsy of broken-down constitutions, as well as in inflammations with failure of the vital powers, by referring to the influence of the nervous system in giving strength to the capillaries, so as to enable them to contract, and resist the distending force of the heart, we can understand how tonics, and, in some instances, stimulants, as wine acting as tonics, as above explained (p. 99), increase capillary action, and restrain the effusion, when evacuation would sink the patient; so that dropsy, like inflammation, is cured by opposite treatment, according to the state of the constitution.

A fruitful source of dropsy is disease of the heart—organic alteration, especially hypertrophy, and imperfect valves or contracted openings, the effect of the hard pulse from hypertrophy being to cause over-distension, at the same time that the capillaries, from diminished nervous energy, are weakened; for the obstruction or regurgitation from imperfect valves causes pulmonary congestion, and consequently deficient arterialisation of blood, as well as cerebral congestion, both diminishing the generation of the nervous energy; from which result capillary congestion (evinced by dyspnoea, livid lips, &c.), tendency to coma, diminished secretions, dropsical effusions.

In those cases where the cause is an organic alteration which cannot be removed, we must be cautious in not endeavouring to do too much at once by over-active treatment, as the strength must be supported, though depletion be necessary. Whatever increases the action of the heart, by

adding to congestion, diminishes the vital powers; so that there must be a constant exercise of skill to preserve a balance between heart and capillaries. Digitalis, &c. will restrain the former, whilst the latter will be much assisted by the tonic medicines which do not stimulate, and at the same time help to support the strength under the operation of the occasionally required evacuants and sedatives.

This leads us to the *rationale* of another symptom—HÆMORRHAGE from the mucous membranes, which, as well as purpura and p. hæmorrhagica, takes place under the same circumstances as dropsy—the exhalants from atony, and sometimes from over-repletion, as in epistaxis, allowing blood to exude instead of aqueous fluid; and even the capillary exhalants of the serous membranes sometimes allow blood to escape, which we find mixed with the dropsical lymph upon tapping, or after death. Enough has been said to account for the exhalants of mucous membranes becoming so debilitated as to allow blood to weep from them. It used to be commonly said, and is still thought by many, that when blood is vomited, or passed downwards, or coughed up, that there has been a rupture of a blood-vessel; but though this does sometimes happen, the most common source of the blood is from the network of capillaries.

In amenorrhœa, the (chronic) hysteritis from which it proceeds produces sympathetic morbid sensibility of the stomach (occasionally of the bronchi, &c., p. 129); consequently relaxation and

congestion of the mucous membrane, ending in hæmorrhage, sympathetic vomiting of blood, sometimes periodical, (*catamenia vicaria*). Chronic hepatitis, the local inflammation or congestion of the intestines in fever, and other affections, also bring blood from the surface of the *primæ viæ*. Bronchitis causes spitting of blood, sometimes tolerably copious, without rupture of vessel. Now in all these cases the symptom of hæmorrhage must be combated as dropsy, according to the state of the constitution; hence the distinction of active and passive hæmorrhages. The active must be treated by antiphlogistic means, bleeding and sedatives; the passive hæmorrhages, such as those at the close of fever, and many cases of menorrhagia, most directly and safely by opiates, with astringents of course in both cases. And even after active hæmorrhages are subdued, the patient must not be kept too low, as some strength is required to produce the reparation of capillaries which have been injured, when there has really been inflammation. But I have shewn (pp. 180, 192, 194,) the nature of cases which constantly occur, in which there is no disease but morbid sensibility, and in which the depletion and deprivation of food, adopted through mistaking the symptoms for inflammation, have sometimes brought the patients to death's door, if not over the threshold; and even if they escape with their lives, they may suffer years of debility and discomfort before the stomach can again properly bear the presence of food, or the nervous system recover its tone. How often has it occurred to me to be called in by

young medical men in breathless haste, who were really in a state of great anxiety about a patient, generally a female, sometimes after parturition (pp. 192, 208), in one of those "mimose" affections resembling inflammation, apprehending the greatest danger; when instantly, on looking in the patient's face, and feeling the skin, I have whispered, "There is nothing the matter with her." "But what is to be done?" "Nothing." "But she will die if she goes on this way." "Not if you abstain from active treatment" (pp. 180, 194).

These are exactly the cases which have brought homœopathy into some credit. The *far niente* of homœopathy was the only thing needful to cure them; the very careful diet was just the thing to bring round the stomach, which could not bear sudden repletion with food; exactly as with persons who have been starved, and cannot at first bear food, except in small portions.

On the other hand, I have seen persons nearly destroyed by the homœopathic mode of treatment; not by the medicine—for the infinitesimal doses can do no harm or good,—but by injudicious low diet inducing a debility by which disease has gained ground.

The inflammation or relaxation, producing increase of secretion from mucous follicles in different parts lined with mucous membrane, denominated CATARRHS, may be combined with fever or not: as in catarrh of the air-passages, diarrhœa, or acute dysentery; hence relievable either by stimulants with opium, on the one hand, or by sedative treat-

ment (including bleeding) and opium, on the other. If you ascertain that there is not fever, you may stop simple troublesome catarrh (p. 101 et seq.) or diarrhœa, with stimulants or opium, either in recent or chronic cases, as in chronic dysentery also; but if there be active inflammation and pyrexia, as in bronchitis, influenza, and acute dysentery, a sedative treatment must be adopted.

