

On the nature and cure of glandular diseases, especially those denominated cancer, with the mode of treatment, and on the too frequent use of mercury, strongly recommended to the serious consideration of every individual : with a detail of various cases in which cancer has been completely removed without the use of the knife ... : also, on organic affections of the stomach, with a few remarks on cholera : and in an appendix, two cases, I. of fissure of the cranium II. of preternatural enlargement of the heart / by Sir Charles Aldis.

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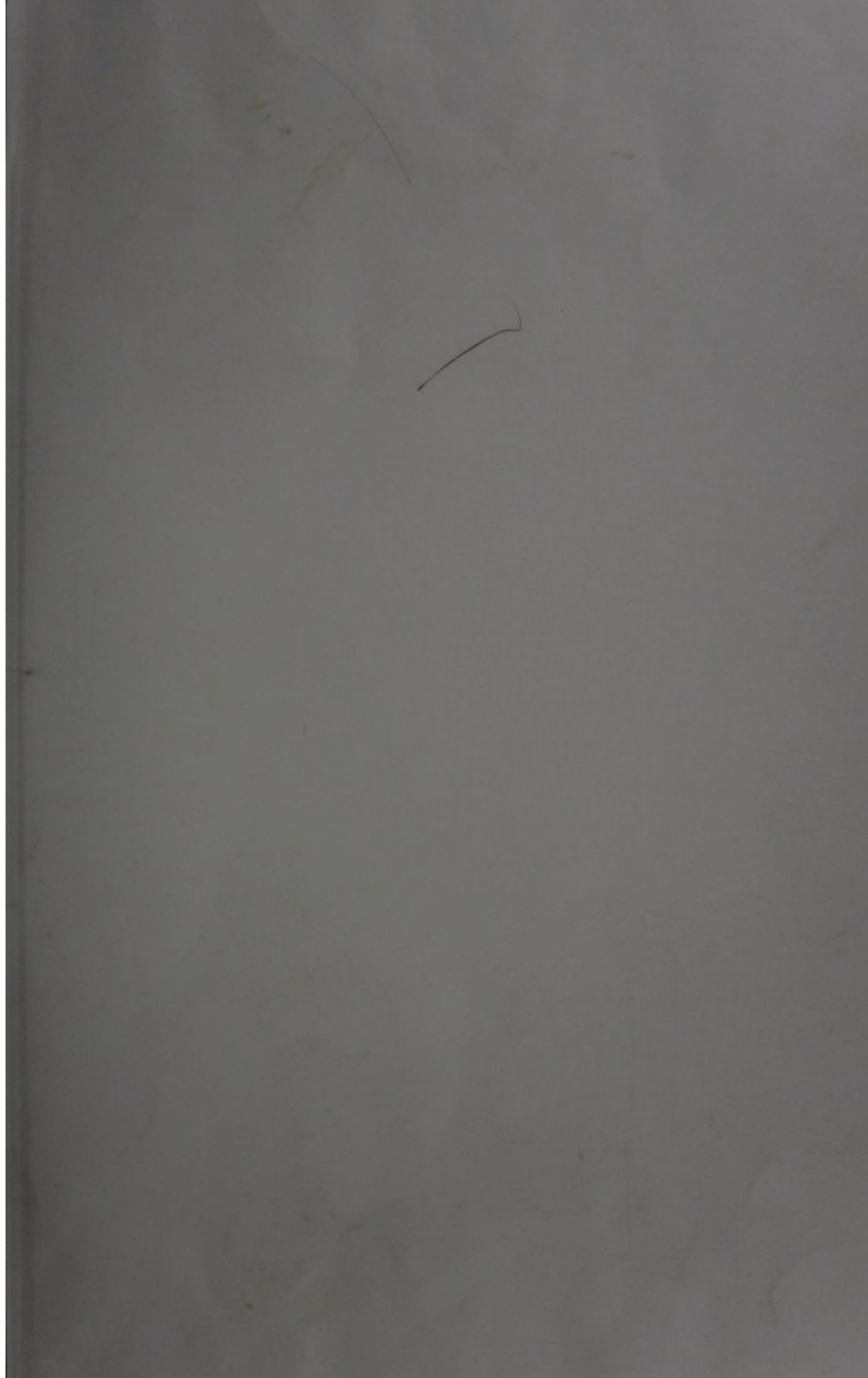
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ON THE
NATURE AND CURE
OF
GLANDULAR DISEASES,
ESPECIALLY THOSE DENOMINATED
CANCER,

WITH THE MODE OF TREATMENT;

AND ON THE
TOO FREQUENT USE OF MERCURY;

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO
THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL:

WITH A DETAIL OF VARIOUS CASES IN WHICH CANCER HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY REMOVED

WITHOUT THE USE OF THE KNIFE;

ILLUSTRATED BY TWO PLATES:

ALSO, ON

ORGANIC AFFECTIONS OF THE STOMACH, WITH A FEW REMARKS
ON CHOLERA.

AND IN AN APPENDIX,

Two Cases { I. Of Fissure of the Cranium,
II. Of Preternatural Enlargement of the Heart.

The Vile Quack
BY SIR CHARLES ALDIS,
SURGEON AND ACCOUCHEUR;

*Member of the Royal College of Surgeons; Member of the Medical and Philosophical
Societies in London; Senior Surgeon of the late New Finsbury Dispensary;
and late Surgeon for Prisoners of War at the Depot, Norman Cross
Barracks; Author of Examination Questions on Surgery, and
the Practice of Physic, &c. &c. &c.*

Ægroto: dum Anima est, Spes est.—CICERO.

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LONDON:
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ST. JOHN'S-SQUARE.

TO
SAMPSON HANBURY, ESQ.,

· &c. &c. &c.

POLES, HERTS.

THE Author feels great satisfaction in dedicating this book to him who has been chiefly instrumental in establishing an Institution for the cure and relief of Glandular Diseases—(the only one, he believes, in this vast metropolis)—who has watched its progress, and seen its utility, in a variety of cases, during a period of many years; who has also stood among the first to promote its continuance and enlargement. Indeed, there is scarcely a benevolent establishment to which he is not attached. His ample support and great influence have tended much to alleviate Disease and improve the condition of the Poor.

Old Burlington Street,

12th April, 1832.

to its potent agency. In 1798 this plant was directed to be adopted by the Physicians of the Sick and Hurt Office for Prisoners of War; and it was accordingly carried into full operation in pulmonary diseases, but without the least benefit. Of this I was an eye-witness, being then in the medical department of that establishment; and the hospital to which I was attached contained a vast number of sick, labouring under every variety of disease in a most formidable degree, there being seldom fewer than from five to six hundred patients, in the management of whom it was the uniform practice to put every newly-discovered medicine to the test. Mercury, indeed, was not at that period, as it has been of late years, given in almost every complaint; but subsequent observations in a widely extended practice have convinced me of the evil attending it, not only in glandular affections, but in a numerous variety of other complaints; especially such as are incidental to females, upon whose delicate constitutions it commits fearful ravages.

It will not, I am persuaded, be supposed that I conceive mercury to be incapable of doing good, or that its application is altogether unim-

portant. By no means. On the contrary, its presence is of the utmost consequence in some cases, but it is the abuse of which I complain, when it is considered as a specific, and so used in most diseases. The abuse of a thing in no way militates against its utility; but as mercury, above all other medicines, has such powerful influence on the system, we should do right to consider well, whether its effects are not likely to be attended by more fatal consequences, than would be the result of the total neglect of it in many complaints which it is now employed to cure, and which would have as readily yielded to a more simple, and consequently less dangerous method of treatment. I feel no hesitation in animadverting upon the free use of the lancet, in the first attack of fever, with difficulty of breathing. Some hundreds of cases have come under my care, of persons who had been suddenly seized with fever and obstructed respiration, from wet, or being exposed to cold, which complaints have been speedily cured by copious alvine evacuations and blisters, without the use of the lancet, whereby the patients have escaped that debility and exhaustion which profuse venesection occasions. In numerous instances was this proved among the prisoners on the hospital

establishment already mentioned, where, while they who when first taken ill from cold or wet were blooded copiously once, and at most twice in a few days, became so reduced as to require wine, bark, &c. those cases that only depended on brisk aperients, in two or three days experienced a speedy recovery.

In protesting strongly against the free use of mercury, I am aware how much censure is likely to be my portion; but supported by the authority of Dr. LATHAM on the one hand, and warned by the melancholy case of Dr. CURRY on the other, I am satisfied in having discharged an imperative duty to my fellow-creatures. Nothing short of this, indeed, could have induced me to venture the ordeal of professional criticism, in a publication upon the most dreaded of human maladies, and one that has hitherto been considered as out of the power of an efficient remedy. The cases now brought forward, and which are selected from above three hundred of a similar description, will be found sufficient, I flatter myself, to convince even the most sceptical minds that cancerous diseases are not by any means hopeless;—while men of more enlarged principles, and generous senti-

ments, will receive them with satisfaction, as tending to lessen, in some degree, the catalogue of desperate evils, and to open a prospect peculiarly favourable to the interests of philanthropy.

Mercury not only debilitates the constitution and brings on those dreadful nervous complaints, as headaches, dyspepsia, and impaired eye-sight, but it has sometimes a tremendous effect on the bones, as may be seen by many examples. Various specimens of bones, in my possession, are in a highly carious state from mercury. An exfoliation of the jaw from mercury, also tremendous, results from the abuse of mercury in the bones of the face of a scrofulous patient.

The Author farther flatters himself, that the remarks which he feels it to be his duty to make upon the general and indiscriminate use of mercury in glandular and other complaints, will be productive of some effect; and the more his experience has extended, the greater reason he has to be convinced of the justness of what he has advanced upon the extreme danger of that potent drug in medical practice generally.

How deeply, indeed, the importance of the subject has been felt by those, who are best capable of appreciating its merits, and who are too exalted, both in mind and rank, to countenance any thing that has the semblance of delusion, will appear from the Establishment, formed for the express purpose of enabling the Author to devote a portion of his time to the relief of the suffering Poor; and of which Institution a noble Viscount (Cranborne*) has been pleased to express his opinion to the Author in the following terms, in a letter dated 1821: "I beg to express my sincere wishes for your success, both from the personal acquaintance I have had with you for some years, and from the high value in which your abilities are held by many of my friends. I may also take this opportunity of adding, that the Establishment you are now forming appears to me to hold out the prospect of great advantage to the Public."

As cholera seems to be the fashionable topic, I could not forbear observing in my letter on cholera, inserted in the Morning Post of Tuesday, the 28th of June, 1831: it is there stated

* Now the most Noble the Marquis of Salisbury.

that the disease is not congenial to this climate, and unlikely ever to affect persons here, but it is of the first consideration promptly to employ those requisites to prevent its malignant effluvia from affecting persons in those places abroad where it has already commenced. Among the prisoners at the grand dépôt at Norman Cross Barracks, from whence I speak, being resident on the medical establishment some years, the complaint was more or less of constant occurrence from prisoners being continually sent to us. Many were affected not only with cholera but with dysentery, scorbutus and typhus fever, and in many instances with typhus gravior or putrid fever, with a few cases of the yellow fever, which is rarely to be met with by the oldest practitioner in this metropolis, or in England, unless in a similar situation. All these diseases I conceive to be equally as contagious, and as dreadful to suffering humanity as cholera, if not as fatal; but they never extended further than to those who were in a very debilitated state prior to their arrival in this country. As these malignant diseases arose chiefly from great deprivation of fresh food, clothing, and of air, they required immediate attention. Among the most effectual means of

prevention and cure were ventilation, frequent washing the wards and lime washing the walls. Light nutritive food, diluent drinks, warm baths, embrocations, and camphor and opium joined together with columba, &c. &c. In addition to these also the Board supplied us liberally with wine, lemon juice, tea, and sugar, which were of importance. The majority of the complaints were of the low or debilitating kind, from crowded situations, and from the want of fresh provisions, which must occur in besieged towns or aboard ship. In typhus fever and scurvy, wine and lemon juice were of great service. From a pint to a pint and a half of port wine, a quarter of a pint of lemon juice, with sugar, were prescribed to some of the patients per diem.—If it were possible to separate the sick by putting them into small cottages, some distance from each other, it would tend to facilitate the cure.

It has been sufficiently proved that the cholera, which has created so much excitement lately in England, is not a new disease, although many eminent practitioners have confidently asserted that it was never known before. The following are the symptoms of

this complaint. Diarrhœa, slight cramps of the legs, vomiting and purging of rice coloured liquid, anxious expression of the countenance, cramps of the fingers, with spasms of the muscles of the legs and arms, coldness of skin, which assumes a blue appearance, pulse small and slightly vibratory, suspension of the urine. On dissection the venous system has been found turgid with blood, and the lungs in an engorged state. These distressing symptoms may be produced from sudden changes of temperature, acrid matter in the stomach and intestines, decomposition of animal and vegetable matter. If a gradual diminution of the symptoms, particularly vomiting, succeeded by gentle moisture on the skin, or by sleep, occurs, the case will generally prove favourable; but convulsions, violent spasms of the extremities, icy coldness of the skin, intermitting pulse, will render our prognostics very unfavorable. The violent action of the stomach and intestines may be allayed by opium.

℞ Tinct. opii, m xx.

Confect. arom. ʒj.

Mist. camph. ʒx.

M. 6 tis horis sumendus.

Or,

℞ Pulv. rhei, gr. iv.

Confect. arom. ℥j.

Tinct. opii, mx.

Aquæ cinnamomi, ʒxj.

Syrupi aurantii, ʒj.

M. ft. haust. 4 tis horis sumendus.

Mustard emetics have been recommended at the commencement of the attack of spasmodic cholera. Cautious venesection, in order to relieve venous congestion. The circulation and heat must be restored. Calomel in combination with opium. Local blood-letting may prove beneficial. Fomentations, warm plasters. The primæ viæ will be greatly benefited by the use of tonics and stomachic bitters.

An enema made with three quarters of a pint of warm water, two table spoonsful of olive oil, two or three grains of opium, and one drachm of assafœtida, forms an injection which relieves pain.

℞ Sulp. quini. gr. ij.

Infus. aurantii C. ʒiss.

M. fiat haust. ter die sumend.

Or,

℞ Tinct. calumbæ ʒj.

Aquæ menth. viridis ʒxij.

M. fiat haustus ter in die sumend.

The inhalation of oxygen gas has been recommended.

In extreme spasmodic pains the following I have found very serviceable.

℞ Sp. æther sulphur.

Syr. croci. aa ʒj.

Tinct. opii min. xl.

Mist. camphor. ʒiss.

Ft. haust. sexta quâque hora urgent dolor.

During the time of the existence of what was called cholera in England, no contagious connexion could be discovered. Persons who were in constant attendance upon the sick have escaped. The method by which the complaint

Note.—An apparatus for administering Lavements, brought into use in this country by Mr. Edward Jukes (the inventor of the Stomach-pump) which appears to me to be well constructed for ease and comfort, deserves to be recommended. It may be had of the manufacturer, Mr. Harcourt, 12, Carlton Street, Regent Street, and at 3, Sweeting's Alley, Cornhill.

has spread is entirely unknown, this will appear evident to every individual who will consider its progress in this country. The disease has always been in existence, but we heard not of the alarming name of cholera. It was a most unfortunate appellation for the commercial part of towns and country especially.

The panic it produced has been severely felt by the merchant as well as the inhabitant generally, while inflammation of the bowels, dysentery, and other fluxes, equally as formidable to suffering humanity as the cholera, in this country, are continually in existence without disturbing the minds of the people.

OLD BURLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S,

March, 1832.

PLAN AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Institution for the Cure of Glandular Diseases.

ESTABLISHED IN 1820.

It is the distinguishing glory of this country, that whenever any improvement takes place in Medical Science, the next consideration is, how to apply it most effectually for the relief of those persons whose indigent circumstances would otherwise preclude them from the advantages of it. Hence, besides the noble Hospitals and numerous Dispensaries which abound in the Metropolis, distinct Institutions have been formed for the treatment of particular diseases. Of the utility of such Establishments there can be no doubt; for hereby Professional Experience becomes enlarged, and thus the cause of Humanity is profited by the advancement of Knowledge. No apology, therefore, can be necessary for adding to these benevolent concerns, when the direct object is to abridge the catalogue of human sufferings, by providing the means of relief in desperate cases. Among the disorders of this gloomy character, those of the Glandular System are by far the most prominent and frequent. They take the deepest seat, and produce the most extensive effects, upon all the mechanical powers of the body: the greater part of the ailments in which may be traced to obstructions in the secretory vessels, whereby the animal economy is disturbed, so that though life may not be immediately destroyed, it becomes a miserable existence. Thus, besides SCHIRRHUS, SCROFULA, and

CANCER, which seize upon the larger glands, and are therefore so conspicuous as to be more easy of detection, there are many occult diseases, which being generated in the Liver, the Kidneys, and other important organs, for want of ocular observation and minute attention, will take such deep root as to prove, if not incurable, yet extremely difficult to be eradicated. Mistakes, therefore, with regard to the real seat and description of such complaints, will naturally occur, without impeaching the skill of the most experienced Practitioner, whose thoughts are occupied by a variety of cases, and who has oftentimes to form his judgment upon inaccurate statements, or fallacious symptoms.

On these accounts it has appeared desirable to several respectable persons, that an Institution should be formed exclusively appropriated to Glandular Diseases; therefore, as Sir CHARLES ALDIS, Surgeon, has for several years past directed his particular attention to this class of maladies, in the treatment of which he has experienced eminent success, without having recourse to the knife; a respectful call has been made upon him to undertake the superintendence of the concern. In compliance with a request so grateful to his feelings, Sir CHARLES has readily consented to set apart a regular portion of his time to the case of poor patients labouring under glandular complaints, who will be attended at his house in Old Burlington Street till a more convenient situation for the Dispensary shall be appointed.

