A general state of the Whitehaven Dispensary, : for the year 1806.

Contributors

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A GENERAL STATE

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WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY, For the Year 1806.

OF THE

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(Printed by John Ware, in King-freet, Whitebaven.)

THE DIRECTORS of this CHARITY have perceived, with extreme concern, the general and destructive prevalence of MALIGNANT FEVER in the neighbourhood of Whitehaven. Their former experience of its virulence, and the just apprehention of its fatal ravages in so populous a community, and amongst he confined habitations of the poor, were motives which irresistbly prompted them to execute every preventive and preserva-ive measure, which has been sanctioned by the approbation of he most eminent Medical Practitioners. With the exception of wo patients, late inhabitants of an adjacent village, where the contagion had long and powerfully raged, this formidable disease has not appeared upon our sick list, since the month of July, 1805, and the few cases, which occurred in private pracice may be imputed to an imprudent connection with infect-ed persons and places. In several of these the instant applicaion of cold water, by affusion, sprinkling, or spunging the body, during the hot fit, was very efficacious; not only in producing sensible relief, and most grateful refreshment to the feelings of the patient, but frequently in accomplishing an im-mediate termination of the disease. The internal remedies prescribed were emetics, and mild antimonials, in its first stage, with plentiful dilution, and gentle sudorifics, during its pro-gress. In the more advanced periods, and particularly on the approach

approach of the crisis, wine, tonics, yeast, and opiates, became necessary. With the view of discouraging the indiscriminate use of BLISTERS, in all the stages of Nervous Fever, a practice which has been too frequent in this country, it may be proper to intimate, that their application can only be made, with any prospect of advantage, near to the affected part. If large and numerous, they will, by their effect in relaxing and debilita-ting the general system, counteract every curative expedient, and instead of promoting, will retard the recovery of the pa-tient. Early in the disease, when an acute and oppressive pain in the head is its chief symptom, the discharge from a large and acrid blister, applied between the shoulders, will be useful, in affording immediate relief. A further and perhaps more essential benefit may arise from its retaining the patient in one posture, and preventing his restless inquietude from interrupting the salutary efficacy of the means adopted by nature, and promoted by art to excite and support a state of moderate and equable perspiration. Cleanliness, pure air, the liberal use of fresh prepared white-wash, the effluvia from burning tar, and a preclusion from any intercourse with those who suffered fe-ver, have formed an irresistible barrier to its further devastations, and happily preserved the district of the DISPENSARY in a state of perfect exemption from Contagious Disease. In addition to the above mentioned expedients, it was always recommended to fumigate the chamber of the sick and the adjoining apartments with a variety of pungent vapours, from vegetable and mineral acids, gunpowder, either exploded, or combined with vinegar, and aromatic herbs orgums.

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The Hooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever continued to prevail at the beginning of this year, but with so slight a degree of malignancy, that, aided by the salutary efforts of nature, it was by no means difficult to relieve the present symptoms, or prevent their future recurrence. The Measles which appeared in the month of February, 1806, have raged with considerable virulence

lence during the summer and autumn. The deaths and reco-veries were in the proportion of 9 to 321. Such has been the state of the constitutional health of these patients that few are now suffering the effects of this generally accounted deplora-ble malady. Eight months have elapsed since the last patient in these, or any of the specific Epidemics of children was admitted.

