

**Facts and observations on liver complaints, and bilious disorders in general : and on such derangements of these organs as influence the biliary secretion ; with practical deductions, drawn from a close and constant attention to this subject in various climates / by John Faithhorn.**

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ON  
*LIVER COMPLAINTS*  
AND  
BILIOUS DISORDERS  
IN GENERAL.

THE COMPANIES

IN DISORDER



FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
**LIVER COMPLAINTS,**  
AND  
*BILIOUS DISORDERS*

IN GENERAL;

And on such Derangements of these Organs as influence the  
**BILIARY SECRETION.**

With Practical Deductions, drawn from a close and constant  
Attention to this Subject, in various Climates;

CONNECTED BY AN APPROPRIATE AND SUCCESSFUL MODE  
OF TREATMENT.

The whole illustrated and confirmed by an extensive Selection of Cases, demonstrating the many serious and fatal consequences which too often arise from a mistaken view of the primary seat of Disease.

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By JOHN FAITHHORN,

FORMERLY SURGEON IN THE HONORABLE EAST INDIA  
COMPANY'S SERVICE.

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LONDON :

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME,  
AND BROWN, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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1814.



FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
LIVER COMPLAINTS,  
AND  
BILIOUS DISORDERS  
IN GENERAL.

AND ON THE INFLUENCE OF THESE DISORDERS ON THE

BILIARY SECRETION.

WITH ORIGINAL OBSERVATIONS, DRAWN FROM A CAREFUL AND  
EXTENSIVE RESEARCH INTO THE SUBJECT, IN VARIOUS CLIMATES.

BY  
J. H. HARRISON, ESQ., F.R.S.,  
OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THE LIVER COMPLAINT, &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.  
LONDON:  
PRINTED BY W. GLADDING, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, 1825.

BY JOHN HARRISON, ESQ., F.R.S.

OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THE LIVER COMPLAINT, &c.

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TO THE HONORABLE  
THE COURT OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
**EAST INDIA COMPANY.**

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GENTLEMEN,

*THE uniform attention displayed by you, to whatever can contribute to the health and comfort of those in your Service, and your laudable zeal in introducing every improvement which can be suggested for this purpose, are the motives which induce me to address you with the present Work : whatever merit it possesses, was acquired in your Service, to which no one is appointed, without giving sufficient proofs of those Professional Qualifications, which entitle him to public confidence ; your high and important rank in the scale of the British Empire, as well as a sense of my gratitude, point you out as the most proper Patrons of a Work, which is intended so particularly to benefit the Health of the Inhabitants of this Country.*

*I have the honor to be,  
With the greatest consideration,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient,  
And very humble Servant,*

**JOHN FAITHHORN.**

*Berners' Street,  
Aug. 27, 1814.*

IN THE  
COURT OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
EAST INDIA COMPANY.

THE undersigned being by law a member  
of the Court of Directors of the East India Company,  
do hereby certify that the following is a true and  
correct copy of the Report of the Committee of the  
Court of Directors, relative to the Affairs of the  
Company, as presented to the Court on the 14th  
of May 1814, and that the same has been  
read and approved by the Court.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir, your obedient servant,  
JOHN RATTIHOFF.

JOHN RATTIHOFF,  
Secretary.



## PREFACE.



The following Work is presented to the Profession, and to the Public, not for the purpose of advancing what is already known on the nature of Liver Complaints, and Bilious Disorders, or to detract from the merit of the authors who have already preceded on this subject, but to point out to their attention such minutiae, in regard to the symptoms and treatment of these maladies, which either have been overlooked, or met with but an incomplete or careless investigation.

As all the best informed writers agree, that affections of the liver are often apt to be mistaken, from their

similarity to stomach complaints, and even some affections of the abdominal viscera ; it is obvious, that too much nicety cannot be observed in pointing out the distinctions, which more particularly mark them ; and if this is necessary with the profession themselves, it is still more so with the public at large.