Considering how liable the industrious part of the community, and particularly of the female sex, are to the complaints which fall under the general denomination of CANCER, no further remarks can be requisite to recommend the establishment of a Charity calculated to afford patients of this description similar relief to that which has already been experienced by many hundreds in various stations of life. Such an appeal to the humanity of the affluent will, therefore, be decisive.

PRESIDENT.

The Most Noble the Marquis of Salisbury.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich; Col. Hamilton, K.C.B.; Sir Edwin Bayntun Sandys; Daniel Giles, Esq.; Sampson Hanbury, Esq.; The Rev. R. H. S. Hele; Dr. Redfern; Thomas Hoseason, Esq.; Moses Hoper, Esq.; N. Byerley, Esq.; J. Manning, Esq.; Frank Sherwin, Esq.; N. Godbold, Esq.; S. Saunders, Esq.

COMMITTEE.

Daniel Giles, Esq.; Sampson Hanbury, Esq.; The Rev. R. H. S. Hele; Robert Barbor, Esq.; Knight Spencer, Esq.; N. Byerley, Esq.; John Manning, Esq.; Frank Sherwin, Esq.; N. Godbold, Esq.; S. Saunders, Esq.

TREASURER.

N. Byerley, Esq. 105, Holborn Hill.

SURGEON and Founder of the Institution.

Sir Charles Aldis, 13, Old Burlington Street, St. James's; to whom all letters relative to the business of the Establishment are to be addressed.

* * * A consultation is held when necessary.

HONORARY SECRETARY.

John Manning, Esq., Solicitor, Dyer's Buildings, Holborn.

The following Nobility and Gentry are among those who have already patronised and become Subscribers in aid of the Establishment:—

The Most Noble the Marquis of Salisbury; The Most Noble the Marchioness of Salisbury; The Right Honourable the Lady Georgiana Wellesley; The Right Honourable the Earl of Essex; The Right Honourable the Earl of Verulam; The Right Honourable the Countess of Verulam; The Right Honourable the Lady Charlotte Grimstone; The Right Honourable the Earl of Bridgewater; Sir Edwin Bayntun Sandys, Bart.; Lady Sandys; Lady Laurie; Lady Gould; Lady Aldis; Sir Lumley Skeffington, Bart.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE INSTITUTION.

I. This Charity to consist of Patrons and Patronesses, President and Vice-Presidents, Life and Annual Governors, a Committee, and Treasurer.

II. An annual subscription of One Guinea constitutes a Governor, who is entitled to have one Patient on the books at a time; and a Subscriber of Two Guineas a-year has the privilege of two Patients continually on the books of the Institution; and so in proportion for every Guinea.

III. A subscription of Fifteen Guineas constitutes a Governor for Life, with all the privileges of a Subscriber of Two Guineas.

IV. Six Gentlemen, taken from the list of Life Governors, and from those who are Subscribers of Two Guineas, to form a Committee, to be chosen yearly, three of whom shall be a quorum; whose duty will be to visit the Institution, and to regulate its concerns; and to frame an annual report for the information of the Subscribers and the Public.

V. Patients will attend at the Institution, Old Burlington Street, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from nine in the morning till eleven: but if unable to attend personally, they will be visited at the distance of one mile and a half.

VI. The Treasurer shall receive all monies for the use of the Institution.

The Committee are forwarding the above Rules and Regulations of an Institution which they are desirous of enlarging, and solicit the honour of your name and influence to carry their object into effect. They are about publishing a new list of Patrons, &c. the Institution being removed to 13, Old Burlington Street.

Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers:—Messrs. Drummond, Charing Cross; Messrs. Hanbury, Taylor, and Lloyd, 60, Lombard Street; also by Sampson Hanbury, Esq., Truman's Brewery, Spitalfields; Robert Barbor, Esq., at his Office, 122, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street; and by Sir Charles Aldis.

OBSERVATIONS;

&c. &c.

OF all the diseases incidental to the human frame, none excites more distressing sensations than CANCER; the very names applied to which, evincing with what dread it was regarded by the ancients; the Greeks, from its supposed resemblance to the tenacious forceps of the crab-fish, giving it that term by which it is now commonly distinguished; while the Romans called the disorder *Lupus*, or the wolf, on account of its deadly malignity; the patient being considered as no less hopeless when attacked by it, than the unfortunate traveller is, who falls a prey to that ferocious animal, in the darkness of the night, on the dreary waste, defenceless and alone. Thus also the poet,

As when a CANCER on the body feeds,
And gradual death from limb to limb proceeds;
So does the chillness to each vital part
Spread by degrees, and creep into the heart.

Neither has time, nor the extension of science, in any degree moderated the character of this disease, or, by narrowing its influence, rendered it less fearful to the imagination. While other physical scourges have lost much of their terror, by the infrequency of their occurrence, the shortness of their duration, and the facility of arresting their progress by preventive measures; CANCER, in regard to its nature and remedy, has continued to elude medical enquiry, and to multiply its victims, even where the healing art, in theory and practice, has been most improved. Much as it is to be lamented, that this calamity should thus have baffled scientific research; it is equally to be regretted that repeated failures, and the terrible nature of the subject, have damped the ardour of observation, and induced professional men to abandon cases which, being decidedly cancerous, they neither hoped to be able to alleviate nor to cure; and to which the dismal picture, so forcibly sketched by our great epic poet, might fitly be applied,

Dire was the tossing, deep the groans ! DESPAIR

Tended the sick.

And yet as it is impossible that any disorder can take place in the system without an assignable cause; so is it incredible that there should be any ailment, however terrific in its appearance, which may not be arrested, or rendered

harmless, by timely attention and proper application.

With this view, and not from an ostentatious idea of being able to develop the origin of a poison, which is known only in its frightful aspect and calamitous effects, the present discursive essay is brought before the public, both as a stimulant to professional exertion, and an encouragement to the afflicted.

Cancers have been classed by medical writers under various orders; but Dr. Cullen's definition, as being simply correct and perspicuous, is generally received. According to this celebrated professor, Cancer is a painful scirrhus tumour, terminating in a fatal ulcer; and this genus of disease, he places in the class *locales* and the order *tumores*, adding, very properly, that any parts of the body may be attacked by it, though the glands are considered by him as most subject to the malady.

As Cancer takes the two forms, of a tumour and an ulcer, so it receives denominations corresponding to its respective stages, being called occult before it breaks, and open cancer when it suppurates. It is further said to be in a scirrhus state when hard, inert, and void of colour; but

when it becomes painful and discoloured, it has then assumed those active and unequivocal characteristics, which can leave no longer any doubt as to its having passed into decided cancer.

Every enlargement of a gland, which has been slow in its progress, should be regarded with suspicion, as likely to become cancerous sooner or later. In men the throat, neck or lip, are most commonly the seat of affection :—in women, who are more peculiarly susceptible of this dreadful calamity, the breasts and uterus are the parts generally attacked :—while in children the disease usually makes its appearance about the eyes.

Almost every cancer commences by a local injury, whereby the vessels composing the gland having been disturbed, the fluids are obstructed in their course. Tumours, thus formed, in consequence of impeded circulation, necessarily differ both in the malignity of their character, and the rapidity of their growth, according to the situation of the injury. From the same cause, the pain also varies as it happens to be seated among the nerves ; and wherever a swelling occurs, attended with an uneasy sensation, though the skin is not discoloured for a long time, but afterwards puts on a livid appearance as the tumour enlarges, accompanied with shooting pains, particularly on

the least pressure, there is reason to apprehend that the complaint is radical cancer. In this case, the tumour rises to a considerable height, transudes a sanious or fetid fluid, and marks of discoloration begin to shew themselves, running in irregular stripes along the surface, increasing in number, and extended proportionally to the enlargement of the source from whence they spring. The lancinating pains which follow the direction of these ramifications, and which are severely experienced, at a remote distance from the immediate seat of the ailment, now leave no room to doubt the precise nature of the malady. The tumour at length breaks, and at first shows apparent signs of a disposition to heal quickly ; but its edges soon become serrated, transparent, and excruciatingly painful. The middle of the ulcer rises, and becomes red : its shape is that of a ball ; but though elastic to the touch, it is not sore. The rotundity goes on increasing, and projects till the mass bursts, attended with profuse bleedings ; when the edges turn up and lap over, so that the ulcer is much larger at its surface than at the base. Such is the mordacious malignity of the virus in this state, that the discharged matter excoriates the surrounding skin ; and its accumulation has been so rapid, that the ulcer has been known to increase from three inches, to the enormous extent of eighteen inches in circumference, within

the short space of six months, when a low hectic fever has supervened, and death kindly terminated the indscribable miseries of the unhappy sufferer.

The threefold division of this malady into the stony, the indolent, and the soft cancer, is so obviously derived from the different forms which it takes, as to require no other remark, than that the first appellation is given to the disease when it appears hard or callous ; the second when it is slow in its process ; and the last when it partakes of the nature of scirrhus, with fungous flesh.

According to Sir Everard Home, scirrhus and cancer, are radically the same disorder ; and he observes, that the genuine scirrhus tumour is so liable to generate cancerous poison, when suffered to encrease in magnitude, as to impose an urgent necessity upon every surgical practitioner, to make himself thoroughly acquainted with those glandular swellings which, by their seat and tendency to enlargement, may justly induce suspicion of their latent character.

Experience has, indeed, proved beyond all doubt, that many tumours, apparently of a different, and comparatively of a harmless character, may degenerate into cancer ; and it is my

opinion, resulting from an extensive range of observation, that to this family of malignant ulcers, a vast number more belong than have hitherto been considered as generically cancerous.

Like the Fungi of the vegetable world, they appear in such a variety of forms and situations, according to the substances on which they fasten, and the circumstances, that accelerate or impede their growth, as may oftentimes deceive the most skilful observer, without any impeachment of his sagacity or diligence.

Thus there are, besides what is strictly denominated cancerous ulcer, or open cancer; various ulcers of the vitiated and fungous kind, discharging acrid matter of a red, green, or brown colour, highly offensive to the smell, and so corrosive as to destroy the surrounding parts. Some of these malignant sores, though not assuming the decided characteristics of cancer, have manifested no less obstinacy in resisting the attempts made to eradicate them; and it is, therefore, most likely that they have a close affinity to cancerous disease, and that the minor degree of virulence which distinguishes them would possibly increase, and become equally ferocious and deadly with that dreadful malady, by a very slight change of circumstances.

An attempt to discriminate and describe the several varieties of suspicious ulcers, would far exceed the limits, and design of this tractate ; and yet the subject is of considerable importance, and well merits the attention of the diligent practitioner, to whom it presents a new field of enquiry, which would probably lead to the most beneficial discoveries, provided it be explored without endeavouring to turn all that is observed into the support of a favourite system. It is, however, to be regretted, that the propensity to theorise upon the nature and causes of obscure diseases, has had a bad effect upon practice ; and that, instead of abridging, it has too often increased and aggravated the catalogue of human woes. Of this, the subject of cancer exhibits a melancholy proof, in the visionary ideas that have been advanced, not only to account for the origin of this malady in particular, but for all those encysted tumours which occur in various parts of the body. These last, which are commonly found under the skin, and particularly about the head and face, become enlarged sometimes to a very considerable size ; and it is stated by an intelligent writer, that more than twenty have existed in one patient. It is also asserted, that in certain persons there is a constitutional susceptibility to generate these swellings, which infix themselves deeply beneath the surface.

A late medical writer, of paradoxical celebrity, has advanced the singular position, that each of these encysted or bag-like tumours contains a vital substance; and this hypothesis of morbid animality he has extended yet farther, by attributing a living principle even to Cancer. According to this novel doctrine, the vesicles or watry bladders which, on account of their being filled with transparent fluid, have obtained the name of hydatids, are to be considered as forming a link in the chain of animated nature; and thus maladies, sufficiently distressing of themselves, become tenfold more terrific to the imagination of those afflicted by them, and consequently more difficult of cure.

Hydatids occur in various parts of the body, as the abdomen, the brain, the kidneys, the liver, and often in the lungs, when those viscera become diseased. Dr. Baillie observes, that there is no gland more liable to these troublesome visitants than the kidneys, and that many persons fall victims to their effects, owing to the nature of the disorder remaining unknown, till inspection after death has developed the mystery. When the liver is thus affected, the hydatids are commonly attached to the outer surface of that organ, and being suspended therefrom, fall into,

and, in a greater or less degree, fill up the cavity of the abdomen.

That tumours of this description are very capable of being converted into fungous and inveterate ulcers, and that they may thus pass into a decided carcinomatous state, is the belief of many judicious writers; and though the mutation of diseases, is one of those exploded notions which cannot stand the test of experimental inquiry in these enlightened days, the transition of these encysted tumours into Cancer, must be admitted as an exception, unless, which is the most probable solution of the matter, we are to consider them as so many stages or varieties of the same malady. To this last conclusion I am myself inclined from personal experience, since, among the numerous cases of tumour that have come under my observation and care, I have had many which, after exhibiting the most simple appearances, without any indication of a cancerous basis, have as it were suddenly and most unexpectedly degenerated into the worst state of that complaint. But neither these transitions, nor any other phenomena which occur in this Protean class of disorders, will be sufficient to justify the revival of that obsolete article of empiricism, which ascribes an animal-

cular origin to many diseases. Much laboured zeal, indeed, has been shewn, and an extraordinary parade of scientific knowledge displayed, in the attempt to prove that all cancerous tumours, and indeed every other kind of malignant ulcer, are made up of hydatids, the vitality of which being assumed, it became no difficult matter to organize, name, and describe them with as much precision as if their generation, forms and habitudes had been most accurately and experimentally determined.

To this supposed animal substance, the name of *hydatis carcinomasa* has been given, by way of distinguishing it from the *hydatis lymphatica*, the existence of which admits of no doubt. But though the vitality of this last is certain, because its peculiar properties, seat, and growth have been ascertained, so as to leave no question relative to its vermicular character ; the other never presents any appearance but that of an inert mishapen mass of matter, utterly destitute of the least organic functions. The analogy, therefore, which the generic appellative implies, between the real hydatids in sheep and other animals, and the carcinomatous tumours so denominated, fails in all the requisites necessary to substantiate their identity and similarity. But, besides all this, the doctrine itself is at complete variance with the

oeconomy of nature, and little better than a gross libel upon its divine author ; since it charges that system as defective in its original constitution, which the highest authority has pronounced to have been in the whole, and in its parts, created for the most beneficial purposes. Now, in opposition to this truth, which is confirmed by every discovery in physiology, anatomy, and philosophy, we are called upon to believe, on the hypothesis of cancerous animality, that diseases have an independent existence in the human system, and that they are spontaneously generated. Instead, therefore, of admiring the wisdom displayed in the formation of the universe, and the wonderful adaptation of all its parts to the general good ; we should, were this strange and derogatory doctrine established, be compelled to allow that the creation is imperfect, and that diseases are not accidental, but necessarily existing in man, and all other animals. But reason teaches us to think better of Nature, than to believe that a stock of evils was provided at the very beginning of her works, for the express purpose of marring their beauty, and producing misery ; and that, while man is yet in an infant state, a supply of fatal diseases is distributed in embryo throughout his frame, ready, like the hydra, to issue forth, and devour him on any slight occasion that may excite the

monstrous brood to the active exercise of their malignancy.

It is humiliating enough to be sensible of the casual existence of such dreadful complaints, without the distressing aggravation of thus attributing them to a preordained cause, the very idea of which must tend to deepen the gloom that overspreads the mind under such a melancholy visitation, by depriving it of the only consolation that remains, when the hopes of life are almost extinguished.

The size of these vesicles, or bladders of fluid, which have been thus ingeniously transformed into the seats of animation, diminishes from the diameter of one inch and a half, to the two hundredth part of an inch, while others again are less than a red globule of blood, and the contents being proportionate, but uniform in all, nothing to warrant the conclusion of their vitality, can be inferred from any thing in their structure, or the progress which they make in growth. It deserves observation also, that the author of this fanciful theory has never presumed to extend the doctrine of hydatid existence beyond the cancerous breast. He has reluctantly been obliged to give up the principle of carcinomatous animality, in regard to the disease when

it attacks other glands, because his observations on the cancerated lip, would not support the analogy which his imagination had created ; and thus, by one admission of dissimilarity, he has destroyed the whole hypothesis. Confined, therefore, to the cancerous breast, it is easy to account for the more frequent appearance of the malady in that organ, without supposing that there has been a creation of specific diseases extending their generation, from the beginning of the world, by a necessity of nature, and prolonging their existence at the expense of human happiness. Changes in the state of the body ; menstruation ; conception ; the evolution of the foetus ; parturition ; and above all the termination of the catamenia, are circumstances which produce in most females serious alterations of the constitution : in consequence of which many disorders arise, some open and more latent, to disturb the system, and attack those parts that are most susceptible of affection. By this aptitude to deranged secretions, a spurious action commences in those organs, and the disease having fixed itself, forms a local habitation, where the morbid matter gathers, and acquires the virulence of an active poison, which is conveyed by the absorbent vessels to the glands, whose very structure renders them liable to become the seat of an active and spreading malady.

Of this transition of diseases from one part of the system to another, in consequence of disordered organic functions, and an irregularity in the circulation of the fluids, till at last the disease, by taking hold of a more sensible part, assumes a fatal aspect, many instances might be related. The following, however, which came recently under my own observation, is so exactly in point, and illustrative of the present subject, that I shall offer no apology for narrating it in this place.