The terebinthinate gum-resins, and balsams, which have been found useful in the catarrhal states of the urethra and vagina, have the best effect also in catarrh of the bronchial tubes, and none more so than common Venice turpentine, the efficacy of which is increased by combining it with powdered senega-root in pills. The senega has as much influence on the capillaries when circulated to them as ipecacuanha; and as it is less emetic, it can be given in larger quantity.

The term catarrh, acute or chronic, is so peculiarly applied to cough, from whatever cause it may arise, that I think it necessary to make some observations on the nature and treatment of coughs. Independently of recent cases of inflammation in the chest, as cough is a symptom of consumption (tubercular disease of the lungs, to which I restrict the term consumption), it always produces, when long-continued, an anxiety in the minds of friends; but cough may arise from a variety of causes which only medical men can ascertain, and which even some of them often fail to distinguish, from not having paid sufficient attention to auscultation; besides which, young practitioners are often not aware of the variety of circumstances which may

produce a long-continued cough. I have been consulted for severe coughs of some duration, in more than one instance, which I discovered to depend upon a cause at first sight insignificant, as, a chronic inflammation, with hardened wax, in the ear; and though most persons are acquainted with the fact, that irritating the internal part of the ear will produce coughing, these cases had passed through the hands of several medical men previously, without this cause being detected, although there was a degree of deafness, which attracted my attention to it. Chronic enlargement of the tonsils, and accumulation of a white curdy matter in their ducts, will produce cough; and a relaxed elongated uvula, it is commonly known, will produce a most distressing continued cough: and in all these coughs, when long continued, the membrane of the larynx and trachea, inflamed by mechanical irritation, gives out extra mucus, thus producing expectoration, with occasionally even streaks of blood.

Such cases occur both in males and females, giving rise to suspicion of consumption; but the most common cause in females is hysteria, often so slight that scarcely any, if any, discoverable irregularity or derangement of the functions of the uterus is evident, and yet the morbid sensibility of the bronchia and larynx (p. 129) resulting thence, produces cough, with alarming symptoms, not merely of expectoration, as in the cases just alluded to, and which is merely from the continued mechanical irritation of the cough, but also spitting of blood (p. 252), which gives additional cause of apprehen-

sion of consumption. The mode of treatment of the former cases is obvious to all medical men as soon as the cause is discovered, according to the old adage; and, as to the latter, I have found no difficulty in curing this imagined consumption by directly attacking the primary disease* by such remedies as turpentine, iron, cubebs, aloes, quinine, assafoetida, &c.; and anodynes, with squills, &c., to allay the morbid sensibility of the bronchia and larynx; at the same time supporting the strength by animal food and fermented liquors, which are too often forbidden, from the practitioner supposing the symptoms to depend on inflammation, instead of attributing them to the true cause, morbid sensibility; and, on that account, not only resorting to low diet and antiphlogistic medicines, but also to frequent bleeding by leeches or otherwise, which makes the patient more hysterical, and increases morbid sensibility.

I have seen a young female who had been reduced by diet and medicines, including salivation, for a cough and loss of voice, which was attributed by several practitioners, some of them of note, to chronic laryngitis, but which was nothing more than what I call an hysterical cough, and which gave way to tonic medicines and a generous diet, with exercise in the open air—the patient having been unnecessarily shut up for nearly two years from the air of heaven and human society. There is no more common error than that of excluding the air from patients who have that kind of cough called spas-

* The diseases of the liver not being so readily cured, the secondary liver coughs, or asthma, do not so quickly yield.

modic asthma, especially those cases which depend on chronic (Laennec's dry) catarrh, and which I find are curable much more quickly provided the patient be sent out to take exercise in the open air even in winter. The lungs are provided by nature to admit cold air without irritation, but not over-heated air after being out in the cold: the most frequent cause of catarrh in winter is going to the fire and breathing hot air after having been out, the prejudicial effect of which is exactly analogous to that of putting the hands to the fire after being out in the cold, which produces chilblain; the same thing occasions a degree of chilblain in the fauces or larynx, and then the cold air is accused, and the patient prevented from going into the cool air again, which would have relieved the symptoms.

A medical friend of mine had a continued troublesome cough, causing anxiety on the question of consumption, and consulted me, and, amongst other points, upon the necessity of using a close carriage instead of his cabriolet. I cured him by merely advising him to turn his back to the fire whenever he went into a patient's room, which was very frequently the case, he being in extensive practice; and by recommending a more generous diet, as he had been living rather low, through the fear of inflammation.