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At the request of several friends to MEDICAL CHARITY we think it proper to repeat a few of the many inestimable benefits deri-ved from the Cow-Pock INOCULATION; and, with deep regret we observe, that whilst its life preserving influence has been experienced and acknowledged in every region of the globe, there should still remain in the METROPOLIS of ENGLAND, where the discovery was first announced, a few practitioners, who depreciate its efficacy, and strenuously oppose its introduction. These endeavours have, however, had the good effect to direct the attention of the faculty, in a more peculiar manner, to this important subject, and the happy result has been to banish every doubt, and confirm every sentiment in its favour. The extensive and populous Empire of Russia, the Continents of America and Germany have added their unqualified sanction to whatever could attest its utility. Upwards of two years ago, in the East Indies, two hundred and sixty thousand persons were inoculated for the Cow-pox, and not a single individual suffered any unfavourable symptom, or was afterwards capa-ble of receiving the Small-pox infection. The Bramins, who venerate the cow, and pay to it divine honours, were ready to accept, with gratitude, a blessing so invaluable derived from that animal; and their experience of its power to prevent a most destructive disease has coincided with the prepossessions, which facilitated its primary introduction. They are, hence, disposed to denominate the Cow-pox "the dew of Heaven." With regard to this highly salutary measure, when compared with the Small-pox inoculation, the following circumstances merit

merit our especial consideration. No preparation is necessary, nor are medicines requisite, either during the course of the discase, or with a view to prevent any dangerous, or inconvenient effect. It may be employed in all countries, climates, and seasons of the year, at the earliest and latest periods of life, and in every temperament, condition, or habit of body, with equal certainty of success. It cannot materially interrupt the general health of the patient, occasion any subsequent disorder, or deformity; nor has it ever been known to excite the appearance of hereditary distempers. No proof has been credibly attested of its fatality, either in this Kingdom, or where a less salubrious climate, or more extensive population, might have been supposed capable of rendering the matter more acrid, and of predisposing the constitution to suffer a putrid or malignant disease. Those who have been inoculated for the Cow-pox are unsusceptible of the natural or inoculated Smallpox.—It appears from the most decisive evidence of numerous and incontestible facts, collected in populous and confined si-tuations, that the practice of inoculation for the Small-pox, widely spreading the baneful influence of the natural disease, has certainly increased its mortality. The Cow-pox, on the contrary, can only be communicated by actual inoculation, and is so far from being infectious that no danger can be apprehended from any mode of contact or connection with persons suffering it. A frequently fatal, painful, and loathsome disease, which may be justly stiled the pestilence of the rising generation, is thus prevented, by the most simple and innocent expedient. The lives of thousands have been preserved by it, and a variety of painful feelings and distressful consequences, most effectually obviated. In referring to the above considerations, can any blessing to mankind, in its present influence, or future effect, exceed that which the vaccine inoculation so certainly and readily conveys? The facts which support its utility are full and conclusive; their success uniform and complete. In

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in order to prevent those disappointments, which frequently occur in inoculating for the Cow-pox, and which have proved highly injurious to this salutary practice, it may be proper to observe, that the matter should be taken upon the 7th or 8th lay, when it is clear and liquid. If it appears opaque, or has issumed a consistent state, approaching to purulency, which nust be the case upon the 9th or any succeeding day, it will produce the spurious Cow-pox, and afford no security against he slightest exposure to the Small-pox infection. As the mater of the Cow-pox from the mildness of its quality, is possessed of less activity to excite disease than that of the Small-pox, nore care and attention are required to introduce it into the system, and render it efficacious, by the usual mode of inocu-ation. The infected lancet must slightly penetrate the cuticle. and it should not be removed for a considerable length of ime, in order that the vaccine matter may be completely aborbed.

F 5]

The following observations are earnestly recommended to he serious consideration of those persons, whose confidence n the efficacy of *Vaccine Inoculation* may have been weaken-ed by the late public and violent opposition of a few medical oractitioners, and who, from this circumstance, may be inclined o hesitate respecting the propriety of its adoption. Previous-y to the introduction of the Cow-pox the treatment of the Smallpox formed one of the most lucrative branches of the medical profession. It was, therefore, to be expected that a few individuals would testify their reluctance to relinquish so important a source of emolument. This circumstance, uniting with he natural aversion to innovations in useful modes of practice, ind even the rare occurrence of unsuccessful cases may be pernitted, in some measure, to account for the controversy, which has been recently agitated, with respect to the security of the ow-pox. But, under all these disadvantages, the opposers of his new method of inoculation are neither considerable in number