On the ninth of June last, Mrs. Mary Dennis, the wife of Mr. John Dennis, a gentleman of independent fortune, at Lynn, in Norfolk, applied to me, by the strong recommendation of my friend Miss Slater, of the same town, who was urged to do so by a near relation of her own, that had been restored to health, after suffering under a similar complaint. Mrs. Dennis stated that, in February 1817, she was seized with cold rigours, succeeded by heat and fever, during which her left leg began to swell and inflame: Her indisposition increased as those chills and heats alternated, and when the whole lower extremity became extremely inflamed, she applied to Mr. Forrest, a surgeon at Lynn, who used every means in his power to subdue the swelling, but without effect, till the month of July

following. Soon after this abatement in the part primarily affected, slight darts of pain were experienced through and about the region of the left breast, which gradually increased and extended to parts beyond, even to the axilla, spreading over the shoulder to the scapulary muscles : while also a constant uneasiness seemed to pervade the whole of the pectoral and deltoid muscles, so that frequent shootings were felt in moving the arm. At the beginning of the following year, a tumour became perceptible to the touch ; it was situated in the left breast, as represented in the annexed engraving (fig. 1) ; and on being pressed, a slight degree of pain was felt in the part ; her health also was affected by the lancinating pain, and the extreme anxiety which she experienced. The size of the tumour was that of an orange, with a discolouration of the skin, and when ever so gently pressed by the hand, it became exquisitely painful. Small tumours also could be traced to a considerable extent in the region surrounding the breast, besides which there was a fulness occasioning pain when felt on the ribs below, which I considered as a matter of serious importance, and consequently became more doubtful of success. The age of the lady was about sixty, and her bodily health, independently of this particular complaint, had been during her whole life generally good. She

was of an active turn, and exerted herself to the utmost, with a view to bear up as much as possible against a disease which she knew to be so extremely inveterate as to render the strongest mind weak, the most spirited melancholy, and the most patient irritable.

On the tenth of June, an application to the part was made, which was removed on the twelfth, when emollients commenced and were continued, with a course of alteratives and tonics, which were now strictly to be persevered in, unless circumstances might call for a deviation. Under this practice, her health soon became better; she ate with a keener relish; and her complexion also gave symptoms of improvement. As the discharge came on, every affected part surrounding the tumour became easier, and she was soon enabled to walk to some distance for the benefit of the air. The tumour now began to separate from the breast, and to project, so that, by the seventh of July, its appearance was as is represented in the second figure of the plate. During the whole of this period, little if any pain was felt; it was deemed proper, however, to increase the tonic power of the medicine, and by the twentieth of August the breast had completely healed; which indeed has been the usual time required in such cases, for the expulsion of

the tumour, and the perfection of the cure, where no intervening or unforeseen impediments have occurred. This case is now made public at the express desire of the lady herself, from feelings of sympathy, and an earnest desire to encourage in her suffering fellow-creatures the principle of hope, under an affliction too generally regarded as irremediable ; and, therefore, not to be beguiled by that language of consolation, which in almost all other maladies tends so powerfully to strengthen the mind, by holding out to it the prospect of relief. The relation of this remarkable instance, which may serve to shew the danger of such a gloomy conclusion, naturally leads to the consideration of the treatment of cancerous diseases, and the possibility of effecting a permanent cure.

One of the principal impediments to the improvement of medical science is a spirit of scepticism, which, by continually throwing a damp upon inquiry, and raising doubts of the ultimate success of new remedies, or modes of operation, retards discovery ; and while it makes regular practitioners diffident, and keeps them in the old beaten path, it in many instances emboldens others to take advantage of public credulity. In no respect has this hesitancy on the part of the profession, to admit the certainty of curatives in

desperate maladies, been more apparent than in cancer, which, by the common consent of the faculty, seems almost left in a similar predicament with the desideratum of the longitude, or the mathematical problem of the quadrature of the circle. And yet, notwithstanding the forlorn state in which cancerous cases are usually considered by those who are looked up to with anxious hope by innumerable sufferers, various methods have been devised for the attainment of a cure. Some of these have obtained a degree of credit for a little while, but the flattering prospect, afforded by the temporary suspension of the disease, quickly vanished, and the return of the malignant enemy, with increased virulence and mortal effect, has at once destroyed the victim, and ruined the reputation of the boasted remedy. Repeated disappointments of this kind, therefore, after the most confident assurances of an infallible mode of treatment had been held out, have induced many of our most able and judicious practitioners to adjudicate all tumours, decidedly cancerous, to the knife, as the last resource for the possible chance of saving the lives of the unhappy sufferers.

The ancients, however, were of a different sentiment, and though the best of the old writers have left little or nothing to guide us in the

treatment of carcinomatous complaints, they all concur in reprobating amputation, as being altogether a useless operation, and one that serves rather to increase misery than to alleviate it.

In the course of my own practice, I have met with a number of cases wherein excision had been previously adopted, as the only course left for the relief of the patients, but in all of which it proved unsuccessful. I never used the knife, myself, but once, and that was on a sister-in-law of my own, at Littleport, in the Isle of Ely, in 1815, induced thereto by the dangerous state of the ulcer, a profuse discharge of pus, and the apprehension of immediate death by hæmorrhage, which was prevented by the operation, and her life prolonged about two months. As this mode of extirpation, however, is sanctioned by some high names, I will not oppose to it my individual opinion and experience, but content myself with the judgment of one of the brightest ornaments for skill and probity in his profession. In the fifth volume of the "Edinburgh Medical Essays," the late Dr. Alexander Monro says ; "Of near sixty cancers which I have been present at the extirpation of, only four patients remained free of the disease at the end of two years. Three of these lucky people had occult cancers in the breast, and a fourth had an ulce-

rated cancer in the lip." The same eminent professor remarks, that of the few which came under his observation, where the disease recurred, it became more violent in its nature, and more quick in its progress, which terminated in the death of the sufferer. He then goes on to state, that in no instance should a surgeon undertake the operation, unless it be at the earnest desire of the patient, and after having fully and candidly pointed out the uncertainty of the process, and the probable danger of a relapse.

The operation, it is true, is far from being difficult to perform, and the wound readily heals afterwards, because the parts are brought with ease together, and kept in that situation, so as to heal by what is called the first intention. But, then, the serious consideration is, that, though you should cut even far beyond the tumour, the malady after all may have struck deeper than the knife can possibly penetrate ; in which case the ramifications of the disease will have spread to an indefinite extent, and in such a variety of directions, as to elude both the eye and the hand of the most skilful anatomist. From some of these insidious and imperceptible branches, unavoidably left lurking in the system, ten or more tumours may possibly arise in the room of one ; each soon becoming as malig-

nant as that which has been already displaced, and thus it will truly be said, that the last state of the miserable patient is infinitely worse than the first. The rapidity with which the disease, in its renovated form, shoots forth and gathers to a head, may be aptly compared to those plants which are propagated by division ; or rather it resembles that self-multiplying wonder of the vegetable world, known by the name of the Banyan Tree, of which old Gerard, the botanical writer, above two hundred years ago, gave the following animated description, under the name "of the arched Indian Fig Tree :"—"The ends of the branches hang downe and touch the ground, where they take roote, and growe in such sort that those twigs become great trees ; and these being growne up unto the like greatnesse doe cast their branches, or twiggy tendrels unto the earth, where they likewise take hold and roote ; by meanes whereof it cometh to passe, that of one tree is made a great wood, or desart of trees, which the Indians doe use for coverture against the extreme heat of the Sun."

It must be evident that the lopping of the branches of this prolific tree, or even the cutting down of the main trunk, would be of no avail in accomplishing its destruction, if such a measure were necessary ; since, so long as any of the ten-

drills remain incorporated in the soil, and possessed of the vegetable principle of life, reproduction must follow in due time. The same thing actually occurs in cancer, after amputation, owing to the utter inability of the most experienced and patient operator, to trace out and destroy that minute portion of the disease, which has worked its way far beyond all observation. Besides this, there is too much reason to dread the most serious consequences to the general system, from the loss of substance, by bringing the parts together. Of the danger attending extirpation, an instance occurred under my own observation ; in the case of a young lady who suffered the loss of one breast by the knife, and afterwards came to town to undergo a similar operation on the other ; but being recommended to me, though the tumour was of the same size as the former, this breast was saved, since which she has become a mother, and suckled her own children ; the diseased substance, so lost by extraction of the tumour, having been supplied by new and healthy flesh.

The hopelessness, therefore, of this mode of relief, has induced many persons at different periods to seek for some effectual remedy ; though hitherto with but little success. At one time much confidence was placed in the powerful

effects of the cicuta or hemlock, but the medicinal properties of this once popular plant, have long since been exploded ; nor, as far as I can gather, has any attempt been made to supply its place by other vegetable poisons.

The astonishing improvements made in chemical science, next induced some ingenious and active practitioners to search for a mode of healing cancerous ulcers, by the application of the newly-discovered carbonic acid air, the property of which, in suspending putrefaction, had then lately been ascertained by Dr. Priestley. The idea was plausible, and the analogy appeared to warrant the expectation of a favourable result. Accordingly, Mr. White, of Manchester, directed his attention to the subject, in 1772, and about the same time, M. Peyquille, in France, obtained a premium, from the Academy of Sciences at Lyons, for a dissertation upon Cancer, in which he endeavoured to prove that the virus proceeded from putrid fermentation of the stagnant lymph, and, therefore, he inferred that fixed air would not only correct the disease, but that by perseverance it would accomplish an effectual cure. In support of this principle, and the practice grounded upon it, some cases were adduced ; but though the boasted remedy found advocates in England, at the time when it first was

broached, and though about twenty years afterwards it was again revived with a specious report of success, in one or two doubtful instances the results were far from being such as to bring this mode of treatment into general use, notwithstanding the partial relief said to have been obtained from it. Subsequently to this, the efficacy of carbonate of iron upon Cancer was brought forward, in a manner, and upon authority, which seemed to justify the hope that the *crux medicorum* would have been in a great measure removed, as far as related to this class of malignant diseases. But, however important and valuable this discovery may be in many respects, the cases which have been explicitly stated to support its claim, as that of a sovereign remedy in Cancer, fail in the decided characteristics of that disease: consequently, whatever may be the power of the carbonate of iron, in the removal of scorbutic eruptions, no reliance can be placed upon it, in the treatment of a malady which, if not speedily expelled, must certainly have a fatal termination.

Latterly a new doctrine has arisen on the subject of Cancer, and, as a matter of course, an entire novel practice, derivable from it, has been recommended by a learned member of the College Physicians.

Dr. Lambe traces the origin of almost all diseases, and Cancer among the rest, to deleterious substances, introduced into the system by water, which on that account he calls septic poison. The illustrious Cullen was of a different opinion, with regard to the properties of water; and, therefore, conceiving that, in its natural state, this fluid is never injurious to health, he made the choice of it a matter of indifference. That water, which has been for some time stagnant or confined, may be detrimental to health in a serious degree, will hardly be denied; and it is equally certain that running streams may be rendered injurious, by imbibing metallic particles, or other substances of a noxious quality. All this, however, has nothing to do with the nature of water itself, which, as being the universal pabulum provided for the sustentation of man, in common with the rest of the animal creation, cannot be insalubrious in its simple and native state, since it is in this very state that it is most used, by the innumerable variety of beings who continually depend upon it for refreshment, support, and luxury. Yet, contrary to the common feelings of mankind, the sagacious instinct of the animal tribes, and the experience of enlightened observers in all ages, we are called upon to believe that this immediate and general

provision of nature, is a magazine of dire diseases, among which gout and rheumatism, asthma and consumption, scrofula and cancer, are the most formidable and destructive. Fortunately, however, the evil is furnished with an antidote, by which the instrument of so much mischief is rendered not only passive and innoxious, but even remedial for the cure, or at least the prevention of these and other chronical maladies. The hypothesis being once admitted that common water, from whatever source derived, whether from the clouds above, or the springs in the depths of the earth beneath, is more or less deleterious, and the medium of numerous disorders ;---it follows that, if some process can be devised to disarm this agent of mischief, water would then become not only nutritious, but conducive to the removal of those ailments, which are now the opprobrium of medical practice. Accordingly we are told that this discovery has been made, and that the constant use of distilled water is not only of the most essential benefit to the conservation of health, and the prolongation of life, but that it is also a universal medicine, especially when combined with a vegetable diet, which last regimen is, strangely enough, recommended to be taken, if not altogether, yet as near as possible, in a state of nature. In other words, while water in its most simple

form is proscribed as pernicious to the constitution, and calculated to introduce malignant diseases into the system; vegetables, in which this fluid abounds, are considered as most beneficial to the same system, when taken into it in a raw state. Now it seems difficult to reconcile this practice, either with itself, or with the economy of nature; for, if water be thus injurious, even after passing through the strata of the earth, its quality cannot have been altered, materially at least, by its entrance into the roots and leaves of those esculent vegetables which are in ordinary use. But, admitting that such an alteration may have taken place, and that water is deprived of its noxious qualities, by being filtrated through the capillary tubes of the edible plants, whence happens it that the rest of the animal tribes, who have neither the means nor the instinct requisite to purify a fluid so indispensable to their existence, are not afflicted with any of the maladies ascribed to all waters that have not undergone the artificial process of distillation? It would be most extraordinary, indeed, that man alone should experience these baneful properties of water in its native condition, or in that state wherein he partakes of it in common with all the varieties of animal being. That the human constitution is more liable to be so afflicted than that of quadrupeds, the domestic ones in particu-

lar, will hardly be asserted, and yet the quantity of aqueous fluid drank in its original state by mankind, bears no proportion to what is required for the hourly support of cattle. Were this menstrum, therefore, generally deleterious, the effects would be seen in the prevalence of fatal diseases among flocks and herds; and consequently, taking this hypothesis for granted, distilled water must be no less necessary for beasts, birds, and even fishes, than for man: but could the trial be fairly made, the question would be soon decided, by the instinctive sagacity of those animals, manifested in the rejection of the purified liquid, or in the mortality produced among them, by the compulsory measure of restricting them to the use of it.

That stagnant water, and such as hath been kept in improper vessels, as well as that which may have passed through impure channels, is injurious to health in a certain degree, must be allowed;—nor is it meant to be denied that the process of distillation may prove of essential service in many chronical complaints. As far, therefore, as a mere regard to the preservation of health is concerned, it is, doubtless, as necessary to pay attention to the purity of water, as to that of any other aliment; but it may be questioned whether the artificial method of rectifying it by distillation is, for general purposes, preferable to the ordinary process of nature. In some cases,

probably, the constitution may experience a change for the better, by the use of distilled water ; and even some obstinate disorders may be thereby for a while suspended. Such exceptions, however, cannot be admitted in proof, either that water so prepared possesses superior advantages over that which proceeds from the alembic of Nature ; or that any reliance should be placed upon it for the perfect cure of scrofulous and cancerous complaints. Yet it is confidently affirmed that the distilled water regimen, and the vegetable diet, will both prevent cancer when steadily persevered in, and actually remove it where it may chance to occur ; though unluckily not a single instance has yet been produced of such a cure having ever taken place. Reports have, indeed, been published, to shew the safety of this method, but the conclusion amounts to no more than this : that a novel manner of living has had for a time some remarkable effects upon the persons who have pursued it, under particular complaints, after which debility has occasioned a relapse, and death closed the scene, not owing, as it is said, to the regimen, but to the revival of old habits.

It would be a waste of words to enter into a farther consideration of the paradox, that “ common water is the vehicle in which the poison of cancer is introduced into the system ;” because

not a single experiment has ever been made in support of the position ; but it seemed necessary to take some notice of the hypothesis, on account of the extreme danger to which the treatment grounded upon it, is calculated to expose the afflicted, by leading them to neglect the adoption of the only remedies that can eradicate the disease, till it is too late to obtain any benefit from them. Thus it is, that where a theory has been conceived by the imagination, all practice is modelled with a view to uphold it ; and no disaster, nor even a succession of absolute failures, can shake the authority of the ruling principle from the mind where it sits enthroned with despotic sway. Hence it has been roundly averred, in order to give something like a physiological colour to this aquatic origin of cancer, and to the dietetic regimen as a certain cure, that man was originally an herbivorous animal, consequently that the chronical diseases which torment him, are the effects of his departure from the order of nature. Enough, however, and perhaps more than enough, has been said on a doctrine and practice which, though pleasing to the fancy, and in some measure useful, in holding out a rule of temperance, cannot be brought to the test of experiment without vanishing into thin air, like the "baseless fabric of the midnight vision."

While such conflicting opinions were broached by men of professional eminence, respecting the origin and principle of Cancer, it was not to be wondered that opposite modes of treatment should be set up with extraordinary pretensions, to the merit of being a specific for that dreadful disease, and its whole tribe of affinities. Among others, the plan of reducing cancerous tumours, by compression, attracted considerable attention, on account of its absolute novelty, the respectable names by which it was sanctioned, and the alleged instances in which it was said to have been completely successful. The boldness of the practice, and its total variance with all that had ever been recommended by ancient or modern writers, did not operate in the way of prejudice against it, either with the profession or the public; so that, in fact, contrary to most innovations, it had every advantage that could possibly be desired by the author of the discovery, or his most zealous friends. Practitioners of cautious minds and large experience, however, paused upon the subject, very naturally judging that a disease, which so generally originates in external violence, could hardly be removed by a process similar to the means which produced it. But, though it certainly did appear extremely paradoxical and repugnant to physical reasoning, that the cancerous poison should be destroyed

by forcibly flattening the tumour which contained it, without proving in the end destructive of the patient, the faculty in general made no opposition to the new method, leaving it to be decided by its own merits.