On the other hand, to shew the value of auscultation where there was serious disease existing, I was consulted by a patient who had been ill about two months; he had all the nosological symptoms of advanced consumption,—cough, expectoration yellowish-white with a little blood, night sweats, ema-

ciation, some pain in the side on deep inspiration, &c. Thanks to Laennec, I was able to discover immediately that it was not consumption, but hectic fever from neglected peripneumony; and, notwithstanding the debility, I adopted pretty active treatment—free leeching of the side, and saline antimonial medicine, with milk and vegetable diet, which soon cured him.*

* A gentleman engaged in an active business had been for many months affected occasionally with symptoms resembling what is called angina pectoris, a difficulty of breathing, or rather sense of distension in the chest, causing him to stop suddenly, from a feeling of distress, and sometimes pain, and making him, when it attacked him in a sitting posture, get up and walk about, from a painful restlessness. He had only occasionally a slight cough, looked well and florid, but was getting irritable and anxious, and could not sleep, from uneasiness in the region of the heart, which was increased by a deep inspiration, or by sneezing. The pulse ranged from 84 to 100, firm, rather hard; the tongue pale; he had no feverish languor; and notwithstanding the above symptoms, and that he could not stoop to lift any thing from the floor without pain, he felt well and strong, he said, if it had not been for the bleeding, purging, and other antiphlogistic treatment most judiciously adopted by his medical attendant, who called me in to enforce compliance by his patient, who was a near relation, and was rather surprised at my inculcating more “drenching,” and a number of leeches to be applied at intervals of forty-eight hours for a week. This case was one of “latent” pleuro-peripneumony of the left lung (there was rhonchus crepitans, broncophony, &c.), which had continued in a chronic state from an acute attack six or eight months before: he was soon relieved by the active antiphlogistic treatment. These cases occur not unfrequently in hospital practice, in artisans who have returned to their work too soon after acute attacks, and are almost always cured by bleeding and sedatives, calomel, &c.: often even after extensive dropsical symptoms have set in (see p. 51, line 18).

Those cases of what are called spasmodic asthma, which in reality depend on chronic catarrh, may be cured by tonic medicines combined with palliating expectorants; but this will not succeed unless the patients, instead of being dieted and confined to the house, have every means taken, by animal food, fermented liquors, and exercise in the open air, to put them "in condition."

I must here say, that I totally disbelieve in the existence of spasmodic asthma as a disease of the muscular structure of the bronchial tubes (see Adv. 2d edit. p. xix.) I have never seen a case which, sooner or later, could not be traced to organic disease of some viscus, as the heart, liver, spinal cord, or lungs themselves; such as emphysema, Laennec's chronic dry catarrh, &c. &c. These latter cases, occurring in young or old persons, are curable; many of those depending on organic disease of the heart in old persons can of course only be palliated.

To return to the subject of the effect of the atmosphere on the lungs. Very much more value is attached to breathing warm air than the circumstance deserves. We uniformly see that real consumption (tubercular) runs its course rapidly in Italy or any warmer climate—at least, I have observed it to be the case; but a deception has arisen in consequence of persons not really consumptive having been sent into warm climates, who, of course, recovered from the chronic catarrh, or at least did not die of so trifling a disease, and therefore came back cured, or at least not worse—or, as it was called, with the disease checked. This

popular prejudice has still, however, a strong hold on the minds of men, and even auscultation has not yet corrected it.

It is generally very unnecessary, and worse than useless, to send patients away from their friends, and often at an enormous inconvenience. If they are consumptive, they will thus die in exile; and if not, they may be cured at home. Of the first it is unnecessary to give examples—there are abundant marble records in the neighbourhood of Leghorn, and in the West Indies and Madeira, &c. A case will explain more fully what I mean by the second. A young gentleman was condemned, by high medical authority, to banishment to Madeira, as “nothing else could save him;” but there were some strong objections. In the first place, love—he was on the point of being married; and, secondly, he was engaged in a valuable business, which depended much on his personal superintendence: a new trial was therefore moved for, and the case was brought before me. I decided that it was mere chronic catarrh in a relaxed constitution; that nothing was necessary but some tonic, such as iron or bark, with animal food and fermented liquor; and, above all, exercise on horseback in the *cool* open air. Under this treatment he was well in less than a month, and is now the father of a family.

Another patient, after having been sent to the West Indies for incipient consumption, as it was called, got well there, returned, and was triumphantly adduced to me as opposed to my opinion (as the last-mentioned case would have been, had the patient gone.) On the following January, how-

ever, I was consulted, because, it was said, the consumptive symptoms had returned. I found the patient shut up in a warm room, dieted and physicked, and waiting for a vessel to sail again to a warm climate, at a very great inconvenience as to family affairs, &c. I prescribed just as in the former case; and the patient was free from cough in about ten days, and has continued so now five or six years. I must observe that auscultation alone did not decide me in either of these cases: they had both been seen by practised auscultators before me. Though a warm advocate for auscultation, I am aware that, besides the injurious and absurd affectation of pretending to understand it by some who are really practically ignorant of it; there are others who place too much reliance on it for diagnosis, without considering the collateral constitutional symptoms, &c., which is nearly as absurd as a pacha requiring an English surgeon to prescribe for one of his wives, though he would allow him no more information respecting the case than that obtained from the one symptom of the pulse, which he was allowed to feel, the arm being thrust out from a curtain.

I must here make a few observations upon real consumption, and will point out those diagnostic symptoms which we are constantly and anxiously required to decide upon in the exercise of our profession; and at the same time that I shew the inflexible character of the disease, and how slight the chance is of recovery from it, I wish to enforce the possibility of temporary, and even of perma-

ment cure, and to explain the rational mode of attempting it. In order to understand fully the symptoms of the stages of this formidable disease, it is necessary to bear in mind the condition of the lungs at different periods of the progress of tubercles, and the excavation of the lung subsequently.

