

An improved mode of employing mercury by fumigation to the whole body, exemplified by cases of its success. ... in various obstinate diseases of the skin, and especially in syphilitic affections / by Jonathan Green.

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AN

IMPROVED MODE

OF

EMPLOYING MERCURY

BY

FUMIGATION

TO THE WHOLE BODY,

EXEMPLIFIED BY CASES OF ITS SUCCESS.

TO BE ADVISED IN VARIOUS

OBSTINATE DISEASES OF THE SKIN,

AND ESPECIALLY IN

Syphilitic Affections.

By JONATHAN GREEN, M. D., &c., &c.,

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LONDON:

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290, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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AN improved mode of applying Mercurial Fumigations to the whole body cannot be otherwise than interesting to the medical profession. This improved mode, I believe, has its origin in myself. It deserves alike the consideration of the medical profession and persons suffering from disease; and it is to be advised particularly in all phases of syphilitic complaints, and for various other ailments where mercury is needed, inasmuch as it is abundantly safe, easy of application, and can be resorted to without exposure to the surmises of friends, or the impertinent and inquisitive remarks of persons less interested. Add to this its value as a remedial means, and the reader is in possession of the substance of the matter, which the writer hopes to elucidate in the few following pages.

The reader, be he medical or otherwise, is requested to yield his confidence to what may be brought before him, free from prejudice or antagonism. The writer asks for this concession in fairness to his own character and long professional labours.

MERCURY.

If there be a medicine that can be truly called a *specific* for any disease, I believe it is allowed that that medicine is mercury for the treatment of Syphilis. Notwithstanding its many advantages, unfortunately, in the hands of incompetent persons, very much mischief has been done; and oftentimes, even with the careful prudent prescriber of mercury, the whole animal system suffers from its internal administration to a lasting and fearful extent. Not so with the judiciously-applied mercurial fumigation in a proper apparatus for the purpose; and herein rests and depends all the advantages to be obtained from the administration of mercurial fumigations. They must be properly and scientifically managed. In such an apparatus duly managed, you have this important medicine and its effects at perfect control, and without distress to any individual organ, or the system at large. Yet if the mercurial fumigation is too much pushed in degree, either as regards the time of being in the apparatus, or as regards the quantity of the dose of mercury employed, you have all the prostrating effects, the salivation, and the sad results so often consequent on the evil mal-administration of mercury.

Nothing short of negligence and ignorance can produce these ill consequences from mercurial fumigations; but with care, that long practice has shown to be requisite, we may obtain from their proper administration all the good to be

derived from so important a medicine as mercury under a nicety of control which renders the process most desirable, and the results are free from the frequent evils that attend the internal administration of the medicine.

THE FUMIGATING APPARATUS.

In the happy construction of this apparatus and its correct management rest all the benefits to be arrived at from the use of mercurial or other important medical fumigations.

The apparatus consists of a box large enough to contain a person sitting, with the exception of the face or head. Under this is the duly built iron, brick, stone and flue work, sustaining a fire placed beneath the whole arrangement, and by which the apparatus is heated at pleasure from blood-heat to 160 or 170 degrees of Fahrenheit, to constitute simply a hot-air bath. Into this box vapour can be at pleasure admitted, constituting the hot-air vapour bath, and which is the best kind of vapour bath that can be administered, inasmuch as the feet are always kept the hottest, and the patient's face is excluded from either the hot air, vapour or medical gas, which latter constitutes what is known as a *fumigation*. This method is not only desirable, but of great advantage, where there is determination of blood to the head. Yet it is sometimes desirable to have the head and face included in the apparatus when those parts are the seat of ailment, or when it may be desired from other circumstances.

Sulphur, mercury, chlorine or other medicines, by being placed on a plate over the fire, become volatilized, and rise into the box as gas, surrounding the patient's body, together with the heated air and vapour, when the latter is required. Aided by the heat and moisture, the patient becomes influenced by the medicine employed, according to the strength of the dose, the time of staying in the apparatus, or the scientific management of the process, to which the patient is subjected for about twenty minutes. The process is never otherwise than agreeable, and is termed a *fumigating* or *gaseous* bath.