In what manner the plan of compression has justified the expectations of those who, at the outset, recommended it as an infallible remedy for cancer, the following case will shew.

In the year 1816, Miss Bishop, a maiden lady of about forty-five years of age, sister to Mr. Bishop, surgeon, of George-street, Portman-square, called on me about an enlargement in the breast, nearly of the size of an egg. The tumour was attended with the usual uneasiness, that left no doubt of its being cancerous, notwithstanding which, I gave it as my opinion that it might be cured. She informed me of her intention to go to Paris, and that she would return to me in two or three months. I cautioned her against the danger of procrastination in such complaints; but, as she felt desirous of going to France immediately, I hoped that no particular harm would be likely to take place. I did not hear any thing from her till the following circumstance occurred, nor did I know at that time either the name or the address of the lady. On

the 20th August, Mrs. Richard Baker, of Orsett Hall, Essex, recommended Mrs. Radley, the wife of a miller of that place, with a cancer in every respect similar to that of Miss Bishop. She took lodgings at 71, George-street, next door to Mr. Bishop, and visited me every other day, till the 3rd of November following, when the tumour had been extracted, and was perfectly healed. Throughout the curative process, she was able to visit me at the distance of about three miles ; nor did she experience any pain from the applications, so as to prevent her from walking to my house. It was not till Mrs. Radley was nearly well, that I heard any thing more of Miss Bishop ; when my patient informed me, that a lady living next door to her would be glad to see me, if I would call on her, being the same person who, about three months before, had consulted me, but who having been recommended to put herself on the plan of Mr. Young, in the cure of cancerous affections, had submitted to the pressure of the tumour. With this request I complied, and, to my utter astonishment, found that her health and strength had suffered so much, that I should not have known her :--she being at the time I first saw her rather inclined to corpulency, but apparently in good spirits, animated and active. The affected breast, which before was full, firm, and elastic to the touch, had now become hard,

and so indurated and flat, that it extended over the shoulder to the collar-bone, and to the ribs beneath, so that scarcely any vestige of the breast was visible; while matter issued out from innumerable hard flattened knots, of the size of small beans, of a livid appearance. The patient could only breathe with difficulty; she was unable to lie down, and appeared in a dying state. Several medical gentlemen had been called in, and the medicines she had lately been taking, were those given in consumptive cases. Powdered chalk was sprinkled over the whole surface of this vast extended and excoriated part, which was then rolled tightly up. In this situation I could only request all pressure to be instantly removed, and the most simple poultices to be applied lukewarm. I gave her gentle tonics, combined with opium, to relieve the excruciating pain. She experienced much relief from being thus at liberty, till about a fortnight, when the great comforter in affliction put an end to her misery. I can only observe here, that, in all the cases I have ever seen of cancerous indurations, pressure has invariably aggravated, instead of relieving the disease. There was sufficient reason to suppose, that had Miss Bishop been treated in the same way as Mrs. Radley, she would in all probability have experienced the same success. The Rev. Mr. Carpue, in that neighbourhood, expressed

much anxiety for Miss Bishop, as he observed to me, he had in the first instance strenuously recommended her to me, and that he had sent his sister to accompany her to my house.

The detail of this melancholy case appeared necessary, in noticing the plan of treating cancer by pressure ; though, in justice to myself, I should observe, that neither the instance here related, nor the process under which it failed, would have been mentioned, had it not been for an appeal brought before the public, through the channel of a most respectable monthly journal, in which that method and my own were exhibited, as affording a striking evidence of what the writer quaintly termed "Contrariety in Surgical Practice." This letter, assuming the shape of an enquiry, and signed a Valetudinarian, is as follows :—

"There is scarcely a profession wherein there exists a greater difference of opinion, so far as regards the practical part of it, than in that of surgery, especially as to the treatment of what is called cancer. It is a complaint which, by most surgeons, has been deemed incurable, except by *extirpation* by the knife, and then the disease has been frequently known to recur. Mr. Aldis and Mr. Young have obtained considerable notoriety

by their modes of treating this disease. The method of the one, however, is diametrically opposite to that of the other ; but which of the two is to be preferred, I must leave to the consideration of their brethren and the public, or rather of their patients. While one removes the diseased part by *extraction*, by an application of his own, the other, equally singular, gets rid of the cancer by means of *pressure* made on the affected part ; or, in other words, Mr. Aldis draws *out* the tumour or ulcer, when Mr. Young presses it *inward*. Both these gentlemen stand high in the profession, and have followed their several modes for some years ; Mr. A. about ten, and Mr. Y. about three years. The one supposes that by pressing the part till the whole becomes absorbed, the person is thereby cured ; while the other carefully avoids all pressure, making his application to draw out the diseased substance only, and permits the cavity to heal to its natural level ; his patient likewise recovers. It is not my intention at present, to offer any remarks on either of these gentlemen's practice, further than to repeat, that they are unquestionably very opposite to each other."

Being thus in a manner called upon to give some account of my own practice, I felt myself,

however unwilling, and unused to appear in print, impelled to make the following brief reply, which was inserted in a subsequent number of the same publication.

“SIR,---In the Number of your Magazine for February, I could not help noticing a paper signed “*A Valetudinarian*,” setting forth three modes of curing cancer, or that disease usually so denominated ; and as the plan by *extraction* refers to myself, and has been adopted by me for several years past, as also my name being inserted, you will not probably refuse publishing a reply ; and as it is a surgical subject, I will be as brief and avoid technical words as much as possible, and thereby render it acceptable, probably, to your valuable Publication.—If the gentleman, whoever he may be, would have the goodness to follow up his remarks on the different modes of cure he has pointed out as being used, I should feel particularly obliged, as any information on a disease so intricate in its nature, and so dreadful to suffering humanity, would be of the greatest utility to the public, as it might afford to medical men a better manner of treating a complaint so justly dready by individuals, and, in many instances, so difficult of cure, even by our most eminent surgeons. By the plan adopted by my-

self, which is by *extraction*, as mentioned in the letter, I have, *in most instances*, been successful in effecting a cure. By many of the profession it is stated, that this disease admits of no cure, provided it be cancer.—By the knife probably not, for fatal circumstances but too often confirm my opinion. The method by pressure I never attempted, conceiving it would aggravate rather than relieve the complaint. By whatever denomination cancer may be called, whether scrofulous or scirrhus tumours, it matters not, if they be so obstinate as not to yield to the common mode of treatment. The giving a name is not administering the means of cure; and, to my knowledge, many fall victims to the disease, while they are hesitating as to the term which medical men are pleased to bestow. No: my advice to my medical brethren is rather to seek a cure than search for a name; at all events, I would never dispute with any man because he differed from me in regard to the appellation of any complaint. We daily find how widely they differ, when the cure must be the same. We are convinced, also, that there are many diseases incidental to the body of which we are totally ignorant of their cause, and most likely shall always remain so, and therefore to attempt a description would be

inconsistent with common sense; yet at the same time it may be in our power to cure such disorders. I have seen confirmed cancers, by some termed strumous glands, by others scirrhus and scrofulous tumours, by which the unhappy sufferers have been deceived till the disease has arrived at that period when little or no benefit could be given, and which might have all most likely been completely cured by *extraction*. Others again assert, that scirrhus and cancer are the consequences of a scrofulous habit. Let this be as it may, it is at best but mere conjecture, and is totally unconnected with the cure, and may only serve to indulge in wild speculation, without any utility or benefit. A celebrated physician and poet says, that cancers are formed from scirrhus swellings regaining their sensibility by nature or accident; all of which amounts to a non-entity or vague hypothesis.

*Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.*

“If you know any thing better than these precepts, be so candid as to communicate them; if not, make use of what is here stated.”

Whether the anonymous letter-writer really wished to elicit practical information on the subject of Cancer ; or whether he did not, in fact aim to instigate a controversy relative to the merits of the two methods of treatment noticed by him ; must remain a question. That the latter motive was the predominant one, I had abundant reason to suspect, from the circumstance of the same letter being transmitted to the LONDON MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL, where it found insertion in the number for February, 1817. The Editor of that professional publication was the late Dr. JOSEPH ADAMS, whose opinions on Cancer have already been mentioned, and therefore the reason of his subjoining the following curious note, to the letter of the Valetudinarian, may easily be conjectured :---“ We are
 “ much obliged to this gentleman for his remarks ;
 “ and if he will pursue them systematically, we
 “ hope it may lead to a more accurate discrimination
 “ of the diseases so generally confounded
 “ under the term Cancer.”

Thus it appeared, that both the Editor of the Journal, and his anonymous, I will not say unknown, Correspondent, being alike desirous of agitating a controversy upon the nature of Cancer, these two different modes of practice were

brought forward to public notice. Having no ambition, however, to enter the arena either as an opponent or defendant, and wishing only to pursue the noiseless tenour of my way, with the consciousness of rectitude, and the satisfaction of being in some measure useful, I again declined the challenge to a public disputation, by sending the following reply to the same Journal, where it appeared in the number for April :---

" In answer to a paper inserted in the last number of your Journal, under the signature of " A Valetudinarian," I can only reply, that it would, indeed, be desirable if that gentleman could throw any information which might " lead to a more accurate description of the diseases so generally confounded under the term Cancer ;" but I much question his ability so to do, believing firmly, that those who have paid great attention to it, know little or nothing of the requisites whereby real Cancer can be judged ; and I think it would be at best but arguing, *de lanâ caprina*, to attempt a description. You will not infer from this, that I am an advocate for inattention as to the nature and causes of disease, any farther than to those complaints of which we shall, from their *very nature*, always remain ignorant, and which I believe to be the case by a vast majority, even with those who are well acquainted with a method of cure.

“ I was led to this remark, from a conviction that one of the modes of treatment, namely, that by *extraction*, alluded to a plan in which I have for several years been successful, as far as relates to the cure of this particular disease ; and that I agree with you, Mr. Editor, in observing that I should feel myself much obliged if your correspondent would pursue his enquiry systematically.”

This last wish was not realized, nor could it well be expected, since a systematic enquiry into the nature and cure of Cancer, must be the result of long application, and an extensive range of experience. Whether Cancer is to be considered as a local or constitutional disease, is a question which I will not venture to discuss, being well aware that the most ingenious reasoning upon the subject, in our present state of acquaintance with it, can lead to no determinate conclusion. My own view of cancerous affections, would incline me to think that they may become constitutional ; and that to accomplish a perfect cure, particular attention is, therefore, necessary to be paid in the medical treatment of the patient, to such a course as shall produce, as far as possible, a total change in the system, especially during the time that the Cancer is detaching itself in the manner represented in the plate. When it is impossible, from the situation

of the cancerated part, to remove it, our only dependence must be in a course of alterative medicines, adapted to the state of the sufferer, and to this chiefly do I attribute the success which has attended the cases that have come under my own immediate care.

But, though it is not my intention to agitate the dubious opinion concerning the locality, or constitutional existence of Cancer; since, even admitting its locality in the first instance, we are certain of its becoming generally diffused throughout the system, and that too at any period of the disease;---yet it must be much safer to treat it as a complaint, the effects of which are universal. Thus, for instance, the disease may make its appearance in consequence of a blow or a little exertion, as was the case twelve years ago with Mrs. Pearson, of Jermyn-street, St. James's, in whom the occasion was decidedly marked, though it could not be ascertained at what period the disorder first seized the constitution. She states, that, while she was assisting her servant in wringing a sheet, she felt something snap in her breast; and within a few days afterwards, she perceived a very small dark speck of the size of a pin's head, just beneath the skin, which was painful, and gradually increased till it became soon as large as a horse bean, but this was thought of

little consequence when shewn to several medical and surgical gentlemen. As it grew, leeches and the usual palliatives were used, but without any perceptible effect, farther than yielding a little temporary relief. Within six months it became a running ulcer, but still it was not regarded as having a tendency to Cancer. Thus it went on increasing in magnitude, and when I saw it, after it had been about two years standing, the tumour was of the dimensions of a bullock's heart, and in a most fetid state, discharging at least a pint of unhealthy matter in the course of the day, attended with hæmorrhages, and with cupped up edges, partly transparent, and exceedingly painful. This desperate case, however, notwithstanding its forbidding appearances, terminated favourably, contrary to the most sanguine expectations that could be entertained at the time when I first saw it, and the patient is still living, without any recurrence of the disease, though she is nearly seventy years of age.

I shall here relate another case, though not one that came directly under my care, where the disease was local, and terminated fatally, after a rapid progress.

Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, No. 3, John's-court, near Pedlar's Acre, came to me about the middle

of March, 1819, in a great distress of mind, with a Cancer in her left breast. It had been perceived about six months previous to her application to me, at which time the tumour was rather larger than an 'orange. She had a child then about eighteen months old. Her bodily health was good, and she was of an active disposition, had been the mother of eight children, was of temperate habits, and of the age of thirty-nine years. I told her that, in my opinion, the disorder admitted the probability of a cure, but that no time should be lost, as the uncertainty of the growth of cancerous tumours was great, and the danger extreme. She said that she would speak to her friends, and call upon me again ; which however she did not ; and on the sixteenth of May following, her husband came to my house to inform me, that his wife died in Guy's Hospital four days before : she had been admitted into the hospital on the tenth of April, when every emollient was used by the surgeons of that noble establishment to check the increase of the tumour, but without effect ; for it soon became as large as a child's head, and then broke ; it bled profusely, and the sufferings of the patient were most excruciating, till death came to her relief. I have noticed this case, merely to shew with what rapidity these disorders may gain such an ascendancy in the system as to be incurable, and

how soon they may terminate the life of a patient, if not stopped by seasonable application. The general state of this poor woman's health, as I have already observed, was good a very short time before, nor could I perceive, upon a minute examination, that any other gland was either swollen, or in the least degree affected. This, therefore, was strictly a local disease, and extremely quick in its progress; for when it suppurated, absorption took place, the constitution became affected, and hectic fever closed the melancholy scene, all in the short space of a few weeks. And yet such is the variety of forms observable in this complex division of diseases, and so different are they in growth and malignity, that while in one instance the increase proceeds with inconceivable celerity, in another the malady shall be some years in developing itself, and, notwithstanding the slowness of its progress, and the length of its continuance in the part affected, be curable at last. Of this, I shall here relate an instance of recent occurrence, as a contrast in some measure to the melancholy one just mentioned.

Mrs. Lascius, a lady resident in Chelsea, applied to me last April, concerning a small tumour situated on the outside of the right knee-joint. It was immoveable; the skin over the part was not discoloured, and yet the substance was

exceedingly painful, so much so as to oblige her frequently to get out of bed in the night, and no application had been found to give her relief. She informed me, that, as far back as the year 1804, she had met with a slight accident, in consequence of which the part became bruised, and as it healed the hardness began to collect, attended with lancinating pains, piercing as it were through the knee. Leeches, and occasionally a blister, were applied, which gave a little temporary relief. The pains, however, invariably returned, her appetite was impaired; and her countenance became pale. She was now thirty-five years of age, had been married, and had a family. On the twenty-first of April, I made an application over the part, and ordered tonics to be taken thrice a day. By this course, the disease was gradually subdued, and the tumour sloughed out by constant applications of emollients, so that, at the latter end of June, the part was perfectly healed.

Arsenic is well known to be a valuable medicine in the cure of Epilepsy*; “no remedy was superior, or even equal to it, in the estimation of Dr. Armstrong.” In intermittent fever, hemi-crania, chorea, insanity, tic douloureux, and

* Elements of Diagnosis, by Rob. Norton, M.D. M.R.C.S. p. 70. 1831-2.

several cutaneous affections, it has been employed with great advantage*. “As an external application, it has been employed with much advantage in cancerous ulcers, also as injected into the vagina in cancer of the uterus.”

The bichloride of mercury is also a good external application in cancers. In cases of timid females, who could not be brought to consent to an operation, I have found the following method very successful :

App. Emp. lyttæ. parv. partibus.
affect. postea.

Applic. Pauxillum ung. sequent.

℞ Arsen. oxyd. pulv. subtilissimé, ʒij.
Hydrarg. oxym. pulv. ʒss.
Ant. tart.
Sulp. sublim. aa ʒj.
Pulv. carb. gr. x.
Ung. simp. ʒss.

M. fiat unguentum.

which I permit to remain twenty-four hours, after which,

Applic. Cataplasma. Lini.

During the cure I recommend ordinary diet, and give tonic medicines, as bark, columba, quinine, &c. I have found this mode of treat-

* Elements of Diagnosis, by Rob. Norton, M.D. M.R.C.S.
p. 60. 1831-2.

ing cancerous complaints generally successful during a period of twenty-five years.

I have long considered iodine a most useful medicine in cancerous diseases, and have lately, and am now, employing it in various complaints with most decided advantage. About nine or ten years ago Dr. Wagner dispersed one swelling reputed to be cancerous, and his ointment only consisted of

Hyd. potass. gr. xvij.
Adip. ʒvi.

There is also a case related by Graefe, in which the absorption of the whole diseased breast took place by employing the following ointment.

Hyd. potass, ʒj.
Adip. ʒij.

I also find that iodine is now employed at the Middlesex Hospital, in several cases of cancer of the face, by Professor Mayo*, at the recommendation of M. Magendie: the following is the formula of this Hospital.

℞ Iodinæ. ʒss.
Potass. hydriod. ʒiiss.
Aq. dist. ʒviiij.