In speaking of consumption, I confine that term to the disease depending on the generation, growth, softening, and evacuation of tubercles; and do not apply it to any of the sequelæ of the common inflammations—catarrh, peripneumony (p. 257, line 30), and pleurisy, although they also may produce hectic, and prove fatal. Many of the statements in works on the practice of medicine are incorrect. Tubercular consumption, for instance, has nothing to do with common inflammation as a cause. We find in works on the practice of physic, the particles of dust in particular trades, as glass-cutting, set down as exciting causes of phthisis. Amongst the victims of those unhealthy trades, the ordinary proportion of true phthisis of course will occur, though not produced by them. The dust causes chronic catarrh, chronic peripneumonia, hectic, and premature death, on the principle mentioned p. 38, but not true tubercular consumption.

Tubercles are a peculiar morbid growth in the lungs, not produced by common inflammation, but arising like scrofula, if not identical with it, and which, so far from being produced by inflammation, do themselves produce inflammation; but not till after they have grown to some size, though inflammation may incidentally occur

simultaneously with their generation. The little light-coloured grains, not larger than the head of a pin, which constitute the first state, or germination of the tubercles in the lungs, have also the name of miliary tubercles, from their resemblance to millet seed. In this state, it is my opinion that they may remain many years without producing any symptom whatever: the person may or may not have a cough at the same time from catarrhal affection, or sympathetic irritation; but instances occur of their being in the lungs without producing cough, though it is very seldom we have an opportunity of seeing this confirmed; unless sometimes, when a person dies in consequence of an accident, or some acute disease, and we discover young tubercles in the lungs. We may also observe miliary tubercles in lungs which contain older and riper tubercles, as it is their nature to come on in successive crops; so that we occasionally find young ones in a patient who has died in consequence of those previously formed.

I may refer to the case of a young female in the hospital, who, whilst under treatment for amenorrhœa, went out on leave of absence on an inclement day, and got an attack of peritonitis, of which she speedily died. She had no cough, though it is so common a complaint with amenorrhœal females; yet on examination of the viscera there were found a great many miliary tubercles in one lung. These miliary tubercles, except when the lung is injected with red, are more easily felt than seen, as they are of a semi-transparent grey, and when cut into, or bruised with the nail, have

very much the appearance of the lymphatic ganglia ; they grow larger by a deposition of a whitish substance resembling coagulated lymph, only denser, which seems to be deposited within them, rather than converted from them ; and this substance afterwards softens to the consistence of curd, not differing in appearance from what is always formed in strumous enlargements. Whilst this white substance is firm, the tubercle is called crude or unripe, presenting a firm white appearance when cut into ; such being the second stage. The term maturation is applied to the third stage, having been supposed to be supuration. The term maturation or ripening of abscesses being applied to the softening of the tubercles ; but this melted-down tubercular matter is different from pus, which is formed fluid in the first instance, as may be seen every day on the surface of granulating wounds or ulcers. The melting down of the tubercles is the effort of nature towards a cure. By their thus becoming liquid, the resulting creamy matter makes its way into the bronchial tubes by an ulcerative process, during which, or, more properly, during the existence of that degree of inflammation which takes place previous to the breaking, as well as whilst they are emptying, there is hectic fever ; and according as the tubercles are evacuated, a number of small cavities, causing a honey-combed appearance, are left in the lung ; and as the tubercles are often in masses or clusters, large pouches will sometimes remain after all the white matter is expectorated. Provided there have been but few tubercles in the first instance, the cavities left get a kind of new membrane or lining to them,

and the patient may live on: this result is a real recovery from actual phthisis, which has by some been thought impossible. But the disease will generally return sooner or later, unless the individual die of some other disease.

The nature of tubercles is not yet decided. I am of opinion that they are a strumous disease of the minute lymphatics of the lungs, growing like other tumours by the addition of coagulable lymph, which assumes various grades of organisation, and follows the course I have just described. The analogy of the morbid process is in favour of this, and also of the most successful treatment in the very few cases which recover after the tubercles have ripened. Considering this simple statement of the disease, one might be surprised that more do not recover; but we must recollect that these strumous tumours being within the lungs, must, during their progress, induce, and be complicated with, more or less peripneumony, pleurisy, and bronchitis; besides the diminution of the pulmonary tissue so necessary to life, and the hectic wear of the constitution.

In addition to the distinct tubercles in a crude state, there sometimes is found a mass or masses of this crude tubercular matter, to which Laennec gives the name of tubercular infiltration. I believe it to be exactly similar to the other—with a deposit of lymph produced by the irritation of the tubercles, coalescing into a mass, according to the circumstance of greater or less inflammatory action. A very similar deposit takes place in cases of peripneu-

mony, to which Laennec has given the name of purulent infiltration, but which is by no means pus, but coagulable lymph; solid at first, and which afterwards melts down, like the tubercular deposit; the tubercular being the firmer of the two, perhaps from its more gradual formation.