MERCURIAL FUMIGATION.

A mercurial fumigation requires a somewhat different arrangement in order to volatilize the mercury in the short period of twenty minutes. An additional sort of small furnace is now essential, otherwise the oxides of mercury cannot be volatilized, as they require a temperature of the common fire, say from 1000° to 1200°, on which the mercury is placed, and thus the object is attained, viz., that of volatilizing the mer-

cury, and converting it into gas, to surround the patient's body. After this method we arrive at the beneficial results commonly obtained from the use of that medicine, but freed from the disagreeable or distressing effects sometimes produced by its internal administration, and from all the needful confinement and restraints which are enjoined when the medicine is given in the customary way to influence the system through the stomach. In the majority of cases it is desirable that the dry gases, as the gas from mercury, should be rendered moist by the admixture of vapour, which is provided for in the construction of the apparatus just described.

According to the process thus briefly brought forward, I assume to call it "AN IMPROVED MODE OF APPLYING MERCURIAL FUMIGATIONS TO THE WHOLE BODY." I am quite aware that more than half a century gone by mercurial fumigations were extolled for their efficiency in the treatment of Syphilis by medical authorities of high repute in this and other countries.* But the practice was never firmly based, owing to the imperfect way in which the apparatus was constructed at various times and places, and the trouble attending its use. Those drawbacks are now overcome.

It was in the year 1822 that I first began to practise in London with the aid of a fumigatory establishment, and which I was encouraged to adopt by several of the leading members of the medical profession. I soon became surprised at the amount of good I was doing, even unaided by the assistance of medicine. This was more particularly shown in chronic pains, intractable swellings, blotches and ulcerations of a suspicious character, at that time known under the strange term Pseudo-Syphilis.

The amendment in such cases soon fixed my attention, and also the attention of numerous medical practitioners at the west end of London. In order to further test the value of fumigatory treatment, I threw open the establishment to the medical gentlemen of St. George's Hospital, to send any patients whose cases were judged suitable for the trial. This led to my being requested to superintend the erection of a similar fumigatory arrangement to my own at that hospital; since then at the Middlesex and at some other hospitals and infirmaries; and afterwards I had to put up a double series of fumigating baths at St. George's Hospital.

After the lapse of more than ten years' experience, needful to warrant publishing, I published my PRACTICAL COMPENDIUM OF THE DISEASES OF THE SKIN, in which I was induced to insert two cases of severe syphilitic disease, exemplifying

* Refer to the works of Lalouette, Paris, 1776, of Abernethy, Pearson, Wallace, Bacot, Cazenove, Schedel, Parker, &c.

the results produced by the fumigatory mode of treatment. As they will be sufficiently inductive for my purpose on the present occasion, I here transcribe them, observing that in these two cases the benefit obtained was mainly to be attributed to the SULPHUR FUMIGATIONS, not the mercurial fumigations.

CASES OF CONSTITUTIONAL SYPHILIS, ACCOMPANIED WITH CUTANEOUS ERUPTION, ULCERATION, &c.

In the autum of 1831 Captain T. contracted syphilis. The primary sore spread till it occupied nearly two-thirds of the inner surface of the prepuce. Mercury was prescribed internally as well as by external inunction, but without any restriction in regard to diet, mode of life, or otherwise, and the patient apparently got well.

About five months after this, his general health became much deranged, and innumerable blotches appeared on the surface of the body and limbs; for these, and on account of his bad state of health, he was advised to leave Ireland, and proceed to Harrowgate, that he might have the benefit of the baths at that place, and undergo other appropriate treatment.