M. sit mistura, cujus capiat mx. ad xxx. ter die.

* London Med. and Surg. Journal, No. 1. Vol. 1. p. 30. 1832.

It is also stated in the same number of the same Journal, that Mr. Ashwell has tried, and is still trying, the hydriodate of potass, in the form of suppository in scirrhus uteri, in the obstetrical wards of Guy's Hospital. His formula is composed of two or three grains of the hydriodate, and six of extract of hyosciamus, introduced into the rectum every night. The most decided improvement has been effected in six well marked cases by this remedy.

The following is a letter from a Lady who came under my care in 1831, from Wendover, Bucks, affected with cancer of the breast, and was discharged, cured, in about six weeks; she states on her return home,

“SIR,

“I had promised myself the pleasure of addressing a few lines to you some weeks since, but owing to protracting my visit so long at Uxbridge, I have, to the present period, been prevented: I now, however, have the happiness to inform you, that my health and strength are perfectly restored, and the scale on the affected part is gradually falling off.”

Mrs. Sarah Hickman, 25 years old, of Maidstone, came under my care by the recommendation of the late Mrs. Whatman, of Baker Street, Portman Square, on May the 4th, 1823, with a

cancer on her breast. It had troubled her for some time, and her constitution had suffered greatly. She was discharged, cured, on the 30th of June following, with her constitution completely re-established. And I was very happy to learn from herself, through Miss Charlotte Potter, of Maidstone, on the 19th of June, 1831, that she has had no return whatever of her complaint, that her constitution has been since perfectly good, and that she has had, during the interval, a child, which she has nursed herself without any inconvenience. She likewise informed the Lady that the tumour, which was removed, was now in her possession in spirits.

Mrs. Johnson, of Flint House, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, who came under my care the 6th of July, 1812, as stated in this book at page 86, remains free from her complaint, and notwithstanding her now advanced age, is an active and hearty woman, 1832.

The case of Miss Mary Anne C——, from Boston, mentioned at page 70, who came under my care in 1811, remains perfectly well up to this year, 1832. This Lady soon afterward married, and has had a large family of children, all of whom she nursed herself, without the slightest return of her complaint.

Mrs. Merrett, 7, St. John's Square, aged about 45, called on me, by the recommendation of a Mr. Penny, whose wife had been under my care, having had a complaint in the breast about ten years, originating from a blow. The centre of the breast was extremely painful at the change of weather: seven wounds were the consequence. An indurated painful cancer was completely formed when she applied to me on the 4th of August, 1827. The usual application was applied, after the skin had been removed by a blister; linseed poultices brought on the sloughing: the whole of the tumour was removed, and the ulcer healed, by the 3d of the following month. Her health was much improved, and she has had no return whatever of the complaint to this date, February, 1832.

Mrs. Ellis, of Ware, Herts, applied to me, having a hard tumour in the breast, about the size of a hen's egg. It had existed some years, and the surgeons in her neighbourhood had pronounced it a decided cancer. It was rapidly increasing in size, and accompanied with extreme pain. Her health was much impaired; and she had also been under the care of Mr. Tice, a most respectable surgeon of that town. The usual treatment was employed on the 10th of September, 1820, and on the 28th of the following month the tumour was removed, and the part healed. The tumour is now in the possession of the lady in

spirits. During the time she was under my care, tonic medicines were given, and a generous diet prescribed. Mrs. Ellis, up to this year, 1832, has had no relapse whatever of her complaint, nor has she been subject to any of those nervous disorders, the usual concomitants of a debilitated constitution.

The following is a reply to a letter from S. Hanbury, Esq. Brewery, Spitalfields, requesting me to visit a patient in Edward Street.

“DEAR SIR,—I visited the poor woman Saturday week in Edward Street, Bethnal Green, but there is nothing that can be done to relieve her, either by medicine or surgery. The tumour that extends from the ear round beneath the chin is about the size of her whole head; part of the jaw is decayed, and her features are much distorted. There is no particular pain, nor any external wound, or even discoloration. She tells me it arose about eighteen months back from two bad teeth. They were neglected from her being then pregnant: the child was lying dead in the room. I informed Mrs. Greenwood that I could not render her any service, but that if she were more distressed as to pain, &c., I would visit her if she would inform me of it. I was most happy to find my former patient, Mrs. G., quite well, and that she had continued so since she was

under my care about five years back. She has had, during these five years, three children, all of whom she had been able to suckle at the breast I cured, those she had previous to her coming under my care she was unable so to do from the diseased state of the breast: that her's was a severe cancer, she had three or four authorities from the first surgeons long before I saw her. She resides at No. 10 in the same street, and is not yet thirty years of age. Should my professional vocations permit me, it is my intention to publish some cases of those diseases, as several of my patients who have remained well since I attended them are anxious to have theirs made known. This is one case worthy of inserting, and which I am sure you would bear testimony as to its truth, for she came by your recommendation; and that, had it not been for this poor woman I probably should never have heard of her again. I was very glad, also, that she applied to you herself to request my visiting her distressed friend, as she stated to you her own situation of having remained quite well in every respect.

“ I am,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours very truly,

“ CHARLES ALDIS.”

“ To S. Hanbury, Esq.

“ Nov. 26, 1829.”

“ P. S. I find Mrs. Greenwood came under my care 20th February, 1824, and was discharged, cured, the 4th May following.”

Mrs. Amelia Greenwood's tumour had been three years standing before she applied to me : was five months under Mr. Travis, who pronounced it cancer.

Organic affection of the stomach generally arises from chronic inflammation of that viscus. Cancerous ulcer, schirrhous of the pylorus, and cardiac portions, are found from anatomical investigation. The symptoms of cancer of the stomach are obtuse, and sometimes violent burning pain in the epigastric region, occasionally vomiting back ingesta; sometimes the patient complains of ejecting an aqueous acid fluid: at length a tumour may be either seen or felt in the epigastrium; afterwards there is vomiting of dark matter, emaciation supervenes, and the sufferer dies. The complaint sometimes runs its course very rapidly, at other times it is extremely tedious.

If the pyloric portion of the stomach be the seat of the disease, the vomiting occurs at a certain time after taking food: the tumour is situated more towards the right side.

If the tumour exists in the cardiac portion, the pains are referred to the superior portion of the stomach, darting to the back.

The medicines which appear to me to exert the most influence over this malady are extractum lactucæ, conium, morphia; occasionally the hydrocyanic or prussic acid will act like a charm in alleviating the pain. The subnitrate of bismuth is a useful remedy: externally the application of leeches and blisters affords relief.

Morbid growths of a cancerous nature are occasionally found attached to the intestinal canal. The symptoms are constant pain, referred to some portion of the abdomen, constipation, motions containing blood; the countenance is peculiarly distressed; the diagnosis is extremely difficult; the pharynx, æsophagus, liver, and rectum, are also the seat of these dangerous affections.

On Vaccination, that

“ ———— sweet employ
Of many a live-long hour, and surest guard
Against disease and death.”

This blessing which, while it has been hailed

by all other nations as the gift of heaven, has been spurned, vilified, and opposed by every art that malice could invent in the country where it originated, and upon which it has conferred the greatest glory. To me, however, it will ever be a subject of pleasing recollection, that neither the misconceptions which attended the introduction of the new practice of inoculation, nor the professional confederacies raised against it, could deter me from adopting what appeared to hold out, at least, the chance of contracting the limits, and abating the horrors of the small-pox, even though it should not have the effect of extirpating that dreadful scourge of the human race.

Among the bold declarations advanced by the opponents of the Jennerian discovery, it was roundly asserted that, whatever might be the property of the cow-pox, in suspending the action of variolous contagion, it was at best but merely temporary, and that its preventive powers would last no longer than seven years at the most. Though it was impossible to combat this artifice by argument, yet even then such was my confidence in the security of Vaccination, that in 1801 I succeeded in prevailing upon the overseers of the parish of Bengo, in Hertfordshire, to allow me to adopt which mode of inoculation I might think proper in the treatment of their

poor. The cow-pox was then in its infancy, and the tide of prejudice ran strongly against it in every quarter, and no where more so than in that part of the country ; notwithstanding which I succeeded in inoculating from one hundred to one hundred and fifty patients, most of whom were the children of cottagers, consequently several slept together in the same apartment, and, in many instances, in the same bed. Some of these children were inoculated with vaccine, and others with variolous matter, and, in order to bring the new method to a sure test, in the first instance, as soon as the effect of the cow-pock inoculation was produced, and the arm became inflamed, I introduced just beneath the pustule the variolous virus ; and *vice versa* they who had taken the small-pox infection were inoculated with vaccine matter. This was putting the novel system to a severe trial, in which it was next to impossible but that many failures must have occurred, had the cow-pox been of so fallacious a nature as its adversaries represented. Yet in not a single instance of those who were thus treated, did the second inoculation take effect, or check the first ; and, though eighteen years have now elapsed since this ordeal took place, not one of the persons who passed through it, has been seized by the small-pox.

It has been said that this alleged security proceeds in a great measure, if not wholly, from the infrequency of small-pox contagion of late years, whence the opponents of vaccination infer very sagaciously, that were persons who have been inoculated by the new mode, to be exposed more to the hazard of variolous infection, the chances would be against them. To refute this sophistry, I have repeatedly inoculated my own son with the small-pox, without the virus having produced the least effect, though he received the cow-pox when only a week old, and he is now in his eleventh year.

Being, therefore, fully satisfied by experimental observation of the value of the discovery, and of the practicability of accomplishing by it the entire eradication of a loathsome malady, I felt it my duty a few years since to repel the virulent attacks made upon vaccine inoculation by one Dr. Maclean, in a letter to Sir Francis Milman ;—and I have here touched again upon the subject, as affording, at least in the way of analogy, a justification of the principle, that no disease, however malignant, ought to be considered as out of the possibility of cure. Till within the last twenty years, that man would have been ridiculed as a visionary, who should have ventured

to assert that the small-pox might be completely annihilated, and that by a very simple and innocent process. And yet, though this prediction would have met with no credence, at that period, the most obstinate sceptics would hardly have expressed a wish, that so important an object might never be realized. Such, however, is the force of prejudice, that when the discovery has actually been made ; and though all the proofs of its efficaciousness, that reason or science could demand, have been given, a violent and unremitted opposition has hitherto prevented this inestimable blessing from gaining that triumph over the foe of youth and beauty, which would assuredly have been its consummation, had its course been accelerated, instead of being embarrassed and resisted.

This history almost inclines one to imagine, that there are men in the world who consider it as expedient to preserve a succession of some diseases for their own emolument ; as country gentlemen are tenacious in keeping up the breed of foxes for their amusement. On grounds somewhat similar, the incurability of Cancer, by any mode of application, is still maintained with inflexible firmness ; and yet, while this desponding doctrine prevails, almost to the exclusion of hope

from the minds of the afflicted, the knife is still held out as their last refuge. But, surely there is as little consistency as charity in this, for if Cancer may be removed by an instrument, there is also a possibility of its being subdued and eradicated by some potent medicament hitherto unknown or neglected ; consequently the endeavour to check all inquiry after such a remedy, and to induce the belief, that the only chance for recovery is that afforded by manual extirpation, is not less injurious to the interests of humanity than of science.

It is not too much to say, that, where such bigotry exists, no just demand can be made for the developement of modes of practice which are at variance with preconceived opinions ; since they who have struck into a new path for themselves in the treatment of malignant disorders, are certain, by such a disclosure, to heighten prejudice, and increase opposition, by the very means which they adopt to promote improvement. This inference is warranted by the history of vaccination ; and, therefore, with that instance in view, the author must be content to rest the merits of his method of treating cancerous complaints upon the effects it has already produced, and those which may occur in his future practice.

It is by indubitable facts only, that the merits of any practical discovery can be assured, and not by a disquisition, however elaborate, upon the nature of the process ; since nothing can be easier than for sophistry to throw doubts upon the one, while nothing but inveterate malice, and the blindest prejudice, can succeed in discrediting the other. Yet the exhibition of such facts becomes necessary on many accounts, particularly where the feelings of humanity are affected, and where the suppression of cases tending directly to open a prospect of relief to the afflicted, would be little short of a public injury. Leaving, therefore, others to cavil and dispute about the possibility of effecting any radical cure in confirmed Cancer, I shall bring forward some facts of a decided nature, to aid them in their observations, while the same will, I trust, sufficiently warrant the confidence that the disease, even in its most decided and obstinate character, is rarely such as to preclude hope.

The first case of confirmed Cancer, I shall here mention, is one that serves to show that the disease is not incurable, or of such a description as to give no other chance for the patient's recovery than by suffering amputation ; but that even in a very obstinate state, and after having subsisted for a long period, it may be re-

moved, and the general health restored, though the constitution has been weakened by the immediate disorder, and by the use of mercurials vainly employed to alleviate it.

Mrs. Pear, of Dover, was strongly urged to place herself under my care, by several persons of the first respectability in that town, particularly Lady Laurie, widow of Sir Robert Laurie, and Mrs. Fector, the lady of Mr. Fector, the banker, both of whom felt themselves much interested in the melancholy situation of Mrs. Pear, and anxious for her recovery. Previously to this, she had consulted Mr. Astley Cooper, who, after examining the diseased part, declared it to be a case of confirmed Cancer, for which nothing could be effectually done, neither would he advise the operation by the knife. In this state I saw Mrs. Pear, accompanied by her own surgeon, Mr. Norwood, of Dover, who had treated the complaint for some time, and that occasionally under the direction of both Mr. Cline and Mr. Cooper. When Mrs. Pear called on me, in September, 1813, the enlargement of the gland was on her right breast, and had existed eighteen years. As she was then under the direction of Mr. Norwood, I conceived it would be most candid and agreeable to that gentleman, to give my opinion upon the case in his presence. I did so;

and on being made acquainted with the nervous and debilitated state of the system, attended with nausea, spasmodic head-ache, and coldness in the extremities, all which symptoms were as much against the probability of restoring the general health, as of removing the original disease, I expressed my fears that the patient had been under the influence of mercury; a medicine which I had invariably found was so far from proving serviceable in Cancer, that on the contrary it only tended to establish and confirm the disease. So, in fact, it proved in the present instance, as mercury had been constantly prescribed, and only laid aside when the constitution could no longer bear it, but it was again as regularly ordered when the patient was in a condition to endure its effects. Such was the method of treatment that had now been pursued for several years, without producing any alteration in the tumour, which was hard, and attended with all those lancinating and exquisitely painful sensations, and distress of mind, commonly experienced in true Cancer. Her complexion was sallow, her mind dejected, and her person evinced how much she was enfeebled; small in stature, of a delicate frame, with considerable pain in the side, and fulness of body. She never had any family, although she was at this time in the thirty-fourth year of her age, and married.

The tumour was about the size of a hen's egg, firmly seated, towards the upper part of the breast, and so deeply that its connexion was very near the ribs.

A long conversation with her medical friend, on my plan of treatment, and the nature of the complaint, in both which we perfectly concurred, ended in his advising Mrs. Pear to put herself entirely under my care, and we parted. Mrs. Pear accordingly took apartments in the neighbourhood, and on the thirteenth of September, she became my patient. The usual remedy was then adopted, and a course of medicines pursued, not only to assist in counteracting the disease, but to reinstate, as much as possible, a constitution shattered by mercurials, which had produced those distressing paroxysms of nervous head-ache, pain in the side, sickness of the stomach, coldness in the feet, and the frequent fits of shivering, already mentioned. The spasmodic pains in the head, occasionally deprived the sufferer of all sense, and when aggravated by the acute shootings from the cancerated tumour, the nervous affection often caused temporary derangement to a degree little if any thing short of madness.

The beneficial effects of the new treatment

were soon perceptible, in a diminution of all those afflicting circumstances ; and thus, by persevering in the supporting system, without having once any occasion to deviate from it, the health of the patient rapidly improved, and the tumour yielded to such a degree, that, by the sixth of December, it was completely extracted. Mrs. Pear now removed to Gloucester-place, the residence of Lady Laurie, for a few weeks, that she might not lose the opportunity of a complete restoration. While her Ladyship, and Mrs. Fector, felt the greatest delight at the cure which had thus been so happily, and speedily effected ; they were desirous that, as Mr. Cooper had examined the diseased breast, which he had pronounced a hopeless case, from the length of its duration, and the debilitated state of the system it had produced, that gentleman might again see her. She accordingly waited upon Mr. Cooper, and it is no more than justice to that able practitioner, who I am proud to call my friend, to say that, while he expressed the warmest satisfaction at the recovery of one whom he had before considered as incurable ; he did not withhold his approbation of the means by which it had been effected.

Though six years have passed since this cure was performed, no symptom of a relapse has been

exhibited ; and the lady has repeatedly called on me, in her occasional visits to town, where, as well as in the country, she has been seen and conversed with by some hundreds of persons on the subject of her recovery.

To the questions put to her, with regard to the sensations occasioned in the affected breast, when she was under the influence of mercury, her reply was, that she constantly found herself worse ; the tumour increased, and became more painful ; and that the nervous head-ache was always then considerably aggravated.