Now, the tubercles at commencement do not necessarily produce any symptoms, any more than a chain of strumous knots on the lymphatics, which may frequently be felt in the side of the neck, but which produce no uneasiness, and are often reabsorbed without any remedy being used. We have no proof whatever that tubercles in the lungs are not reabsorbed, and I rather suspect they sometimes are; we can never be certain, as the difficulty that we have in ascertaining their existence in the early stage is so very great, unless they be in such number that there remains little hope of recovery. Yet the progress of auscultation has been such, that we may hope for still further additions to our means of diagnosis; and the more thorough knowledge we have of the nature of the disease, the better we shall be able to combat it. Hitherto the application of remedies in phthisis has been in many cases quite empirical, and often inert, sometimes mischievously active. The student must bear in mind that it is a disease of tremendous destructiveness, and that there are but few cases within the reach of art; but he should recollect that some are curable, at least for a time; otherwise he will lose that persevering energy which it is the duty of every medical man to exert as long as there

is life: I do not say, as long as there is hope, for many patients recover from various diseases, after all hopes have been relinquished.

Whoever understands the treatment of strumous cases has the groundwork of the treatment of phthisis, modifying that by calculating the nature of the organ in which the tumours are formed, and throughout making every effort to support the strength, not merely to preserve the vital powers, but for the purpose of promoting the kindly healing of the sores; for we have abundant opportunities of seeing, in surgical cases, how rapidly strumous and other ulcers get worse as the patient becomes weaker. Hence one of the great difficulties in phthisis is, that the presence of the tubercles constantly brings on inflammation, which takes the form of peripneumony, or pleurisy, and requires antiphlogistic treatment; while the risk is, that in reducing the acute inflammation we reduce the power of the constitution, and so increase the chronic or strumoid disease. Here we have an explanation of the benefit experienced by some from the use of digitalis, which keeps down the pulse and the acute inflammation, without wasting the vital fluid, or depressing the system, except in cases where it disagrees with the stomach, and then of course it does mischief by weakening. And because digitalis has proved useful, it has been recommended and used empirically, that is, indiscriminately; but being thus employed in such a fatal disease, it of course lost its character, except with those who could understand in what states it was occasionally beneficial, and would only use it

in those; knowing that, in the cases of phthisis with a feeble pulse and no tendency to acute inflammatory action, it could do nought but harm. Again, the constant repetition of emetics in phthisis, as well as in abscesses, has done good on a similar principle, by checking the deposition of new matter, and facilitating the removal of old; as elaterium is useful in dropsy by its emetic as well as purgative properties. But the repetition of emetics is so distressing, and the chances of curing phthisis are so doubtful, that few persons now prescribe this mode of treatment, which was at one time much praised and resorted to in this disease, as well as by surgeons for the removal of abscesses.

Some years ago a gentleman of the name of Stewart adopted a rational mode of treatment, with which he had considerable success; but because he could not work miracles, his plan was unjustly depreciated. His method was entirely tonic, and especially the cautious use of cold and tepid ablutions of the skin—a modification of cold bathing, a remedy which is found so uniformly beneficial in promoting the resolution of strumous tumours. Some patients with phthisical symptoms recovered strength for a time under his directions. Many had a recurrence of their symptoms, and died; but this should not be held an argument against the propriety of his treatment, which brought the patient through one crop of tubercles, though a second or a third crop proved fatal. The hydrocyanic acid, again, has been of great use in some cases; but not being able to effect impossibilities, it has shared the fate of digitalis and of Mr. Stewart's plan.

One great advantage of auscultation is, that it enables us to decide whether any cases of consumption are cured or not. Previous to its discovery, if a case got well, there was always a doubt whether the patient had been really consumptive, as in Stewart's cases; whilst all who died were put to the account of consumption, without any reserve. I may here recapitulate a few of the auscultatory observations made in practice. If there are but a few miliary, or even crude tubercles, we have no evidence from auscultation or percussion; if there are many, or tubercular infiltration (and we may almost always expect to find them near the clavicles), there is diminution of respiratory murmur; but from the solidification we have more or less bronchial respiration or bronchophony, and some diminution of sound on percussion. Whereas, if the patient's cough be produced by catarrh, the sound on percussion will not be dull, and there will not be bronchophony; and if the murmur be diminished by emphysema, the sound from percussion will, on the contrary, be extra loud. In the progress of the disease there is no alteration in these auscultatory signs, except augmentation, until the tubercular matter, having ripened, begins to make its way into the spongy texture of the lungs and bronchia, when a kind of crepitation is heard, being a mixture of rhonchus mucosus with the rhonchus crepitans, or what Laennec calls subcrepitans, and partaking more of the pure crepitation in proportion as, about this time, the lungs may become in a peripneumonic state just round the tubercles, or the rhonchus mucosus be mixed up

with œdematous crepitation when the consumption has brought on dropsical symptoms ; besides which we find occasional admixture of rhonchus sonorus gravis, or sibilans, which must not be confounded with the diagnostic signs, but which we need not here analyse, as that may be done with facility and advantage at the bed-side. When the sounds cannot be satisfactorily heard during respiration, the patient must be made to cough, so as to remove any mucus which may be obstructing the tubes, and preventing the real state from being heard. After the crepitation has lasted some time, we begin to have new sounds, according as the cysts of the tubercles get cleared out : when they are quite empty, they produce cavernous respiration and pectoriloquy ; when they contain some soft tubercular matter, and pus or mucus, we hear cavernous gurgling rhonchus. The sound from percussion at that period alters, becoming louder again, on account of the hollowness from the excavations.