He had scarcely commenced the baths, however, when the blotches became open ulcerations, from the size of a sixpence to that of a common playing card. The irritability of the patient became excessive, and his health daily worse; he, notwithstanding, persevered in the treatment advised for eleven weeks, but only with the effect of aggravating all the symptoms. His physician then recommended Captain T. to make the best of his way to London, and try the sulphur fume baths under my direction.

On his arrival, I found he had an ulcer in the throat; a fetid discharge from one ear; his forehead, nose and cheeks were covered with one continuous scab, whilst a copper coloured red blush extended round it and the other ulcerations; he had fetid discharge from the nostrils, indicative of disease of the nasal passages, snuffling speech, and nodes on each shin, the pains of which occasioned his nights to be sleepless. The original chancre was further open to its former extent. The patient was in a very weak state, and the case seemed formidable; nevertheless the sulphur fumigations were commenced on the 26th of September, one being taken daily. Captain T.'s improvement, under this mode of treatment, was rapid. In the short space of a week, more than one hundred of the ulcers had healed, the throat was better, and the general health seemed improved; but the night pains seemed rather to be increased. No internal medicinal treatment had

as yet been resorted to; and although the amendment thus far was manifest, yet the leading characteristics of the case being considered, my knowledge of the sulphur fumigations did not allow me to calculate on the progressive improvement of the patient, nor on the permanency of the benefit which he had already received, without the conjoint aid of mercury; I therefore felt it my duty to urge my doubts to Captain T. He consulted Sir B. C. Brodie, who was also of opinion that mercury was necessary to establish a cure; and, there being no continuous surface free from ulcers, on which the mercurial ointment could be rubbed, he was ordered fifteen grains of blue pill every twenty-four hours, with decoction of sarsaparilla, and to continue the fumigations. He commenced the mercury on the 6th of October. On the 9th he was under the influence of the medicine, which was diminished to ten grains. On the 10th it was further diminished to five grains in the twenty-four hours. On the 12th it was needful to discontinue the medicine altogether; he, however, went on with the sarsaparilla and the fumigations. The rapid progress now made will perhaps be most readily conceived when I state that by the 17th every ulcer had healed; that the pains in the shins and the nodes had gone; and that the coppery redness had left the face, and was disappearing from all the healed patches on the surface of the body and limbs.

From this date the patient's recovery proceeded with the same celerity as from the first of the treatment. He soon left London convalescent, and only taking the sarsaparilla. In all, he took but thirty-four fume baths between the 26th of September and the 6th of November. This was the whole of the treatment resorted to, with the exception of one dose of castor oil, which was directed with a view of abating salivation.

It may be said from the speedy recovery in this case, that there was a favourable idiosyncrasy, which disposed the system to be readily influenced by the treatment. It might be so; but I have treated many similar cases with like success. No relapse occurred, and years have now gone by since Captain T. has felt as well as ever he did.

I have often had to observe the beneficial influence of the sulphur fume baths, not only in venereal, but in other obstinate ulcerations. The stimulus of the sulphur in a state of vapour certainly agrees well with indolent sores generally, and even disposes venereal ulcers to heal, as is instanced in the above case; yet I cannot conceive that the sulphur fumigation alone would have done permanent good in such a case; the aid of mercury was further necessary. It is the combi-

nation of the two remedies in cases of constitutional Syphilis, which deserves the attention of the profession. The next is a case of a precisely similar kind, upon which reflections of the same nature might be made.

CASE 2. Captain A. B., of the Guards, placed himself under the care of Mr. Earle, when already reduced to extremities by the united influence of secondary Syphilis, and the constitutional disturbance induced by the ill-timed use of too much mercury. The forehead and limbs were covered with numerous foul superficial sores, and the parietes of the abdomen and thorax with ulcers of such depth, that several of them seemed to penetrate to the peritoneum and pleura. One side of the scrotum and one testicle had sloughed away before I saw the patient; the other was naked, hanging by the spermatic cord, when he first visited me. There was also extensive superficial ulceration of the throat, and the shins were occupied with several nodes. The patient complained of severe suffering from nocturnal pains, and was greatly reduced in strength and spirits, and much emaciated, although in the prime of life.