The narration of this case I consider as decidedly militating against the use of mercury, in carcinomatous tumours : and that this celebrated medicine is no less injurious in all other enlargements or indurations in the body, appears equally certain. In this opinion I am confirmed, not only by my own experience, as will be made evident in other instances, but by the authority of Mr. Carmichael, who in his Treatise on the "Effects of Preparations of Iron in Cancer," relates the remarkable case of a patient about fifty years of age, who had been a hale strong man, till affected by a large tumour upon his left arm. The part where it was situated was three times greater than its natural size, and of a stony

hardness ; irregular in shape, discharging thick matter, from an uneven surface, and wore the appearance of an excoriated rather than an ulcerated part :—pain and a sense of burning heat were experienced ;---the arm below was oedematous and tight to the feel ; and from thence a chain of four small tumours could be traced. In the breast also was a tumour of the size of a turkey's egg, and a second over the scapula of the right side, besides which there were various other tumours on the legs, &c. These last had existed for nearly thirty years, and it is a curious fact, that, as soon as mercury affected the constitution, they then rapidly increased, and the skin which covered them became red and painful. Mr. Carmichael says, that, “ besides mercury, other medicines were afterwards employed ; that cicuta was given to a great extent, though without producing any good effect ; and that opium was exhibited in large and repeated doses, with the view of alleviating his pains. In forming an opinion on this head, we should recollect that the mercury seemed to be the exciting cause of the enlargement of those tumours ; for, until that medicine was exhibited, they remained perfectly indolent, without exciting the smallest uneasiness.”

Here, then, is a well marked case of glandular

disease, which had remained quiet until excited into activity by mercury, hemlock and opium. My limited pages will not permit me to transcribe the whole of this extraordinary history, and though Mr. Carmichael hesitates as to its being decidedly a case of Cancer, yet, from numerous cases which I have myself seen, I have little doubt on the subject, neither am I less inclined to believe that the patient might have been saved, by the adoption of other medicines than those which were employed, and which instead of diminishing, only served to quicken the growth of the tumours, till, as we are informed, the poor man, after lingering two months longer under this treatment, was released from his misery.

The relation of this unfortunate case, which affords another evidence of the baneful effects of mercury in cancerous disorders, will be a sufficient apology for bringing forward an instance of recent occurrence in my own practice, where, as it should seem, an hereditary taint of an aggravated nature has been subdued.

This I shall give in the language of a clergyman and magistrate, of the first respectability in the county of Hertford, who married the eldest daughter of the exemplary Bishop Horne.

“ Bovington Lodge, near Hemel Hempstead,
Sep. 16, 1819.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I have not been unmindful of your interest, and hoping to be useful to you and to society, from the repeated and astonishing success you have had in curing radically the inveterate exquisitely, and till I knew of your cures, I conceived (without incision) indomitable disease of Cancer.

“ I cannot but rejoice, from the account of your patient's rapid convalescence, at having introduced my friend Mrs. B. to your attention. I see the impracticability of your giving her the attendance, in the second case, which you deem necessary, at such a distance (Kensington), and it is reasonable to suppose she will require greater care in the cure of the second Cancer than the first, as the constitution must have been rendered weak from pain and anxiety, which those unfortunate complaints occasion. Her having had two, is indeed a lamentable circumstance ; though I am glad to find one Cancer is removed, and the part is already well. You will please to inform her, that my family, and Mrs. Horne, feel anxiously alive, and deeply interested in her behalf ; and that they most sincerely sympathize with her, and hope for her perfect recovery. I saw Mr. B. and imparted to him the success

you had in curing Mrs. — of a Cancer, after so many years standing, as well as in completely reinstating her debilitated constitution, which had been reduced from the effect of calomel. I need not inform you, that your greatest attention and tenderness to Mrs. B. will be considered equally as if shewn to my own family. I hear you are about publishing a pamphlet on the subject of Cancer, and if you wish it, I shall feel happy to contribute my best endeavours in a cause, which, from what I have seen and known so much of, it is my duty to support and recommend.

I am, my dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

ROBERT HELE SELBY HELE."

The kind expressions and generous zeal of my truly esteemed and reverend friend, render any observation on the publication of this extract from his letter unnecessary ; but it is proper for me to add, that my patient Mrs. B. is doing better than I could have expected ; that the disease seems nearly eradicated ; and that the wound attending the extraction of the first Cancer continues perfectly well, so that I have just reason to hope the second Cancer, now under the same treatment, will be brought to the same state. It is proper also here to mention, that the mother of this lady died no longer ago than last July, of the same dreadful disorder, after having, as I am

informed by her daughter, been uniformly treated on the mercurial plan, which only encreased the malady, and the sufferings of the patient. Mrs. B. is between forty and fifty, of a spare and delicate habit, extremely nervous, much affected by the loss of her parent, and being a person of great sensibility, she “feels to exquisite extent pangs of the mind.”

On the 17th of December last, I accompanied Mrs. B., at her earnest request, to Mr. Charles Bell, surgeon, Soho-square, who had seen her breast previously to her putting herself under my care; and had expressed his apprehensions of her case.—The nipple, when he first saw it, was drawn in, and the tumour felt like a cannon-ball, so as to obstruct her breathing, but now she was free from that sensation. The obstruction was removed, and she could, using her own expression, breathe through her breast. This case has terminated more favourably than I could have expected; her constitution has been greatly improved, and Mr. Bell expressed his intire satisfaction at what had been done, and was happy to find how much her general health was restored. In this case I hesitate not to say, that the disease was diffused throughout the system, and that the renovation of her health and cure, have more depended on internal medicines

of the strengthening kind, than on any other method of treatment. This lady came under my care on the second of June, 1819; and was cured of one Cancer in the middle of the following September. I began my plan of treatment with the second diseased gland, on the first of October, and it completely healed on the tenth of December, 1819.

Though the following case has been slightly attended to before, the detailed particulars will not, I trust, be considered as an unnecessary repetition in this place.

Miss Mary Ann C. an interesting young lady, twenty-four years of age, came up to town, attended by her mother, from Boston, in Lincolnshire, under these circumstances. She informed me, that, about four years before, she applied to Mr. Cooper, with a cancerous tumour in her left breast, of the size of a pigeon's egg, situated near the nipple. The usual operation by the knife was performed, the wound healed by the first intention, and she returned home apparently well. Soon afterwards, however, she felt uneasiness and pain in the other breast; in consequence of which, she formed the resolution to visit London again, for the purpose of undergoing the operation a second time. In pursuance of

this design, she accordingly came to town, but, happening to meet with a friend residing in Blackfriars-road, she was advised to consult me on her case. This tumour, which also was seated near the nipple, was attended with the same excruciating sensations as had marked the former one. She felt herself very unhappy at the idea of losing this breast entirely, as it would have been requisite, in the event of a operation, to cut so far beyond the tumour as to include the nipple, to secure a chance of success. She was of a delicate constitution, and spare habit, with a small but well formed breast. In this melancholy situation, I suggested that my plan of treatment, if it proved successful, would save the immediate object of her alarm, and that not any part of the breast would be ultimately lost : since, by the mode of extraction, new flesh would be produced, as the Cancer projected, and thereby nothing more than a simple discolouration of the skin, and that to a trifling extent would remain. The application was accordingly made on the seventh of December, 1811, and, by the sixth of March following, the cure was completed ; the appetite of the patient, which had been impaired, became good, and her general health was considerably improved. From the success which attended this case, I am warranted in the belief, that had the same plan been adopted with the other tumour, the result would

have been equally favourable ; and, indeed, it is more than probable that, by saving the one breast, the subsequent affection would not have occurred.

This conclusion is justified by the fact, that the process of extraction does what no instrument, however skilfully and deeply used, can possibly accomplish ; namely, pursue and destroy the ramifications of the disease, so as to prevent any of them from making their insidious way to the gland contiguous to that which formed their original settlement. It is the exclusive advantage of this mode of treatment, that hereby the carcinomatous principle becomes so deprived of all potentiality in its immediate seat as to be incapable of supplying any active virus to ramifications already existing, or of sending forth new ones into other parts of the system. The present instance furnishes the most satisfactory proof of this peculiar property, for the breast, thus saved from the knife, has remained perfectly well ever since, after the lapse of eight years, although the patient has married, and nursed two children. She resides at this time in town, and has always been ready, with cheerfulness, to give an account of her case to such persons as have called upon her for that purpose.

Professional avocations calling me into Norfolk last October, I was induced to visit Lynn, at the earnest solicitation of Mrs. Dennis, whose cure has already been stated ; and also by the desire of my friend Mr. Edward Cartwright, of that town, who in his letter was pleased to say, that the success which had attended my practice in several cases in that neighbourhood, had made my name known to most of the respectable families. On my arrival, an interesting young girl, thirteen years of age, the only daughter of Mr. Dickeson, of Lynn, was brought to me, with a singular case of a Cancer, situated exactly beneath the nipple, in each breast. Each of the tumours, at this time, was of the size of a walnut, and rapidly increasing. My opinion of the disease was confirmed by Mr. Forrest, an eminent surgeon, who has resided many years at Lynn, in extensive practice. Under these circumstances, the afflicted parents readily entrusted their daughter to my care, and, as it was impossible for me to remain in the country above two or three days, she came to town with me, and I have infinite pleasure in saying, that this confidence on the part of her friends, has been recompenced, by receiving back the tender object of so much anxiety in perfect health ; though, such was the critical nature of the case, and the malignancy of the complaint, that, had any longer delay taken place, both breasts must

have been inevitably destroyed during the process of cure.

I cannot dismiss this case without recording my acknowledgements, for the urbanity which I uniformly experienced in my visit to Lynn; particularly from most of the professional gentlemen of that place and neighbourhood.

In Dr. Redfearn, who has resided there with the greatest reputation many years, I found the warm and liberal friend, whose mind is as untainted by prejudice, as it is superior to jealousy. The zealous interest which he has taken in recommending my method of treating carcinomatous complaints, within the sphere of his practice and acquaintance, has the stronger claims upon my gratitude, because in some points, particularly in regard to the use of mercury, we by no means agree. The opinion, therefore, of such an experienced physician, is peculiarly valuable, and I feel highly flattered in being permitted to bring it forward on this occasion, in his own obliging letter.

“ To C. Aldis, Esq. Surgeon, Nelson-sq. Black-

“ Dear Sir, friars, London.

“ Finding you are about to publish some cases on the inveterate disease of Cancer, I conceive it

to be my duty to yourself, as well as to those who are sufferers in that complaint, to state my entire approbation of your method of treating carcinomatous affections, whether they exist in the breast, or elsewhere, and that the application which you have by care and long experience practised for deadening those tumours, is so highly satisfactory, that I shall always feel it a pleasure, as I informed you at Lynn, of strenuously recommending to you all such as are afflicted with glandular diseases, that may occur in this town. I wish much that you had seen Miss —, at Wisbeach, in your return to London, had your professional engagements permitted it. I perfectly concur with you in opinion, that cancerous affections are not altogether local, but arise principally from a morbid condition, and therefore general remedies are absolutely requisite, although local applications are indispensibly necessary for the extraction of the tumour, and to effect a permanent cure, whenever the situation will admit of it. The late Mr. Ramsden extirpated a tumour from the breast of a lady, and he wrote to me respecting her constitution. I replied to this, and informed him that she and the whole family were highly cancerated, and that it would be necessary immediately to administer medicines to produce a change of the system, in consequence of which, the decoction of sarsapa-

rilla and the blue pill were taken, and the patient did well.---Your patient, Mrs. Johnson, of Holbeach, and Miss Cartwright, who went to London some years since, both remain perfectly well, from your very judicious mode of treatment; and the other day I saw your friend Mrs. Dennis, who is secure from her complaint, and does not in the least experience any pain from the breast, in the cure of which you succeeded by your mode of extraction. With every wish your merit so well deserves, I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, very truly,

RICHARD REDFEARN, M. D.

P. S. Miss B. Slater, whom you visited with me in typhus, is better, but I still think her in a precarious state.

Lynn Regis, Norfolk, Dec. 4, 1819.

I shall now briefly relate a few cases, upon which it would be superfluous to make any observation, as every one of them affords full evidence of the efficacy of the mode of treatment by extraction, while some of them exhibit no less striking and terrible proofs of the perilous insecurity that attends the endeavour to remove the cancerous matter by incision.

Mrs. COLE, the wife of Mr. Philip Cole, a respectable farmer of Start Point, near Kingsbridge,

in Devonshire, came to town on purpose to put herself under my care, with a tumour in the left breast. She was of a full habit, very corpulent, and about fifty years of age ; has had children, and always enjoyed good health, with the exception of the particular disease, and its attendant symptoms, for which she consulted me on the third of November, 1814. The magnitude of the tumour at this time may be conceived from the circumstance, that, when expelled, it weighed fourteen ounces and a half. This patient, however, was perfectly cured, and returned home on the twenty-eighth of April in the following year.

ELIZABETH DRAKE, servant to Mr. Deputy Weddell, 15, Aldgate, had two confirmed Cancers in her left breast. She was recommended to me by Mrs. Capper, of Gracechurch-street, on the 15th of January, 1815, after being under three different surgeons in about four years. The tumours were each about the magnitude of a hen's egg, and situated nearly three inches apart. She was of a weakly habit, and about twenty-five years of age. Attention was paid to one tumour first, which promised a favourable result ; and on the 24th of February, an application was made to the other, which very soon began to separate, and protrude nearly in the same manner as occurred in the case of Mrs. Dennis already de-

scribed. Medicines were regularly taken to restore strength, as well as to eradicate any constitutional taint that might be apprehended to exist in the system, and, by pursuing this course, on the fourth of May she was discharged perfectly cured. Mr. Weddell paid the greatest regard to her during the process, as she had been a most faithful servant ; and she continues, I believe, in the family to this day, without having had the slightest symptom of a relapse.

Mrs. MAULE, a domestic in the family of Lady Noel, came under my care, at the recommendation of a lady in North Audley-street, for a Cancer in her left breast, on the 24th of November, 1815, and was completely cured on the 27th of the following month ; nor has she had the least return of the malady since.

The next case I shall mention is one of a melancholy character, which, however, there is abundant reason to believe would have terminated differently, but for an intervening complaint that seized the patient, just at the completion of her cure. Mrs. COATES, of New Romney, in Kent, consulted me, the 20th of February, 1815, for a Cancer, which had made its re-appearance after the operation by the knife had been twice performed. The Cancer apparently had been wholly removed

by incision, and the wound healed by the first intention in the course of a fortnight. About nine months afterwards the tumour returned on the old seam which had united ; but this again was taken out by the knife, and the part healed as quickly as before. At the expiration of the same period, a third tumour made its appearance, and she set out for London once more, to undergo the same operation, when by mere chance she was recommended to me in her way to town. The tumour was small when I first saw it, but its ramifications extended much farther than I could, at that time, trace, and, unfortunately, the cutting out of the former tumours, had only, by dividing those branches, multiplied what was before a single structure, into a number of independent Cancers, each of an inveterate kind, and seated very near the ribs. I soon discovered that the system was deeply affected ; and, therefore, the only hope I had was in a rigid adherence to a medicinal regimen, with repeated applications to deaden and ultimately to destroy the active principle of the complaint. In this I succeeded to the utmost of my wishes, so that, after having repeatedly destroyed the obstinate edges of a fungous nature, this case, which at the beginning had a most inauspicious aspect, gave every indication of a perfect cure ; and when nearly well, my patient unfortunately caught cold, the latter

end of February, by attending her newly married daughter, fever ensued, and the thrush suddenly appeared, which terminated her existence on the tenth of March in the following year. I called in my friend Dr. Haighton, who witnessed this distressing scene; and it is somewhat remarkable, that Mrs. Coates, who was now forty-four years of age, had always dreaded the thrush, from a presentiment that should it ever happen to her, it would inevitably prove fatal, as it had once been to a near relation.

Another untoward case, but of a different description, occurred within a few months, in the person of Mrs. ONSLOW, of Skinner-place, Leadenhall-market, who applied to me on the 24th of June, 1819, with a deeply rooted Cancer on the right breast. Her surgical attendant had all along considered it as nothing more than a common tumour, and one by no means either of a cancerous or dangerous nature, but this representation could by no means allay her fears; and from the rapid enlargement of the part, and the pain which attended it, she at last became greatly alarmed. At first I considered it as a doubtful case, and one that presented little chance of cure, in which opinion I was soon confirmed; for, though a considerable portion came away, it was prevented from healing by the extension

of the complaint under the arm and towards the shoulder. The constitution also was much affected, and as soon as the disease had destroyed some of the larger blood vessels, profuse hæmorrhage ensued, which terminated fatally after excruciating sufferings, on the 13th of October last. She was a fine, tall, well made woman, of about forty-five years of age.

During my attendance on this unfortunate case, which might probably have had a different result had I seen it three months before, Miss BIRD, the sister of the patient, informed me that she had a tumour on her left breast, which alarmed her the more, as it was now of about the same size as that of Mrs. Onslow was when she first consulted me. On examination I was fully satisfied of its being cancerous, and knew that no time was to be lost in extracting it, for fear of a similar fate. This was on the 29th of July, and thus by immediate application, within the space of two months, the diseased part was destroyed, separation took place, and the wound completely healed.

Another instance of recent occurrence is that of Mrs. SKULL, 29, White Lion-street, Pentonville, who was induced to apply to me on the 12th of October, 1819, in consequence of casually seeing the engraved representation of Mrs. Dennis's

case at Mr. Woolnoth's, and being struck with the resemblance of the figure in the plate to a tumour which she had in the same breast ; besides which there was also as exact a correspondence between the parties in age and stature. Mrs. Skull experienced but little pain in the tumour, which, however, had latterly increased rapidly in growth, and shewed a little discoloration as it projected. I had, therefore, no doubt of its being a Cancer, nor that, after lying dormant for a considerable time, it had now taken root, and, like the fungous tribes of plants, would quickly spread to an indefinite extent, unless destroyed by timely application. In consequence of this view of her case, she became my patient, the tumour separated in the usual course, and by this means, together with taking internal medicines, the part was completely healed before the middle of December. The only observable difference in this case from others, was that the tumour on being turned out, left a smooth cavity not unlike that produced by a chesnut when it is parted from the shell. Though this tumour had long been inert, it would no doubt have soon assumed all the virulent activity of Cancer, in its most frightful forms, had it not been attacked before the roots could make their way into the surrounding parts. By seasonable application the mischief was prevented, and thus a single cir-

cumstance of very casual occurrence, gives room to hope that the present publication may prove of essential benefit to many persons who are unconscious of the latent evil that lurks within them, and which, if not subdued ere it gains an ascendancy, can only end with the life of its victim.