Pectoriloquy is a certain evidence of the existence of an excavation ; indeed a cavity not larger than a nutmeg, or even less, produces pectoriloquy distinctly. In one instance I had a patient with aneurism of the aorta, in whom, during examination of the chest, pectoriloquy was observed in one spot only, which was between the scapula and spine, and which sometimes ceased to be discoverable for a day. After death this was accounted for ; it was found that disease of a vertebra, close to the head of a rib, had caused a small abscess, which, instead of pointing externally, had made its way into the

lung, through which the pus was evacuated. This cyst, not so large as a nutmeg, gave pectoriloquy when empty, but when full of pus, as when he had been lying quiet, of course emitted no sound.

I must observe that nosological symptoms are not sufficient to establish the existence of tubercular consumption—the whole train of symptoms may occur as the production of an ordinary cause (p. 257, l. 30); such as catching cold from wet feet, producing peripneumony or pleurisy in the first instance; the sequelæ of either are, not unfrequently, hectic, with cough and expectoration, the latter of which might be so similar to phthisis, that if it were alone considered, it would be presumptive evidence of phthisis. Expectoration of blood would be by no means inconsistent with the supposition of the disease being only pleuritic in the first instance; and I must here take the opportunity of observing, that though there are not many cases of phthisis in which there is not some expectoration of blood at some period, still that many cases of hæmoptysis occur without being connected with tubercular disease, and more especially in females. The heightened colour of the cheeks may not be found circumscribed, which is worthy of attention, shewing how perfect an intermission there may be, in the forenoon, though the hectic be fully formed, so as to produce hot dry skin and circumscribed hectic flush in the evening; followed by night sweats, or rather morning sweats, for the phthisical patient is generally hot, dry, and restless till four or five o'clock, when a sleep comes on,

which soon terminates in an uncomfortable state of perspiration. The patient in phthisis has usually an aphthous state of the mouth, the fauces being inclined to be sore, as well as the back of the tongue, with a whitish pellicle, the tongue florid and glazed, as if skinned; but neither this thrush in the mouth nor night sweats are diagnostic of tubercles, they being met with in hectic from any cause—dysentery, for instance, or from abscess in the liver or groin, psoas abscess, &c. But if, added to the preceding symptoms, we have the signs of true phthisis derived from auscultation, all doubt will be removed, and we have only to trust to the means of supporting the strength and allaying morbid sensibility.

In various parts of both lungs, in cases of phthisis, there will generally be found tubercles in different stages, explanatory of the symptoms noticed during lifetime, and also ulcerated appearances in the intestines at the termination of the ilium, and about the sigmoid flexure of the colon, explanatory of the distressing diarrhoea which constantly occurs in these cases in the latter stages.

The thrush in the mouth in phthisis is generally coeval with, and indicative of, an ulcerated, aphthous, or thrushy state of the bowels; but we must not imagine that when there is thrush, especially in young persons, that there is always ulceration of the bowels; for children have thrush very frequently when debilitated by diseases, such as from teething or worms, from which they rapidly recover when the cause is removed.

Before we possessed the means of diagnosis established by Laennec, some cases used to be thought phthisis laryngea, on account of the loss of voice and incessant "laryngeal" cough, affording false hopes that counter-irritation on the throat, &c. might effect a cure. Formerly many a case of phthisis used to get the name of a liver-cough—that is, when accompanied by a pain in the right hypochondrium, costiveness, and indigestion; but now the auscultatory symptoms tell too truly the state of the lungs.

In many cases of phthisis, I may repeat, there occurs the superaddition of peripneumony, pleurisy, hæmoptysis, or catarrh, or complications with disease of other viscera; and often dropsy comes on at the last, and hastens the fatal termination, or that pleuritic and purulent effusion into the chest which Laennec calls empyema. When there is hæmoptysis, peripneumony, or pleurisy, or any complication requiring antiphlogistic treatment, we must recollect the analogy between the phthisical and strumous constitutions, and save the strength of the patient as much as possible. I would advise the young practitioner not to bleed patients beyond what is absolutely necessary to check the inflammatory superaddition in any case of tubercular phthisis. In peripneumonia or pleuritis, with a consumptive habit, we must avoid the risk of knocking down the constitution, if possible; but I confess we are sometimes placed between two evils, and must then choose the lesser, as well as we can judge.