It is well known, that popular works of medicine have been, of late years, very much the study of the people in general, equally with the profession ; and the care of every man's health is an object, with him, of the first attention : A writer, therefore, should have always this object in view ; in tracing his subject, he should do it in such a manner, that the truth it conveys, may reach the conviction of the patient, as



well as of the professional reader : If his work is written in this manner, he confers a benefit on society ; and he prevents many falling victims to error in the treatment, or placing themselves in improper hands. Every man becomes thus a critic on his own complaint, and it is of the highest consequence, that he should be able to form a correct, rather than an erroneous judgment ; besides, patients are often placed at a distance from professional aid ; by works of this kind, they are better enabled to give a proper description of their ailments, and thus to furnish a practitioner with more accurate information, in order to obtain that relief which they could not otherwise acquire, without the previous knowledge which such



writings impart : It is not meant, however, to go so far, as to say that every man, by such means, may become his own physician ; this is an unfortunate error, and has often been carried too far : the best that popular medicine can do, is to put patients on their guard, and in doing this, it is certainly of great utility to mankind.

The following work then is directed to shew the frequency of liver complaints and bilious disorders in this country, to point out the danger of their being mistaken for others of a different nature, and by rousing the feelings of patients for their situation, to stimulate them to call for professional assistance, at all times necessary, and particularly so in diseases of a dangerous and insidious

tendency : By their acquaintance with the symptoms, as here pointed out, they will not be deficient in painting them in their true colors, and laying the proper stress, whether they consult personally, or by letter, on those leading facts which regulate professional opinion.

This work commences with observations on such derangements of the hepatic organs as influence the biliary secretion, introduced by a general view of the structure and functions of the liver, pointing out its vast importance in the animal economy, and the various uses of its secretion to the health, and correct operations of the constitution.

With particular remarks on the gas-



tric fluid, on some affections of the intestines, and those parts sympathising with the hepatic system; likewise some new observations on the various appearances of the biliary secretion, &c.

This treatise is illustrated and confirmed by a numerous selection of cases, shewing the deceptive appearance of liver complaints, and the great danger of their being mistaken for other affections of the neighbouring organs, particularly of the lungs, as demonstrated in the course of the work; where it will be seen that several disorders, primarily originating in the liver, have been unfortunately and erroneously considered, as having a different seat, viz.: coughs, asthma, and even pulmonary consumption itself.



In treating the subject of liver complaints, there is first given an accurate account of their leading symptoms, both in the acute and chronic state, and particularly of those varieties which mark the latter ; so that no mistake can occur in distinguishing them. A view is next taken of the biliary secretion, and its importance, and various uses pointed out in the animal economy. Some erroneous opinions on the gastric fluid are then noticed, shewing that bile, in the natural state of the stomach, never passes into this organ, except in the act of violent vomiting, or when the biliary ducts are obstructed. The structure and functions of the intestines are also particularly examined, with a view to shew the action of the

bile on them, and the consequences which attend a morbid condition, or deficiency of this fluid.

With such preliminary information, essential to a full acquaintance with their history and nature, the treatment of liver complaints commences; and the necessity for a proper and careful examination of the secretions is strongly and minutely pointed out, and enforced in conducting it. The principles of cure are, at the same time, accurately laid down, and a perseverance strongly recommended,

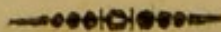
A small chapter will be found on dropsy, as the sequel of liver complaints, where neglected or improperly treated.



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**PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS**  
**ON THE**  
**NATURE & TREATMENT**  
**OF**  
**LIVER COMPLAINTS,**  
**&c.**

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WHEN we contemplate the form of the human body, its delicate structure and nice arrangement, it cannot be matter of surprise, that it should so often become the subject of disease, especially when we reflect on the numerous ills, to which it is daily and hourly exposed, both from external causes, from its own organization, and the operation of its own powers.

Before entering upon the diseases of the liver, and in order to understand their nature more fully, it will be proper to give a general view of the structure of the organ, its leading functions and peculiar secretion, in respect to its nature, quality, consistence, and variations.