Though the female breast is most commonly visited by this malignant disease, that of man is not excluded from its virulent attacks, as the following instance evinces.

Mr. JOHN BROWN, of Yardley, in Hertfordshire, applied to me on the 22nd of September last, with a confirmed Cancer on his left breast, and nearly situated in the centre. He is a strong, hearty man, about forty-five years of age, the father of a family, and by profession a higler. The tumour was excessively sore, and frequently darted forth those excruciatingly lancinating pains which are usually felt in the cancerous mamma. No account could be given of the origin of the complaint, but it was supposed to have existed some years ; though without ever having been in an ulcerated state. Extirpation by the knife was recommended, just before his application to me ; but on being treated in the usual manner, and, by guarding against any latent taint in the

system, he was perfectly cured in the short space of five weeks.

The following case shews that Cancer may be occasioned by absorption, and carried to any part of the body. The inveterate matter, indeed, may so affect a distant gland as to destroy the patient. A circumstance of this kind occurred to a Mr. JONES, a milkman, in Tooley-street. He informed me that he rubbed a bit of skin from off the back of his hand by a brick when milking ; but neglected it, and an unpleasant ulcer was the consequence. His arm became painful up to the axilla, and the gland in that part enlarged, and was tender. The hand soon got well, but the swelling in the arm-pit broke, and assumed those appearances attendant on Cancer. The discharge excoriated the surrounding parts, and in this situation did I visit him. I expressed my apprehension that the large blood-vessels would soon be destroyed, and then death would immediately ensue : this was the case ; for, being sent for one morning, I found him lifeless in his own blood.

In these unfortunate complaints, we find that strong sympathy exists between various parts of the body. Thus, for instance, an affection of the

breast influences the uterus in women, as a diseased gland in the throat of a man affects the testes. And I have now under my care five cases, wherein the matrix has become greatly enlarged, and proportionally diseased in those persons whose breasts have been cancerous. These diseases are invariably aggravated at particular periods, and in such cases great dependance is to be placed on internal medicines.

Another case of a peculiar character, which, however, terminated with success, occurred in the person of Mrs. SMITH, of Norway-place, Hackney-road, who had a hard and painful tumour of a cancerous nature on the left side of the nose. This substance, which was so fretful as to affect the eye and face, was extending fast, and would, I have no doubt, in a short space, after eating away the whole circumjacent parts, have proved fatal. She is of a very lively disposition, and was about twenty-five years of age, when she came under my care on the sixth of March, 1819. Within a month, the cure was complete; the part is now perfectly sound, and her general health improved; though she had been, previous to my seeing her, put under the influence of mercury, which had only increased the susceptibility of her constitution, and rendered the glandular system altogether more prone to the complaint.

By the treatment that was adopted, she has undergone an entire change, the constitution is renovated, and she no longer complains of the nervous affection, and loss of appetite, which before occasioned her much distress.

The following history of cancerous breast should have been inserted in a former part of this collection of cases, had it not been mislaid : but the reader will see, I trust, that it is of too important and satisfactory a description to be omitted.

Mrs. JOHNSON, wife of Zechariah Johnson, Esq. of Flint House, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, came to town to consult me on the 6th of July, 1812, being recommended by a lady of Boston. She had a large tumour, surrounded by a cluster of small ones, seated midway between the breast and the axilla. It had an inveterate appearance, and the pain indicated its malignancy, spreading over the shoulder, and under the arm, to the scapula, so that I have not the least doubt that, had it not been attended to when it was, the collection of smaller tumours would have encreased considerably in numbers. Her health was of course much impaired, and her appetite and spirits were nearly gone. She was of a delicate habit, and about fifty years of age. An application

was made to the large tumour, which expelled itself in the usual way, after which, at the latter end of October, she returned home, with her health greatly improved ; and the Cancer quite secured. Conceiving, however, that she returned into the country rather too soon, she came to London again in the following year, and continued under my direction, on a course of strengthening medicines, for about four months, which completely restored her debilitated constitution, and when I saw her last October, after a lapse of six years, I had the pleasure to find her looking better than I had ever before seen her.

The case which I have now to relate, appears to be one of Cancer of the mucous membrane of the rectum, which had long baffled medical treatment, and might have proved fatal had it not been for the mental energy of the lady who was the subject of it. At the desire of her daughter (Lady ——,) she applied to me in September, 1816, when she imparted, in writing, the particulars of the complaint under which she laboured. This statement had been drawn up for the consideration of Mr. Cline, which circumstance it is necessary to mention, as explanatory of the narrative. I should here observe, that this lady, who is now between sixty and seventy years of age, is of a very active disposition, though of spare

habit, and a delicate bodily frame. She commences her relation by reminding Mr. Cline, that, “in the year 1807, she consulted him and Dr. Baillie, when she had a relaxation of the solids which affected her limbs; and that she then stated all the particulars relating to her general health. Being now, however, desirous of his advice, respecting a small pile just discovered unfortunately high up in the rectum, she thought it proper to refer to what occurred some years back, lest Mr. Cline should not have any notes to guide him as to her general constitution, and more especially as the tepid bath then recommended by him did not succeed; and though tried with the utmost care, it only increased the nervous irritation.

“She has from her youth been generally subject to pain in some part or other; and usually of the spasmodic kind at the beginning, and then becoming permanent; but she once, by the use of hemlock, was free from it for three years. This happened when she was about twenty-two.

“About the year 1790, she began to have the bleeding piles, brought on, probably, by a constant diarrhoea; but in 1796, during a very severe fit of sickness, the bowel came down, and strangulated for want of assistance. This accident

discovered two piles, or rather hard excrescences, of a long, narrow shape, which Mr. Cruickshank removed with the scissars. Having previously taken down the bowel, and replaced it, to ascertain whether there was any impediment to its being returned; he was of opinion that it would keep up, but in the event that it should not, he directed the application of a truss; his assistant, however, thought that nature would keep it in its situation. Dr. Day was unfortunately absent during this operation, but having himself performed two very painful ones in removing the strangulation, and replacing the bowel in its tender state, he had made remarks on its internal appearance, which he said seemed covered with a kind of what he termed blind piles, that would never come to any thing. He, however, recommended the use of vitriolic lotion as a preventative, which proved serviceable also in provoking evacuation, for the bowel remained as it were paralised; and it is even now very defective in that respect. The daily use of the vitriolic application, produced pain for some considerable time; and she has now discontinued it, lest by checking piles below, the small one higher up should be encumbered with a superflux of blood. She hopes that it will not be thought wrong to leave this pile, for, should its removal be deemed necessary, she conceives

herself too nervous even to suffer a ligature ; as the smallest pressure on any nerve occasions fainting, and she was once kept in agony by a mere trifling pressure on the top of the thumb, which, if medical aid had not been near, might have produced a locked jaw.

“ She has not thought it necessary to mention other complaints, apparently independent of the constitution, such as a restriction in the neck of the bladder ;—pain in lifting any thing ;—the necessity of daily rubbing with camphorated spirits ; and at times a troublesome cough.

“ This statement was chiefly formed from the recollection of particulars put down in writing, for the judgment of Mr. Cline, but before the narrative was finished, Dr. Pemberton being called in to visit the lady in a dangerous illness, the narrative was submitted to him, thinking that it might afford him some idea of her constitution, and in consequence she escaped blisters and bleeding, which had previously been prescribed. Her disorder then was in the colon, and she took balsam copaiva for some time, which operated most powerfully ; but she could take no tonic medicines. This was in the summer of 1814 ; and Dr. Pemberton having recommended the balsam as a kind of

alterative, she tried it both in pills and draughts, but could not bear it till the winter of 1816, when being more than usually costive, she found it did not irritate ; and, therefore, of her own accord took one pill at each meal. Since omitting the lotion, the bowel has more and more protruded, but on a principal attack this summer (1816,) she has been careful, and kept it from advancing as much as possible ; yet, perhaps, when the vessels become fuller, she may not be able to prevent it, in which case she proposes to take immediately something aperient. She is aware that she cannot expect more benefit, than what may be obtained by way of preventing any violent attack in this bowel from piles, inflammation, &c. but she is very anxious to guard against any tendency to fistula, of which the extreme soreness within the bowel made her apprehensive ; for even lax evacuations were frequently more painful than those of a costive nature.—It has pleased God not only to spare her eyes to read and write, but to give her that cheerfulness of mind and activity of thought which, by keeping her constantly employed, prevents time from hanging heavy, and producing a weariness of spirits. Being under the necessity of living chiefly alone, she has no objection to any restrictions, or to do any thing that to others might be deemed inconvenient ; for it is only by management that

she can counteract her complaints so well as she has hitherto done. Besides those already stated, she has now the additional one of bile, which has attacked her rather severely during the two last summers ; she takes care, however, whenever any cold fit, to which she is subject, comes on, immediately to lay down and dose for a few minutes, which makes her glow all over. She is often obliged to sleep directly after dinner, and then she walks a little.

“ Mrs. --- has stated her case with prolixity, that Mr. Aldis may consider it at his leisure, previous to her removing to town, where she hopes to be able to procure apartments near her daughter, Lady ---, therefore she will not hurry Mr. A. but will give him any additional information in her power, by answering such questions as he may judge proper to put for his satisfaction. She concludes by remarking again, that the first part of this statement is nearly as she can recollect what she had drawn up for Mr. Cline, two years since, but which Dr. Pemberton put into his pocket, and lost.”

It was evident from this account, that there was a complete loss of tone throughout the intestinal canal ; and that the nausea and sickness, among her other complaints, arose from bile. She was also

troubled with vertigo, lassitude, and repeated chills, together with severe griping pains, amounting sometimes to spasms in the bowels, more especially towards the rectum;—the evacuations were in small hard globules, or balls of a green colour, and passed with difficulty, attended with mucus, and not unfrequently accompanied with blood. An inactivity and contraction of skin with a yellow tint, plainly indicated that debility which, in fact, had pervaded the entire system. The pulse was small and quick; the hand dry, and from the very little nourishment which she took, I had too much reason to suppose that her state was precarious, and I intimated as much to the family. Small doses of mercury had been prescribed, but nourishing food, or tonic medicines, she had not for several years been able to bear. Under these circumstances, my first care was to bring about such a change in the constitution as should enable her to take more nourishment, and to put her on a tonic plan, which object I was soon able to accomplish, in producing inflammation on the thigh by stimulants, as the friction of a brush, &c. which artificial action was kept up for the space of three months. At the same time anodynes in the form of pills were passed up the rectum, and the part itself, supported internally by means of small pieces of tallow candle, which

dissolving with the pills, both afforded ease, and facilitated the expulsion of the fæces. While this method was pursued, I still persevered in exhibiting tonic medicines, combined with aromatics, &c. encouraged so to do by their having given relief from pain, and in lessening the fever occasioned by it.

My patient continues still to follow this strengthening plan, and her distressing complaints have been so far removed, or alleviated by the constant use of the pills, with the support given to the part, as to leave no ground for apprehension in regard to her general health, which for any thing that appears may be preserved many years.

I have reason to suppose that a portion of the lower part of the intestines was indurated to a considerable extent, and studded by scirrhus and cancerous excrescences. The affinity of scirrhus with cancer is generally allowed; where, therefore, such obstructions as those just mentioned occur, fatal consequences are to be apprehended. I have often witnessed the dreadful effects of cancerated rectum, which communicating to the uterus, and the neck of the bladder, in a circle of four inches, have formed an entire substance with cellular cavities, so large and running into each other as

to occasion the most excruciating tortures, till death closed the agonizing sufferings of the patient. Such was the case of Mrs. Archer, No. 6, Hercules'-buildings, Westminster-road, to whom I was called in March, 1815, but too late to afford her any relief, and she died in April following. From the account which she gave of the progress of her complaint during the year preceding, it appeared to be much like that of the lady just described; and, therefore, I have reason to suppose that had I seen her at an early stage of the disorder, she would have recovered. In this case also, unfortunately, mercury had been used, so as to affect the constitution.

In females, there is no part more likely to be cancerously affected, the breast excepted, than the uterus, which is influenced in a great degree by the appearance and quantity of the catamenia; when a sense of heat, and bearing down with lancinating pains through the loins, is experienced; but so deceptive is the complaint, that in its early state it is not unfrequently mistaken for prolapsus uteri, or a falling down of the womb.

Since writing the above, I have received a letter from the lady whose case has been so amply detailed, and who, I am happy to say, informs me that she continues to enjoy a life of

comparative ease and comfort. She farther says ;
 “ My curiosity has been excited, respecting a fact
 which seems to coincide with my feelings. I
 always experience a pleasurable sensation from
 night air, very late after sun-set ; and on men-
 tioning this to a stranger, as an instance of my
 being fanciful, she told me---“ that, under cer-
 tain circumstances, the night air had been found
 very beneficial, on the principle of its great con-
 trast to that of the day, and producing a change
 equal to a local one of many miles in distance ;
 adding, that the duchess of York had profited
 much by using it.”---I shall beg you, therefore,
 to tell me what you think of it.”

In reply, I could only observe that certainly the
 night air is as conducive to health at proper seasons
 as that of the morning ; and that with respect to
 the illustrious personage, who was said to derive
 benefit from it, I had no doubt of the fact,
 having myself seen her walking lately in an
 evening on Waterloo Bridge, while her carriage
 stood in waiting at the foot of it.

This may furnish a useful hint to those persons
 who ramble, in search of health, to watering
 places ; though they might profit full as much by
 the use of the simple element when drawn from
 the pump, attended with regular and moderate

exercise at home. I, therefore, recommend to persons of weak habit, and of bad digestion, from excess of bile occasioning irritation in the bowels, to dilute the offensive matter in the stomach every morning with pure water, from half a pint to a pint, at about the temperature of 100 to 110 degrees of Farenheit's thermometer ; taking at the same time a few turns round their squares, or through the streets, before breakfast. A regular adherence to this practice would, if I am not greatly mistaken, afford to such persons the same benefit that they expect to receive from a visit to distant places of fashionable resort. It is not my wish to discourage those persons from seeking a change of scene whose constitutions have been injured by a residence in warm climates, or those who by intense application to business stand in need of some relaxation ; but I do protest most strongly against the practice of sending invalids to watering-places, with the fallacious hope that, after the failure of all other means, health may be there obtained.

Without denying the virtue of the springs which are so much in vogue, I shall contend that pure water in a tepid state, is of equal service as a diluent ; and that they are even more efficacious in restoring the lost action of the stomach and intestines, the

general cause of sickness, nausea, and vertigo, than the mineral and saline substances contained in those boasted waters. I have repeatedly found that water drank nearly as hot as it could well be taken, has induced sleep when every other means has failed ; and that while it acts as a stimulant, it is free from the ill effects of opium or spirits. Where the stomach is overcharged with bile, emetics are highly improper, as they draw from the intestines what is necessary to excite them into action ; the consequence of which is, that they increase the complaint instead of removing it, when diluents and small doses of Cheltenham salts would carry it into the proper channel. Besides this, as the secretion of bile is increased by the very action of vomiting, it is brought into the stomach, which was already overcharged with it.

To recur again to the proper subject of this essay. I have already observed that the virtue of a prescription depends much upon the manner in which it is administered ; and that particularly in diseases of the glandular system. The publication, therefore, of any formula as a direction in the treatment of cancerous complaints, would, I conceive, be productive of no essential benefit, and might be the means of encouraging injudicious practices.

The facts already related, prove the efficiency of the mode of destroying Cancer by extraction, but they at the same time shew the necessity of that personal attention, in all such cases, which to secure success must be guided by experience.

Too many, however, entertain the notion that in particular disorders, nothing more is wanting than a specification of the symptoms and appearances, to enable a practitioner both to decide upon a case promptly, and to give directions accordingly, whether he sees the patient or not.

The following letter, which I received last summer, from the Countess of ---, is an instance of this.

“SIR,—I have been commissioned by a lady in Ireland, who is too weak to be removed to England, to enquire of you, if it would be possible for you to hold communication with her by letter, respecting her case, which is said “to be cancerous; and if you would prescribe, “and enable her to make use of your application, of the happy effects of which she has “heard so much?”---I must beg you to excuse my giving you the trouble of answering this letter, but I have, at this moment, no other means of making the enquiry.”

In reply, I observed that I could not be answerable for the success of any application of which I had not the superintendence in the very first instance ; but that afterwards it might be possible to communicate proper directions, through the medium of a surgeon on the spot, for the continuance of the process, and the accomplishment of a cure. Having made this declaration, I added, that if her ladyship's friend would furnish me with a statement of her complaint, I would give it the most serious consideration, and return my unreserved opinion upon it,

In consequence, I received a minute detail of all the circumstances of this melancholy case, accompanied with a drawing of the diseased breast.