One thing of which I am convinced is, that the true principle of treating consumption is to support the

patient's strength to the utmost;* and that though occasional complications may call for antiphlogistic treatment, tubercular disease by itself does not. I must again caution young practitioners against shutting up phthisical patients in warm rooms. I am satisfied that the want of exercise induces a languor which makes them wear out faster than if permitted to ride or walk according to their strength in the open air. At every exacerbation of their complaint, phthisical patients say they have caught

* Many years ago a young married lady, who had two children, came under my care with all the symptoms of confirmed consumption, cough and muco-purulent expectoration. She had occasionally spat a little blood; there were night sweats and colliquative diarrhœa. I supported her strength with animal food, and some fermented liquor, whenever her pulse could bear it; gentle exercise in the open air, and free admission of air into her rooms. I restrained the diarrhœa by catechu, logwood, and sometimes opiates; sometimes applied half-a-dozen leeches, and blisters, and gave digitalis for a few days when there was appearance of acute inflammation; sometimes gave bark and soda; sometimes quinine with diluted sulphuric acid, which restrained the sweats. Beyond my hopes, she got well, and continued so for about five years, having one child more in that time. I think that during the attack she had expectorated a crop of tubercles, but I cannot be certain, as I had not then practised auscultation. However, after the five years, she had a renewal of all the symptoms; and I know that she then had cavities in the lungs, as I ascertained by auscultation that there was crepitation, pectoriloquy, and cavernous respiration. From this she recovered again in about a year; and when she regained her strength had another child. Within two years from her second recovery she had another return of the same symptoms, and died,—the lungs, upon examination, being full of large cavities. The process of utero-gestation is said to suspend the progress of phthisis; but in this case the period occupied by one pregnancy bears a small proportion to the interval between the first and second attack (p. 266, l. 14, p. 264, l. 23).

fresh cold; but the same thing occurs when the experiment is tried of keeping them in rooms graduated by a thermometer. A mild climate is useful, by permitting more free exercise in the open air: but when we look at the specimens in our museums, we may judge whether a warm climate could regenerate such lungs.

To return from this long digression upon phthisis, we may consider chronic diarrhœa to be, in fact, frequently a catarrhal state of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal, and requiring to be treated on the same principles as explained pp. 253, 254, whether it arise from mere sympathetic morbid sensibility, as in hysteric females, or from chronic inflammation of the membrane itself, or congestion, or mere loss of tone combined with indigestion, in which hæmatoxylum and other astringents must be substituted for expectorants. In the diarrhœa which occurs from the necessary administration of mercurials, hæmatoxylum will be found a most valuable remedy, with or without opiates; and also in the chronic diarrhœa of gouty habits, &c. In the diarrhœa of children it is most valuable, and possesses the advantage, for them, of having no disagreeable taste.

The consideration of the internal rete mucosum naturally leads me to say a few words concerning the external rete mucosum, as the seat of cutaneous diseases, the cure of which has been much retarded by the well-intended labours of the nosologists. Their time has been wasted in making dis-

inctions between diseases which are as like one another as one horse is to another; or resembling each other as much as a horse does a mule, or an ass a zebra—the species of each genus of disease being curable by the same means; so that, in fact, the true service to medicine would have been to have shewn wherein the different varieties resembled each other in essential points, so as to cure them on principle.

The first great distinction we have to establish in cutaneous diseases is between the contagious and non-contagious. In the former class we can include with certainty two only—the itch and porrigo capitis (the ring-worm of the scalp, or scald head). Whatever other chronic eruption the young practitioner is consulted about, he may at once answer for its not being contagious; but it will require a little experience to enable him to distinguish the various forms which the itch, for example, assumes. To assist him, however, he may recollect one unaccountable peculiarity which it exhibits, of never affecting the face. The itch is sometimes papular, sometimes pustular, sometimes vesicular, sometimes scaly, though unequivocally the same identical disease; in other words, according to the state of the constitution, the same irritating cause—recently demonstrated to be a peculiar insect (*acarus scabiei*)—may produce a disease resembling prurigo, eczema, impetigo, ecthyma, herpes, or psoriasis; the itch, in fact, communicated from a patient who has it in the pustular form may produce it in another person in the vesicular or papular state; and from analogy I infer, that the various

cutaneous eruptions are but degrees of one state—a morbid sensibility and loss of power in the capillaries of the rete mucosum, assuming various forms according to the age and constitution of the patient; as we see morbid sensibility propagated from the gums produces in infants strophulus, or porrigo larvalis, diseases never seen in adults; or, if they occur, are in them called prurigo, lichen, or herpes, or something equivalent, distinguishable certainly, because the difference of age modifies the appearance, though not the quality.

I believe it will be found perfectly useless, *as far as treatment is concerned*, to make any further division of chronic cutaneous diseases than into the papular, scaly, pustular, and vesicular. I really see no use in the interminable hair-splitting distinctions made by authors, from Willan down to the present time; and they are most appalling to the unhappy student, leading to vain repetitions in description of remedies, and an empiricism which excludes or confounds the principles of treatment.

The first or lowest degree of derangement is the simple itching, which is scarcely or not evidently even papular; in which the nerves evince morbid sensibility only, the first degree of debility, leading to congestion of the capillaries in those points.

Next comes the thickening, *i. e.* relaxation and sponginess of the rete mucosum in various points, the relaxation being sufficient to cause a slight loosening of the cuticle, which adheres in scales.

The third is the pustular, when the relaxation has gone the length of some minute loss of sub-

stance, which the surrounding healthy capillaries set about restoring by granulation and suppuration of pustules.

The fourth might be thought by some to be a minor degree, because apparently more simple—the mere separation of the cuticle in the form of vesicle; but, on the contrary, this is a higher, being a more rapid inflammation; and, moreover, we see analogically that these vesications take place in connexion with the erysipelatous state of disease which evinces loss of power of the constitution. Vesicular ecthyma takes place in weak strumous patients; mercurial vesicular disease, when the constitution is suffering from the mineral; pemphigus and vesicating patches of purpura or scurvy, when the constitution is in the worst state.