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ber, nor superior to its advocates in sound judgment, public esti-mation, or professional abilities. The enemies of Vaccination have only been able, after the most laborious research, to produce a few cases of its inefficacy as a security against variolous infection: and when these cases are carefully and impartially examined they will be found to contain nothing that is capable of exciting any serious alarm. For without noticing the facility with which attestations to the truth of any medical occurrence are procured, and the fallaciousness of such evidence; without insisting on the necessary caution with which these cases must be received, on account of the biassed judgment of those who relate them, and the powerful motive for misrepresentation; it is evident from the manner in which they are detailed that nine tenths of them were collected from vague, general, hasty, and superficial inquiries, and consequently that no dependance can be placed on their authenticity. With respect to several of these cases it must be particularly remarked that the patient had never received the *cow-pox*. They are stated to have occurred in the infancy of the discovery, before the characteristic symptoms of the *genuine* and *spurious* disease were accurately investigated; and at a time when many per-sons, not engaged in the practice of medicine, and with a very imperfect knowledge of the disorder more promoted by init imperfect knowledge of the disorder, were prompted, by injudicious zeal, to undertake the office of inoculators; and it is, therefore, in the highest degree disingenuous to urge as objections to Vaccination failures proceeding from this cause. In many of the cases in which the small-pox is alledged to have occurred subsequently to the cow-pox, the disease appears to have been of a totally different nature from the small-pox; and even admitting that, in a few cases, the patients were not rendered, by perfect and regular vaccination, unsusceptible of variolous infection, yet it is no unreasonable supposition, that if they had undergone the small-pox inoculation, they would, from a peculiarity of constitution, have been liable to suffer the disease

F 6]

lisease a second time. It is a fact ascertained by evidence which cannot be controverted, that to several persons the smallbox has been twice communicated; and the advocates for Vacination, only contend that it is as certain a preservative from mall-pox infection as variolous inoculation.

Improper food, insufficient clothing, and constant exposure o the effects of hard labour, in the variable weather of this clinate, have rendered the lower ranks of society liable to suffer numerous and powerful diseases of the stomach and bowels. n the former, when pain and flatulency prevail, tonic and occasional cordial, opiate and aperient medicines have been employed, with great benefit : and in those of the latter, distinguished by a tendency to diarrhæa and dysentery, the highly udicious plan of the late Dr. ZIMMERMAN, already noticed in a former REPORT, was most successfully adopted; and course of mild laxative, substituted for the astringent medicines, which, though qualified to mitigate the urgency of paricular symptoms, were always observed to aggravate and proract the disease. The distresses, which are unavoidably con-nected with the deplorable situation of many of these objects of commiseration were considerably mitigated by *pecuniary* relief, and a proper supply of *wine* and *cordials*. From the same liberal SOURCE of MUNIFICENCE, which has long contributed, by various and most effectual expedients, to alleviate the acutest sufferings of humanity, we have obtained the means of accomplishing these desirable purposes. Sincere and ardent are our wishes that such disinterested and exemplary Beneficence may receive its well merited reward. occurred subseque

It is scarcely possible for any one, who possesses the means of promoting the views of this INSTITUTION, to withhold from it his liberal support, if he for a moment supposes that by some sudden, but not unusual reverse of fortune, he was doomed to suffer all the distresses of those unhappy objects whom it relieves. lieves. Let him imagine that he was visited at the same time by want and sickness; and let him ask himself what would be his sentiments of the justice, humanity, and religion of that Society, of which he is a member, if he was left in this most deplorable situation, neglected, unnoticed, unpitied, unassisted, deprived of Medical Attention, and destitute of the common necessaries of life? Let him think with what emotions of joy and gratitude he would bless the beneficent hand that was stretched out in this his hour of bitter anguish, to pour the balm of consolation into his afflicted breast, to administer to him every aid which MEDICINE affords.