All that unwearied attention and the best advice could do in this case was done, but no decided improvement took place, and the state of the general health was such, that Mr. Earle felt it impossible again to have recourse to mercury. As a last measure, therefore, and with a view of arousing the drooping powers, he recommended a trial to be made of the sulphur fume bath.

The first three exposures in the fumigating apparatus occasioned a good deal of smarting of the open sores, and seemed even to increase the restlessness and general distress endured in the night: on this account opiates were prescribed, and with the best effects. After the fourth fume bath had been taken, an evident amendment was visible. The patient felt stronger, and generally better; his appetite began to return; several of the smaller sores had healed, and others were in progress of cicatrization; his spirits also rose, and his hopes of ultimate recovery revived. The baths were left off after the fifteenth, for ten days, in consequence of an attack of diarrhœa, which, however, did not interfere with the patient's improvement; for on his return, almost the whole even of the very deepest ulcers had cicatrized. The remaining testis was nearly surrounded with a new integument; and Captain A. B. was gaining flesh and strength so rapidly, that he very speedily declared himself quite recovered. As a measure of precaution, small doses of the hydrarg. bichlor. were continued for about six weeks afterwards; and as several years have now elapsed without any return of syphilitic symptoms, it

seems probable that the poison was completely eradicated from the system.*

From the time of publishing the second edition of my *Practical Compendium of the Diseases of the Skin* in 1837 my attention became more particularly directed to the curative effects of the MERCURIAL FUMIGATIONS in syphilitic cases until their utility remained no longer a doubt, but a certainty. I feel it a duty alike to the Profession and to sufferers afflicted with the disease, to promulgate and make known, that I am most usefully employed in the treatment of syphilitic diseases, and mainly by the curative results produced by the mercurial fumigations.

In many instances, the conjoint use of the usual medicines and applications is desirable, and there can be no reason why they should not be conjoined; but in such cases the mildest forms of mercurial medicines and in small doses are sufficient for the object in view, viz. the cure of the disease, which might otherwise be months, nay years, under treatment after the ordinary mode of treating Syphilis; and in the end the patient may only live on with little or no enjoyment of life, and with a shattered constitution to the end of the chapter.

If the reader has proceeded with me thus far, he will be ready to infer the pretensions I have still to bring before him relative to mercurial fumigations for syphilitic diseases. I will not detain him nor occupy his time in reading numerous cases; that would involve great repetition, and occupy his time worthlessly and my space also.

Suffice it to say, that syphilitic symptoms and appearances are ever on the change; with that we have little to do—they are all produced by the same cause, Syphilis; and it is with the latter we have to contend. Ever since 1837, as said before, I have been in the custom of treating every variety of Syphilis and its complications by means for the most part of mercurial fumigations, and with that success which I believe is not attainable by any of the ordinary means of treatment. The cases of Syphilis and its complications need only to be named; the medical practitioner will at once conceive the nature of the complications and their attendant miseries, and the sufferers themselves will have no difficulty in comparing how far such symptoms involve sequences and bear comparison with their own cases. I am thus saved much

* It is now more than twenty years since these two cases were under treatment, and there has been no relapse in either case. The subject of the former, Captain T., is now serving in India, and I suppose is well. The subject of the latter, Captain A. B., I lately met in the street, and a more athletic or finer looking man is seldom seen in London. He is married, and the father of four healthy children.

needless repetition of the detail of cases too well known to practitioners to need detail. To them I hold out an important additional source of relief, which does not exclude the more usual means resorted to, but which may be superadded with immense advantage, not only to the patient, but likewise to himself, and no doubt many an anxious practitioner of medicine will feel this a boon brought before him.

In Syphilis there is no single organ of the body, externally or internally, but what may be particularly assailed with Syphilis, from mere alteration to degeneration or utter destruction of the parts involved, and hence follows the endless variety of appearances assumed by Syphilis.