The co-existence of disease of the lining of the intestinal canal and skin, or of the internal and external rete mucosum, has been universally observed and acknowledged. This connexion I attribute to the whole being supplied by the ganglionic system of nerves, whereby an impression is produced on the skin through the *primæ viæ*, as when cold water drank during perspiration produces scaly eruption on the skin, or when, *vice versâ*, applied to the skin, it produces pain in the stomach and bowels and diarrhœa, and as iron or arsenic taken into the stomach cures cutaneous eruptions, or a warm bath relieves diarrhœa.

I defy any person to apply remedies for cutaneous diseases with any degree of precision by the directions of Willan or any of his successors. But enough has been said in the preceding pages to

guide to the application of remedies on principle to these chronic inflammations and their consequences. In the first place, tonics, such as iron, mercury, and arsenic, cure in two ways—by their direct effect upon the vessels of the skin when circulated to them, and by their effect upon the *primæ viæ* in giving tone: we must not, however, produce salivation by the mercury, nor inflammation of the bowels by too free use or abuse of mercury or arsenic. Iron, again, injudiciously applied, will rather retard digestion, of which it is the greatest promoter in proper doses, which doses are relative, as has been already shewn. Compound decoction of sarsaparilla, with the mezereon and decoction of dulcamara, are most valuable remedies; but if the stomach and bowels be oppressed by them, they do no good. I have shewn (p. 169,) how remedies sometimes fail from being too energetic. In cases of psoriasis, in which the usual routine of “specifics” had been tried by various practitioners unavailingly, because too freely applied, seeing that the patients were of a very delicate though not unsound constitution, with weak digestion though not want of appetite, I have given the mildest tonic, the sulphuric-acid lemonade, which has rapidly cured the previously intractable psoriasis.

Antimony circulated to the cutaneous vessels is most valuable, but we are told it often fails—we are not told why: the reason is, that the cutaneous eruptions not being acute diseases, not febrile, there is little tolerance of antimony, and therefore the common doses are often oppressive. It cannot be too often

repeated, that persons frequently give much too large doses of remedies in chronic diseases, and thereby fail. And again; the sedative antimony cannot cure the eruptions of broken-down constitutions, which require tonics and full diet; and in such cases, as the *primæ viæ* are weak, it is often a difficult matter to get them to profit by the tonics and diet; and therefore we may be obliged to begin by the mildest, such as hæmatoxylum as a tonic, and milk, with perhaps a little brandy, as nourishment; or the sulphuric-acid lemonade, with animal broths and jellies, and farinaceous matters of diet. Warm and vapour baths are commonly useful by softening the scaly eruptions; and at the same time the warm bath is a powerful means of soothing the *primæ viæ*, and restoring them to tone and digestive power; but in some of the papular eruptions the heat often rather increases the tingling of the skin.

Alkaline washes are highly useful to excite the relaxed vessels of the skin; but they require great varieties of dilution, according to the sensibility of the parts. The same may be said of mineral acid washes; the alkaline washes are generally preferable, as more cleansing. The *dulcamara* has a powerful effect externally as well as internally. In fine, the successful treatment of skin-diseases depends upon no "specifics," but a judicious application of medicines, air, exercise, bathing, and diet, on account of the state of the digestive organs; we may use mercury as a tonic to them and the capillaries, being mindful not to salivate, not to oppress by over-doses of antimony,

hydriodate of potass, &c.; and in chronic cases, when remedies fail, to recollect that they may have been used too freely.

Some cases of psoriasis, &c. are accompanied by, or depend upon, a congested sub-inflammatory state of the mucous membrane of the stomach, evinced, besides the presence of general signs of indigestion, by occasional nausea, and a foul or too red tongue, or both together, a hard pulse, precordial uneasiness, or palpitation. In these cases the emetic substances, such as ipecacuanha and colchicum, in doses just short of nauseating, and continued for some time, are highly useful, combined or alternated with tonics, logwood, prussic acid, &c.; in such cases the preparations of iron are often not so useful as acetate of lead, being less sedative. Turpentine is an excellent tonic, having the advantage of being laxative, and promoting the secretion of the kidneys: a very useful combination is, turpentine, quinine, and subcarbonate of soda, especially for strumous constitutions; and to make a mass for pills, rhubarb, aloes, ginger, cascarilla, ipecacuanha, colchicum, or liquorice-root, &c., may be added, according to whether there be any collateral indication or not.

In the foregoing pages I have endeavoured to lay down general principles, which may apply to the particular cases of disease as they occur—these principles being deduced from physiology; and for the explanation of pathological phenomena, I have referred to the action of capillaries and nerves—nerves and capillaries together, not artificially sepa-

rated, but as they exist in nature—ramifying with and supporting each other throughout; for by their combined action upon the blood sent to them by the heart, they produce the phenomena of health—in their deranged actions they create disease. I have also tried to explain the nature of remedies; and I have only to add that, in applying them, though not a moment should ever be lost, we must have patience in allowing them to act; and that, though inert practice is mischievous, the safety of the patient depends upon *ne quid nimis*.

FINIS.

FOR REFERENCE.

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