“ It stated that, in July, 1818, a small lump having made its appearance, leeches were applied, sometimes to the number of ten, without effect, and that solvent plasters were also used to as little purpose ;--that the patient had been long subject to periodical head-aches of the spasmodic kind, and so severe as to oblige her to lie in bed ;--that, besides topical bleeding, mercurial pills were employed, which increased the paroxysms in the head, while the tumour grew daily larger, and became more painful. The

lady was between forty and fifty ; of a slender make ; naturally cheerful, and, before this sad affliction, perfectly free from complaint. The tumour, which was indurated, and exceedingly rapid in its growth, now extended over the entire breast, and even beneath, so as to affect the whole side."

From this description, it was evident that little chance remained of a cure ; and, therefore, when again entreated to prescribe by letter, my answer was, that it would be hazardous to do so ; and that the only idea I had of being useful in the case, lay in recommending those medicines which I generally gave where the constitution, as in this instance, was universally weakened, and where the seat of the Cancer rendered external application impracticable, as in the womb, throat, &c. Nothing, indeed, could be expected from outward remedies, in a case where the disease had already covered such an extent of surface, and taken so deep a root. But, though my communication was far from encouraging, I ventured to mention an instance of a lady, at the west end of the town, who had just recovered from a Cancer in the uterus, solely by the use of internal medicines.

Here, however, the correspondence closed, and

as I have not since heard any thing of the case or the patient, it is reasonable to suppose that the worst has happened ; and therefore this furnishes an additional instance to the number, already too large, that the means frequently used for the removal of disease, only serves to render it more inveterate, by inducing a train of evils which, by debilitating, undermine the constitution. It also confirms what has been before remarked, that mercury increases the growth of Cancer, and occasions those violent nervous affections, which sooner or later bring on convulsions, and terminate in death.

But, unhappily, the baneful effects of this popular medicine are not confined to cancerous complaints ; for so variously and indiscriminately is it now employed, in the disorders of children, as well as of adults, that it may admit of a question whether more maladies are not created than cured by it. Were it justifiable, indeed, to treat a grave subject with levity, we might say that the official character of Mercury, as represented in the Grecian Mythology, was something more than a fable, and that the complaint which Lucian ascribes to this personage of “ being split as it were into pieces, while employed in the affairs of the dead ;” may be consi-

dered in the light of an ingenious figure, covering a serious truth.

As there is scarcely a disorder wherein mercury is not administered, in some guise or other, so it may safely be affirmed, that there is hardly a constitution which has been at all subjected to its influence, that does not suffer in the end from the noxious properties of this poisonous mineral.

Formerly the medicinal use of mercury was confined either to friction, in the form of ointment, or to fumigation, which last mode of application, however, soon fell into general disrepute among practitioners, on account of its uncertainty as a remedy, while in many instances it produced palsies, vertigo, and other dreadful effects.

Mercury used in scrofulous glands generally increases them, by exciting into action the irritability of the constitution. It also quickens the pulse, occasions purgings even to evacuations of blood; and has even been known to produce mortification, by an inflammation in the mouth. Its most general effects are a prostration of strength, attended with cold rigours, profuse perspiration, a trembling of the limbs, loss of appetite, paleness of the countenance, violent head-

ache, cramp in the stomach, and vomiting ; the dismal climax ending in eruptions of the leprous kind, which sometimes spread over the whole body. Yet, notwithstanding all this, mercury continues to be the principal article in almost every prescription, as if it were a universal remedy for all the maladies that “flesh is heir to.”

Thus, if a person feels a pain in the side, the liver is presumed to be affected, and mercury administered to correct bile, and restore the suspended activity of that viscus.—Does the patient complain of pain in the stomach, and loss of appetite?—Mercury is given, on the presumption that the chylopoetic viscera are choaked up, and that this is the only effectual means of clearing them by correcting the bile in its course. But if the habits of adults suffer by the too free use of mercury, how much more must the tender frames of children be weakened by its influence? Yet, upon these fragile and delicate objects, is this powerful drug employed on almost every occasion, and that oftentimes with an unpardonable want of attention, to the true nature of the complaint for which it is administered. Thus, when from mere constitutional weakness, there is an apparent heaviness of the head, and a dilatation of the pupil of the eye, a conclusion is immediately drawn that water exists in the brain ; for

the removal of which, mercury being called into action, the debility increases, the oracle is apparently confirmed, and the mistake is not discovered till "dying groans complete the dire account."

I am firmly of opinion that, out of ten cases called hydrocephalus, there are not two which have any connexion with the brain at all, except it be with that of the practitioner, whose fertile imagination is ever ready to convert slight indispositions into symptoms of terrible disorders.

It would be easy to expand this sketch into a volume, by developing the numerous evils which result from the general adoption of mercury in medical practice : but, for the present, I shall only advert to the case of the late Dr. CURRY. Though possessed of a highly cultivated understanding, it is to be feared that his invincible bias to mercury occasioned some serious errors in his practice ; at least, such an inference seems fairly justified by the strange mistake into which he fell with regard to himself. He had long entertained an opinion, as all his medical friends know, that he should die of a diseased liver, combined with an affection of the lungs, the symptoms of which he considered as decided

beyond all doubt; and, therefore, had recourse to his favourite medicine, which he took with the same constancy that he administered it to others. The debility hereby produced, did not alter his sentiments of the cause, or induce him to relax in the use of what, in reality, was sapping his constitution; for, when death closed the scene of fancied ills, the liver was found in a state perfectly sound, as well as the lungs; and no other appearance of disease could be traced than a slight mesenteric obstruction of the glands.

It is my intention, as my professional avocations will permit, to arrange for publication observations which I have now by me, shewing more at large the ill effects of mercury on the system in most complaints. Dr. CURRY says, in a Tract which he presented me with in 1809, intended to allay the prejudices against him on the use of mercury,—“I am now, indeed, arrived at a time of life, and placed in a situation of responsibility both as a practitioner and a teacher, that renders every professional error in me, of greater consequence than it might be in many others.”

This is, indeed, true; for he had then already held the same situation about eight years prior to 1809, which he continued to do at the time of

his death, and consequently must have inculcated his opinions on hundreds of his pupils, during a term of nearly twenty years. This pamphlet, he informs us, was sent out as a caveat against the public opinion, till his large work should appear; yet it never did appear, nor did he in any way relax in his love of his favourite medicine; and with regard to himself, he states, "much of what I have to describe, I first experienced in my own person, and what was wanting to complete the outline, has been abundantly supplied by long observation on others;"—meaning, of course, that at that early period, he conceived his own liver was diseased. It is now about eight years since he informed me, that he should one day die of that complaint, and, therefore, the long time he took calomel, without fatal effects, could be only attributed to the care and attention he paid to himself.

Thus was a valuable life shortened by the means adopted to protract it, and when nothing, in fact, existed to create the least apprehension for its safety.

In mentioning this circumstance, I am anxious to prevent the imputation of any motive of disrespect to the memory of Dr. Curry, for whom I always cherished a particular esteem, on account

of his social qualities, and literary acquirements. He is now beyond being affected by praise or censure ; but I am persuaded, from long acquaintance with him, that, if departed spirits are conscious of what passes in the world they have left, he will feel gratified, rather than displeased, at an exposition wholly intended to correct an evil, the magnitude of which could not be more forcibly depicted than in this very instance.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

No apology, I trust, will be thought necessary by the profession, for the republication of the two following remarkable cases, which occurred in the author's practice, though they have neither any connexion with each other, nor with the immediate subject of the preceding tract. The first was inserted in the *London Medical Journal* for September, 1803; and the latter in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* for October, 1809.

“ A CASE OF FISSURE OF THE BRAIN, attended with apparent Extravasation, successfully treated without the Use of the Trephine, &c.”

As the brain is the seat of sensation, and consequently less able to resist an injury done to it, it is therefore more liable to be affected, and it is attended with more danger from external violence than any other part of the body, the lungs perhaps excepted. Much study has been employed to ascertain the best means of affording relief in injuries of the head; yet many discoveries remain to be made ere we shall attain complete knowledge in this branch of the profession. The only means commonly employed, till of late, for injuries of the head, attended with fracture, fissure, or a depression of a portion of the bone, was the trephine, in order to raise the depressed part to its natural level, or to remove matter collected beneath the cranium and *dura mater*. Practitioners, till very recently at least, were unacquainted with the good effects that would accrue from omitting the operation of perforating the

cranium, though that operation was well known to be attended with considerable danger in any part of the head, but particularly so in the course of the sinuses. Notwithstanding this, the trephine till of late years was considered as indispensable in cases of fracture, and hardly any patients were known to recover without its assistance. At length the too frequent use of this instrument began to be called in question, by Mr. John Bell, and Mr. Abernethy, especially by the latter, whose "Essay on the Injuries of the Head," opened new views on the subject, which led to a different mode of practice. In that valuable work, Mr. Abernethy pointed out several dreadful cases which were successfully treated by bleeding, and pursuing the anti-phlogistic regimen, without having recourse to an operation.

I wish it not to be inferred from hence, that the trephine is to be entirely laid aside, or that there are no occurrences in which the use of it would be necessary. All that I would observe is, that as a great number of fractures of the cranium, attended with depression or extravasation, would do well without the application of the trephine, it ought not to be adopted except in cases of the most urgent description. To country practitioners who are particularly attached to this instrument, the following narrative is recommended, as a proof of what may be done without its assistance, even in very serious cases.

On the tenth of June, 1803, I was requested to visit Thomas Cann, a servant of Mr. Gill, of New Surry-street, who had just received a kick from a horse. On my arrival, I found him lying on a bed, to all appearance, lifeless; but on taking hold of his hand, I could just feel his pulse, which beat small and irregularly.—At this instant he started, and continued to breathe with great difficulty and stertor;—the pupils were dilated, and sickness ensued. In examining his head, a wound was discovered partly on the frontal, parietal, and tem-

poral bones, which could be distinctly seen by the division of the integuments to the extent of four inches and a half, with the cranium denuded an inch every way. The fissure appeared about an inch and a half in length. After cleansing the wound with a sponge and warm water, I brought the edges in contact, by making three sutures ; and then by means of slips of sticking plaster, endeavoured to promote adhesion, and at the same time to prevent the access of air. This done, and the part secured by a bandage, I asked him how he felt himself ; but received no answer, on which I repeated the question in a louder tone, and finding that he was equally insensible I left him, with an injunction that nothing should be given him but barley water or a little tea. In about two hours I repeated my visit, and found what I had anticipated, that a re-action of the pulse had taken place, and that it was much stronger than when I first saw him. The sickness had abated considerably, respiration was less stertorous, and he answered, though reluctantly, any question put to him. Having bled him copiously, I sent him a saline mixture, and the next morning ordered him a cathartic.

11th, I found my patient quite relieved from those symptoms which before had distressed him ; that what remained was only a smarting of the wound, and some pain on the occiput.

12th, As the pain of the head continued, and his pulse permitted it, I repeated the bleeding and cathartic, and continued the mixture and spare diet as at first.

13th, This morning he was not so well as yesterday ; he had some degree of fever, and complained more of his head. I did not, therefore, bleed him again, but ordered him three grains of the pulv. antimon. to be taken every three or four hours with the saline mixture. I now thought it proper to remove the dressings and examine the wound, which was

doing extremely well. On removing the plasters, a small discharge of healthy pus issued from the wound, the surrounding scalp appeared free from inflammation, and had perfectly united to the cranium. The adhesive dressings were repeated.

14th, The powders had brought on a gentle perspiration, and greatly relieved the febrile symptoms of yesterday.

15th, The fever having subsided, a little change in the diet was permitted, and the next day, in compliance with my patient's wishes, he was allowed to sit up; the antimonial powders were now omitted, but the cathartic was repeated, and the dressings renewed.

17th, Every circumstance bade fair for a speedy recovery; all pain had left him, he slept well, and was free from fever. In short, nothing now remained but a desire of the patient to resume his occupation, with which I did not think it prudent to comply; I directed him, however, to call at my house every other morning, to have his head dressed; which he continued regularly to do till the second of July, when it was perfectly healed.

In this case the lancet was employed only thrice, circumstances not requiring a further repetition; but in such occurrences, where there is any apprehension of great inflammation, I would recommend venesection to be used more frequently at the commencement, as likely to check the inflammatory symptoms; as when deferred to a later period, the patient will be in too low a state to admit of such active means, and his recovery must be thereby rendered very precarious. While the absorption of the extravasated matter is going on, pain or stupor will possibly continue more or less; but not so as to excite alarm, unless in particular circumstances. Some space of time generally lapses before the brain can accommodate itself to

its new situation, in cases of depressed portions of bone, during which the same symptoms may be expected to occur.

Should it be objected, that this was not a case of extravasation, but merely of simple concussion of the brain; I can only reply, that as it was attended with stertor, dilatation of the pupils, and all the signs usual to extravasation, I have reason to conclude that such was the fact.

It is now known, that the brain will retain its functions when considerably compressed, without material injury; though in what degree it is not easy to say, as this organ appears to be more affected in some constitutions than in others, according to its susceptibility, which varies in different persons. Several cases are related, of the brain having accommodated itself to portions of bone when considerably beaten in; and there have been others of depressed portions of bone in young subjects, in which the natural state of level has been restored, and what extravasated blood there was, soon became absorbed, after it was rendered fit to be taken up, by undergoing a chemico-animal process.

A Case of preternatural Enlargement of the HEART, with diseased PERICARDIUM.

A son of Mr. Palmer, residing in my neighbourhood, about eighteen years of age, laboured under severe palpitations of the heart, which had been, during four years, accompanied for the most part by a small, irregular, and cordy pulse. Besides a teasing cough, and a constant pain at the heart, there was an unpleasant fulness under the left breast, with difficulty of breathing on the most trifling exertion. He was tall, very

thin, pale, with an interesting countenance, and of the most delicate habit. He had been discharged in 1805 from an hospital as incurable, the disorder being pronounced confirmed phthisis pulmonalis; for which digitalis, nitre, and evacuates, were given without effect. Blisters had also been applied to the side where the pain was felt, but without affording any relief; and nothing but small and repeated bleedings gave the least ease in this distressing case.

From January 1807 to the 1st of June 1809, the day of his decease, I constantly took from the arm on an average from two to four ounces of blood, every two or three weeks. At the approach of the usual time for venesection, the palpitation of the heart increased so rapidly, that, together with the difficulty of respiration, which came on in the same proportion, he could neither sleep, nor, indeed, be scarcely said to breathe. Such, indeed, was the violence of the beatings, that, even when dressed, the action could be perceived at a considerable distance from the side; when the only ease to be procured, arose from the instant use of the lancet.

On dissection, the viscera in general appeared free from disease, except the heart, which was enlarged to thrice the size of that organ in persons of the same stature and a healthy state. The pericardium was remarkably thin, and adhered so closely to the heart, as to be nearly obliterated altogether; the portion left was in a highly morbid state, so that of course there was no appearance of the *liquor pericardii*. The fibres of the heart were exceedingly firm, and its auricles and ventricles perfect; but the valves were much ossified, and there was an unusual hardness of feel in a portion of the aorta, at its commencement, as if ossification had also begun there.

What led me to so minute a consideration of this case, was the uncommon distension of the heart, and that almost without

the existence of any disease, in which such an enlargement for the most part occurs. In hydropic cases enlarged hearts are found, as also in persons who have been given to immoderate drinking; but the present subject had been very temperate in his mode of living, and no marks of dropsy, either before death, or on inspection of the body, could be traced. In this case, then, it may be asked with propriety, whether the enlargement of the heart was not a consequence of the ossification of the valves? As the circulation of the blood is certainly much impeded in such circumstances, the presumption is that it tends directly to an increase of substance. An irregular and slow motion of the blood in the cavities of the heart, necessarily produces an alteration in the circulation of that fluid in the vessels contained within the substance of the heart, which from thence become dilated, and thus a partial loss of tone of that viscus is the consequence. The heart being then rendered more torpid than usual, becomes inflamed, and the result is a languid and chronic inflammation, with adhesions of the pericardium; and sympathetic fever supervenes from disturbed circulation. In such cases of disease, originating immediately at the heart, from a defect of circulation, the medicines to afford assistance should be of the stimulating kind, and which enter, for the most part, the blood unchanged, so as to give it an increased action. Neutral or metallic salts, as well as nitre and its acid, will have this effect; besides which there are many other drugs that act in the same way, whose colouring property enters the circulating fluid entire. There are likewise various modes of exciting the heart and arteries to action, such as transfusion, the respiration of oxygen gas, &c. which by entering the moist membranes of the lungs, and uniting with the blood, tend greatly to stimulate the organ of life, as Dr. Priestley has satisfactorily shewn by experiments.

In the treatment of cases of the above nature, little good

can be expected from pursuing the antiphlogistic regimen, especially when the disease is far advanced, and the active inflammation has subsided, supposing an impeded circulation to be the primary cause ; and, therefore, whatever increases the propelling power tends to check the progress of the complaint.

From this instance we learn, that a person may exist a long time, perhaps for years, without the pericardium, at least without its assistance, or that of its lubricating fluid.—That the heart requires a greater degree of stimulus in consequence of such deprivation must, therefore, be obvious. The use of the lancet here acted as a stimulus, and the taking away a small quantity of blood, and that repeated at short intervals, tended to increase the action by diminishing its quantity. The heart became more and more disturbed by the neglect of venesection, and its circulation was neither so strong nor so equal as when it was performed. In fact, the bleeding always gave temporary relief, and to that alone the protraction of existence was owing, after the patient had been consigned to an earlier grave by the judgement of the first members of the profession.

THE END.

ERRATA.

At page 55, *for* 18, *read* 29.

— 56, — 11 years, *read* 23; and *for* 20 *read* 30.

— 60, — Mr. *read* Sir.

— 63, — 6, *read* 17.

— 79, first line, *for* incision *read* excision.