As establishing this point, I need only bring forward symptoms attendant on common gonorrhœa, of chancre and its varieties, of bubo, of secondary spots, and blotches, eruptions, rashes, pustules, warts, elevations, scales, ulcerations, swellings, nodes, pains, &c. &c., any or all of which may be consequent developments of Syphilis. To enumerate more particularly or enter into a description of each would necessarily occupy a volume of no inconsiderable size; I therefore give up description of such cases, and content myself with saying, I have a remedy of unknown value to most practitioners to combat with the various symptoms above brought forward, all of which may be consequent on Syphilis.

It may be recollected that the two cases already quoted are of very anterior date, no matter! So much the better for my purpose, as it shows the years of experience I have since had to guide me—but it must be recollected that those two cases were treated with *sulphur fumigations*; neither of them my own patients, and occurring near or soon after the time, that my mind had become fixedly impressed with the superiority of the *mercurial fumigations* in such cases; yet in those cases it was no part of my duty to deviate from or advise; I had only to follow out the directions given to me. Had it been otherwise, I should at that early period, 1837, have advised the mercurial fumigations.

As I may not have to remark again on *sulphur fumigations*, I at once declare their value in old indolent ulcerations, as shown in those cases;—the general stimulus given to the whole system, and the great exudation from the pores of the skin, and particularly from the sores themselves, seem to be the causes of great good to such ulcerations. The sulphur fumigations are good too, for preparing the system for the mercurial fumigations, and for ridding the system of an *excess of mercury*, or as an antidote to mercury.

But in syphilitic cases, and in many complicated combi-

nations of that disease, when the practitioner is at a loss to determine whether the ailment is consequent on syphilitic taint of the system or not, or when the case resists his best efforts to relieve, in such cases a trial of a few mercurial fumigations will often determine the matter by the unexpected cure of the patient.

I frequently find this to be the case, and name it as a guide, that my experience warrants me in recommending in some obstinate questionable complaints, often of the skin, as in cases of intractable Psoriasis and Lepra, which have gone the round of the medical profession, and resisted all usual means of cure; where the patients have declared there could be no syphilitic taint, and where there were no sufficient data that would lead to such conclusion; yet a few mercurial fumigations would seem to tell more *correctly* by the yielding of the complaint. In short, I believe, that most of the obstinate cases of Lepra and Psoriasis, and ailments of that class, have latent Syphilis for their cause, or their obstinate continuance. Again, I think I have reason to conclude that sometimes a gorged state of unhealthy bile in the liver and biliary vessels is a frequent cause of the obstinacy of these complaints; the means of remedy points out itself in dietary regulation, appropriate medicine, and the mercurial fumigations.

The mercurial fumigations are, without doubt, to be advised in Syphilis and syphilitic ulcerations, whether primary, secondary, or constitutional, with and without the aid of the internal administration of the medicine, and the usual external applications, as they may be indicated. They are to be recommended in painful nodes, whether of the shins, scalp, or elsewhere, and in enlargement of parts; in spots, blotches, or scaliness on the body, or parts of the body; in cases of Psoriasis and cracks, mostly on the hands, which commonly resist the best known means of treatment, including the sulphur fumigations. I have known one and all of these obstinate deviations from health yield to a well-advised course of mercurial fumigations, leading to the conclusion that such cases have often for their cause and continuance latent or hidden Syphilis in the system, although the patient himself may be unconscious of such taint, or that it has anything to do with the matter.

In ulceration, or tendency to ulceration, in the nasal passages, throat, fauces, palate, fissures of the tongue, lips, hands or other parts, (for syphilis will insiduously attack one or all parts,) the mercurial fumigations taken advisedly are more to be relied on as a means of cure than any other means that I know of.

In such cases I not only give the general mercurial fumi-

gation to the whole body, but also have the head included in the apparatus for a few minutes each time of using it; by which means the mercurial gas is made to come in contact with the parts immediately implicated, and all the usual evidences of beneficial mercurialization are thus produced; the same as when mercury has been used in the ordinary way to good effect. The patient is thus saved much expense, time, exposure, and many disagreeables.