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So great is the instability of wealth, and so various are the vicissitudes of life, that no person, though enjoying the most elevated rank, and the most splendid affluence, can be assured that this picture of the imagination will not one day be realised .- By alleviating the misery of those, who groan under the accumulated pressure of poverty and disease, we shall testify, in the most acceptable manner, our gratitude to a gracious PROVIDENCE, for the happy exemption from the same sufferings, which we have hitherto experienced. And by the exercise of Charity, to these the greatest objects of human commiseration, we shall lighten the burden not only of their afflictions, but also of those which may befal ourselves. We are thus providing against the day of adversity those consolatory and delightful reflections, which will then be our firmest support : which will smooth the bed of sickness for ourselves, and may even disarm death of its terrors. At that awful moment, when all earthly objects will cease to impart pleasure or comfort, the consciousness of having mitigated the sorrows even of a single fellow creature, will afford to the mind more pure and solid gratification, than the remembrance of the praises and admiration which we may have received from the world, on account of the most splendid acquirements, or the most illustrious actions.

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The DIRECTORS of this CHARITY most gratefully acknowledge the kindness of several LATIES, for a considerable and repeated supply of OLD LINEN. Scr phulous Diease, and the effects of external injury, render this article very necessary, in the SURGICAL DEPARTMENT of the DISPENSARY.



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he Right Honourable William Farl All Perfons, who are disposed to contribue by WILL to this CHARITY, are requested to do it in the follwing Manner:

" I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the Sum of upon Trust that they do pay the same to the TREASURER of the Whitehaven Dispensary ; I defire may be applied towards carrying which Sum of en the benevolent Designs of the faid CHARITY."

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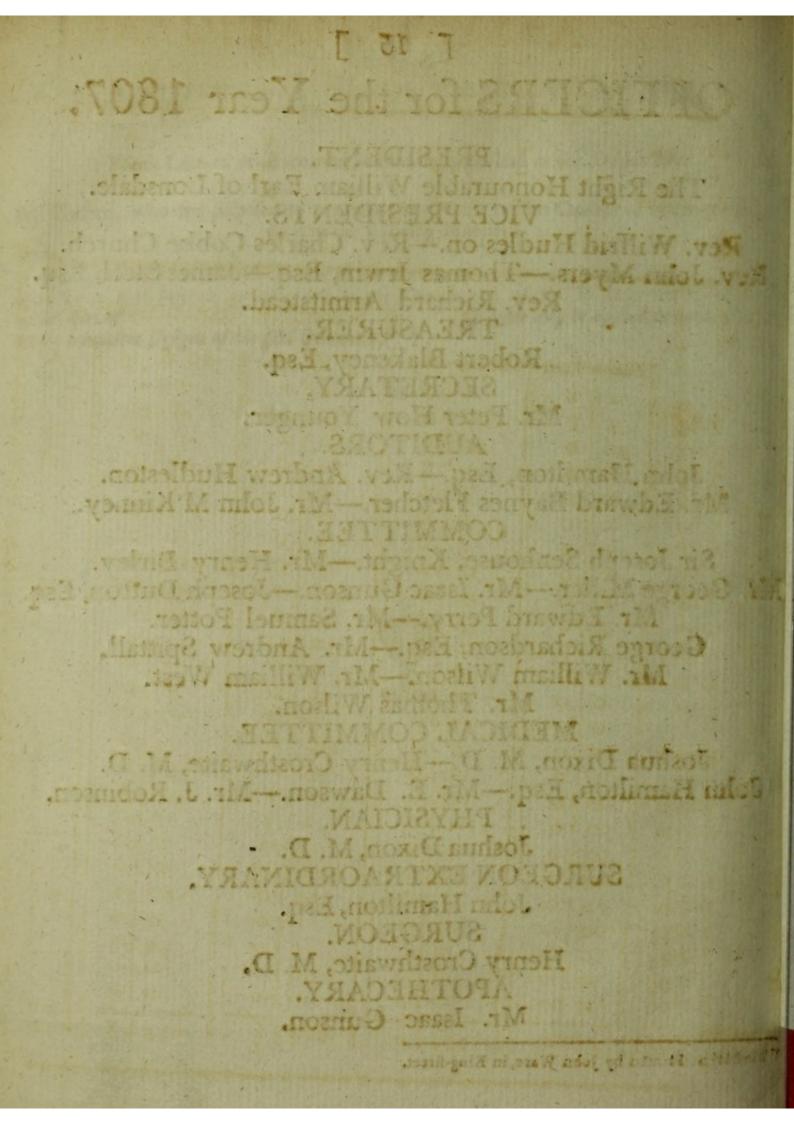
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Thisehaven : Printed by John Ware, in King-freet.