If the mercurialization of the system is slow in showing itself, which is sometimes the case, I then call in the aid of pill hydr., pill hydr. chlor. comp., hydr. c. cretâ, or other mild preparation of mercury; and I am often agreeably surprised at the small doses of these mild medicines which are sufficient for the end in view—the cure of the patient.

I will adduce two cases of *recent* occurrence, embracing most, if not all, the points I have herein put forward. The knowledge of the whole of the attendant circumstances of these two cases is not confined to myself; for the correctness of the statement I hold myself responsible. These two cases will be as good as a hundred to the far-seeing and reflecting practitioner. I will also put before the reader the preparation of mercury I have always preferred for the fumigation, and which I still use, and the method I practise in using the apparatus. On its proper construction and management all good from its use depends, and I again say, that none other than a medical man of average acquirements, at least, ought ever to be intrusted with the management of a fumigating apparatus.

MERCURIAL FUMIGATIONS, and the Method of using the Apparatus, as shown in the Treatment of Two late Cases, published in the Medical Circular. They may serve as a Type how the Fumigations may be best used in other Cases.*

“MERCURIAL FUMIGATIONS TO THE WHOLE BODY,

By JONATHAN GREEN, Esq. M.D.

(From the Medical Circular, March 24th, 1852.)

“SIR,—I would again solicit the attention of medical practitioners to the advantages of mercurial fumigations to the whole body in the treatment of syphilitic disease, in addition to, or in preference to, the more customary means of treatment.

“It is not my wish to encroach on your space, or to enter on nice-drawn distinctions of primary, secondary or tertiary affections of syphilis, so called; but simply to bring under notice a remedial means alike too little practised and too little known. It embraces much superiority over the more usual modes of treating syphilis, and is to be advocated in all stages of the disease itself, and in most of its serious complications.

“Hence, on this occasion, and apart from all disputative inquiry, I shall briefly bring forward the advantages of general mercurial fumigations for the relief or cure of Syphilis and its complications; a knowledge of which is alike desirable to the medical practitioner and the public. This I hope to do by a short detail of two cases lately submitted to my care.

“The first is the case of a medical gentleman sent to me by high medical authority at the west end of the town. The patient was affected with secondary syphilitic blotches on the

* Mr. Abernethy, in his Surgical Works, Vol. I. pp. 15, 16, speaking of the mercurial fumigations introduced by him at St. Bartholomew's Hospital almost after the same method that had been before practised by the Chevalier Lalouette, says, “I have witnessed so much comfort as well as benefit arise from it, that I think if the peculiar advantages were generally known to practitioners, they would be much more frequently employed. I beg leave, however, to observe, that the term mercurial fumigation is apt to excite wrong ideas of this method in the minds of surgeons. The effects are produced in a much shorter time than by giving medicine internally or otherwise, and will affect the constitution when other means have failed.” With regard to the process, he further observes, “that the feelings of the patient during its administration are not at all unpleasant; on the contrary, they are pleasant, provided the heat is properly regulated; that there is nothing uncleanly or disagreeable in it; and that all who have had an opportunity of comparing it with the usual method of employing that medicine, have been highly pleased with the superior advantages attending it. I have heard it objected, that fumigation cannot be depended upon, but I never knew it fail; and, under proper management, I have no doubt but mercury employed in this manner will be found adequate to the cure of every variety of the disease.”

limbs and trunk ; ulcerations of the velum and mucous linings of the throat, and inside the cheeks ; also inside and outside the lips, the chin and lower part of the face, and inside the nostrils. The nasal bones were so tender that he was afraid to have the nose touched, and the whole of the scalp was covered with scaly blotches, or superficial ulcerations.

“The patient had been ill for nearly three years, and from his first primary attack (chancre) had been under the kind guidance of numerous of his medical friends. No means resorted to for the last eighteen months had arrested the complaint, which went on variously developing itself until it became in the aggravated state I have just detailed.

“After the second fumigation, with three drams of the grey oxide of mercury, I was induced to have the patient's head included in the fumigating apparatus for the last three minutes previous to his leaving the apparatus, the time occupied in taking the fumigation being twenty minutes. The head was also inclosed in the apparatus for about the same time, three or four minutes, on taking the three succeeding fumigations, each with the three drams of the grey oxide, and thus I had the advantage of applying the mercurial fumes to the parts more essentially affected.

“After the fourth fumigation with the head thus inclosed in the apparatus, his gums, mouth and teeth were sufficiently influenced with mercury, and the inclosure of the head was then discontinued ; but he went on with the general fumigation to the whole of the body, excluding only the face.

“In all he took seventeen mercurial fumigations, occasionally having the head enclosed in the apparatus or not, as his mouth became better or worse from the influence of the mercury.

“These seventeen fumigations were taken within the period of three weeks. From the end of the first week the improvement was manifest, and such as I believe no other mode of treatment could have produced ; nor would practitioners, not familiar with the effects of mercurial fumigations, readily give credence to it, nevertheless, such advantages are common enough to my observation, and are well known to those conversant with the effects of mercurial fumigations.

“The second case is also that of a medical gentleman, who had been ill for three years.

“He had been under the care of various medical gentlemen of acknowledged repute in one of our largest commercial towns. A fair trial of the mercurial fumigations was suggested and essayed in this case, also with success, as will appear.

“He, the patient, was numerously covered with syphilitic blotches, varying in size on the limbs and trunk ; the whole

of the forehead, the whole of the left side of the face, and chin and nose, were covered with one continuous, elevated, tuberculous blotch, and the right side of the face was covered with the same in part.

“He had been so reduced by unsuccessful mercurial treatment, and other causes, that his life was considered in jeopardy in consequence of his great weakness and emaciation. He was advised to leave off all medical treatment and try a sojourn on the continent for a time, in hopes of some renovation from the change. It was on his return that he was advised to come to me; his holiday had done him much good, but the disease appeared as I have just stated.

“The details of treatment in this case are so similar to the last, that it would be little short of a repetition to particularize. Suffice it to say, that he commenced the mercurial fumigations of the grey oxide, sometimes with the head inclosed in the apparatus, and sometimes not so included, according to the more or less mercurial influence, as indicated by the state of the mouth and constitutional depression. He had two attacks of painful diarrhœa, lasting a day or two each, occasioning some interruption of treatment. He had in all twenty-one mercurial fumigations, sometimes with the head included, and sometimes not so included, as before stated; the regular progressive amendment was so evident and satisfactory, that the patient (himself a medical man) frequently said ‘he was astonished; that it seemed little short of miraculous to him, having been so long ill, and that nothing before had seemed to touch his complaint, except mischievously.’

“On leaving me, to again show himself to the gentleman who had recommended him to try the fumigations, he had become so strong as to walk about half the day without fatigue, his spirits had become joyous, the blotches on the limbs and trunk had merely left brownish stains in process of disappearance; the forehead and face had become so well, that when warm a stranger would not have known that anything had so lately been the matter with him.

“These twenty-one mercurial fumigations were taken between the 23rd of August and the 16th of September, with little interruption, and not a month under the treatment altogether.

“In the foregoing cases, I would have it remembered that they were both sent to me as test cases, for the trial of mercurial fumigations alone. They were both sufficiently bad, as will be acknowledged, and not a particle of mercury was given internally in either case, or otherwise, save than by the fumigations.

“THE SUCCESS ATTENDING THE TREATMENT IS MAINLY TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PERFECTNESS OF THE APPARATUS, AND TO ITS DUE MANAGEMENT.