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L. Under 2 Years-	Between B & 5 Years.	5 & 10	10 & 15	15 & 20	10 & 30	30 & 40	40 & 50	50 & 60	60 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90	Cured.	<	a lacurable,	Pr Dead.	Acquisiant	Total.
FEBRILE DISEASES. Worm Fever - 7 External Inflammation - 0	81 2 9	50 I	16 1	4 0	1	1	30	0	0.0	0	0 0 0	109 5	0	0 0	0 0	4	113 6
Gangrene • • • Inflammation of the Bowels - •	4 0	0 16	0	0	0	0	0	0 60 1 1 2	0	0	1 0 0	0 1 55	0	0 0 0	8	0	3 5 ⁰
Inflammation of the Eyes 3 Inflammatory Sore Throat and Mouth =	7 3 49 81	2	9 5 0	3	4 5 0	7 5 0	3 1 0	9 0	0 0	0	0 0	*5	0	0	0	8	28 4
Inflammation of the Lungs - 33 Acute Rheumatifm - 0	8	s O	0 1	3 0	6	8 5	3 36	3	0 0 1	0 0 0	0 0	32 14 8	006	003	400	3 0 0	39 14 10
Chronic Rheumatifm 0 Inflammatory Eruptions 5 Eryfipelas 0	90	0 7 0 8	0 3 0 9	0 2 0	0 1 0 0*	0 0 0	0 0 0	3 1 1 0	0	0 0 0	0 0 0	27 1 92	0 0	000	000	1 0 0	28 1 98
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Hæmorrhages o	0	0	2 C 10 111	3	50 211 2	6 c p 3 1	6	0	0	0	0	18 5	0 3	0 9	1	1	20 12
Confumption 9 Abortion 0 After Pains 0 County 0	0	0.0.9	0 0 11	-0 0 4	1 2 15	0 4 17	0 0 16	0 0 8	0 0 3	000	000	6 95	0	0 0	000	1 0 5 0	1 6 100 2
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Hooping Cough 4 Colic 0	•	0	1	1	3	4	10	60 51 4	2 c 10 4	0	0	84 107	2 1	0 0	1	0	87 116
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Lues Venerea	• •	0	0	1,	0	0	0	D 1	0	o	0	1	0	0	1	•	2
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1784 20 0 42 0 04 1 1785 8 0 42 0 71 0 1786 0 0 3 0 6 1 1787 0 0 0 0 0 1788 0 0 4 0 8	10 1 1 0 6 0	7 100		16 1 6 0 10 1		18 1 1 0 6 3 15 0		9 8	3	1	2 2 0	000	0		21 53 103	1 7 2 21	23 60 105 309
1789 0 0 10 0 13 0 1790 2 0 19 0 42 1 1790 3 0 5 0 6 0	18 0 50 0 8 0	8 0 0		19 1 39 7 9 1 8 1		15 0 48 3 13 0 0	2	7 4		10	8 2 0	1 1 0 0	1	0 0 0 0	288 74 17 7	5 2 3	79 19 10 0
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