“It will be observed, that contrary to the more usual custom, I use the grey oxide of mercury, the hydrarg. oxid. cinerum. I have used it for thirty years in preference to the hydrarg. binoxidum; hydrarg. bisulphuretum, or any other preparation of mercury. I prefer it, as it does not make the patient cough, which the latter preparations usually do, and on account of the grey oxide being easily volatilized—not so with the other oxides of mercury, which require the heat of a common fire, say 1000° to 1200° .

“It will be observed, too, that in the two cases brought forward salivation was produced, although in both cases after various attempts, and ample time for trial, mercury could not in any form be made to take hold of the system, as it is called. Salivation is not usual from the use of mercurial fumigations; from their use we can arrive at the beneficial influence of the medicine, without any of the distressing or often injurious effects of mercury, so commonly witnessed from the ordinary way of introducing the medicine. A tumid, swollen and red state of the gums, and tenderness at the roots of the teeth, and that kept up for a proper time, is all the inconvenience that I find needful to submit the patient to, to produce the desired effect. If after these symptoms are produced, and the mercurial fumigations are continued, the flow of saliva, the prostration, and all the other symptoms of the full use of mercury are sequences, as from the routine administration of the medicine, I question whether it is ever desirable to produce the distressing and prostrating effects of mercury, as shown when a patient is in a full state of salivation; as I find that all the beneficial influence sought or expected is arrived at by merely keeping the mouth gently affected for a due time by the mercurial fumigations. And that the mercurial fumigations influence or pervade the whole system, I think there can remain no doubt; for relapses must be very rare, after a due course of mercurial fumigations, if they ever do take place, for, as far as my own practice has gone, I am not aware of a single case of relapse.

“It should be recollected that in the two cases brought under notice, salivation to some extent was produced, more so than, I believe, was necessary. But it should be borne in mind that these were two *test* cases for the fair trial of mercurial fumigations alone, and no other medicine during the trial, in either case, was to be resorted to. This was stringently observed in either case, and the result was as herein put forth.

“These were also two face cases, with the nasal and throat

passages ready to run into destructive ulceration, which induced me to have the head included in the apparatus, in order to get the mercurial fumes in contact with the parts affected.

“The conveniences also arising from the use of mercurial fumigations deserve to be considered. There is no fear of taking cold; even the patients themselves, after they have had one or two fumigations, lose all fear of taking cold, as it is called, so much heat has been absorbed and retained as to dispel all such apprehension.

“There is no occasion for patients to go to bed after the mercurial fumigations; my own patients never have done so. It is not necessary, and can only tend to exude from the system what it has been the object to put into the system, and influence it beneficially. There needs no confinement to the room or the house whilst taking mercurial fumigations, and the patient can proceed with his cure in secret, that is, without the knowledge or exposure to servants, observing-friends or talking washerwomen, as in cases when we influence the system by rubbing in blue ointment, &c.

“Much might be added, but that I fear to trespass. The subject is of much practical importance, and my object in this paper is to bring before the profession the little-known advantages of mercurial fumigations, which are to be advised in all stages, and in many complications of Syphilis.

“I am, Sir, yours, &c.

“JONATHAN GREEN, M. D., &c.

“40, Great Marlborough Street.”

CONCLUSION.

I am aware that some members of the profession will be inclined to question the remedial powers which have thus been brought before them. I therefore court their investigation and testing of the means, lest they may think I have been extolling the fumigations unwarrantably.

To all such surmises I must submit I hold the means as highly curative for most diseases, but not as an infallible cure, even for a toothache; and would assure all such practitioners that I have practised the profession too long to be so misled; so long, indeed, as to be painfully alive to the insufficiency of remedies for most ailments, until I became familiar with the fumigatory treatment. Instead of overrating that treatment, I am conscious of my inability to do it justice, and would ask any physiologist or pathologist what means he can bring for the relief of disease that equals increased temporary heat and moisture?—to which add, that all-important medicine, mercury, at perfect control, and freed from the objections, uncertainties and disagreeables that more or less always attend its internal use.

J. G.