The organization of the liver is peculiar, and chiefly consists, in its differing from every other organ of the body, in having the office of secretion carried on by a vein, in place of an artery, which performs the double office of secretion and nutrition in every other gland, except in the liver.

This viscus in its most healthy state, is of a reddish brown color, is composed of a tolerably firm and close substance, consisting of a closely united congeries of different vessels, and is of considerable weight, espe-



cially when increased by the accumulation of disease. It lies in the right hypochondrium or upper side of the abdomen, extending a little towards the left, more particularly if increased in its natural size by the attack of disease, and is situated, immediately under the diaphragm, or muscle dividing the chest and abdomen.

Its principal parts are its ligaments, its surfaces, its margins or edges, its tubercles, its lobes, and its vessels. By its ligaments, it is connected to the different surrounding parts, and it is from the influence of these ligaments, affected by its diseases, that irritation, pain, and uneasiness of different parts of the chest and abdomen, arises from hepatic affections. Its surfaces are a superior one, smooth and convex, which is applied to the diaphragm; and an inferior one, unequal and concave,

which looks towards the abdominal viscera. Its lobes are a right and left one, and a lobulus spigelii. Its vessels are the vena portarum, the hepatic artery, the hepatic vein, and the biliary ducts. Its margins or edges are a posterior and superior one obtuse, and the anterior and inferior one acute ; and it is of particular importance, in judging of the state of the liver, to know with accuracy, the feel of the margin or edge in its natural and healthy condition.

The circulation of the liver is a part of its structure, which requires attention, as on it the peculiar secretion of the organ depends ; it may be justly considered as the grand reservoir, which receives into its circulation most of the returning blood of the body, charged with the several impurities it has received in its progress, which are again removed by



its secretion, and converted into that fluid we term the bile ; the bile therefore is formed for a two-fold purpose, it consists of the collected colluvies of the constitution ; and is a fluid also prepared for a particular and useful office.

The liver is evidently the largest gland of the body. It may be said to be composed of a variety of vessels, the extreme branches of which, are intermixed so as to form numberless pulpy corpuscles, named from their resemblance to the small kernels of fruit. From this circumstance of its minute circulation, here is the seat of disease oftner than elsewhere, and here the blood is apt to lose more of that principle on which its vital energy depends.

The gall-bladder is attached to the posterior, and almost the inferior part of the

great lobe of the liver, is firmly bound to its surface by the peritoneum, and is furnished with its peculiar fluid, through the hepatic and cystic-ducts; but the bile which descends by the hepatic-duct, meets with more resistance in passing into the duodenum in the empty state of the gall-bladder, than to its regurgitation; so when there is any considerable resistance by aliment or wind within the duodenum, and the gall-bladder is not fully distended, the bile passes upwards to be lodged there for a certain time, and after remaining there, it is pressed down either by the pressure of the stomach, or the action of the external parts of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, or by a supposed action of its own coats, through the cystic, and through the common duct, into the cavity of the intestine; and this duct opens into the duode-



num in an oblique direction, first passing through the external tunic, and then piercing the other coats, after running between each a very little way ; this economy serves two useful purposes, to promote the discharge of bile, and to prevent its return. Hence the cystic and hepatic bile have the same primary origin, and differ only in consistence ; for, by the stagnation, changes are made, the thinner parts are taken away by the absorbent vessels ; but there may be at the same time other changes made in consequence of the stagnation, intestine changes which cannot be so easily pointed out as that of its simple consistence.

From this view, the secretion of bile is of two kinds, the hepatic or that forced directly into the intestines ; and the cystic or that

which passes into the gall-bladder, and is there allowed to accumulate.

There is no direct communication between the liver and gall-bladder, and consequently no other way for the bile to enter the gall-bladder except by the cystic-duct. The inner surface of the gall-bladder is elegantly reticulated and furnishes a viscid mucus that mingles with the bile.



## SECRETION OF THE BILE.

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The bile, or secretion of the liver, is formed in the substance of the organ, which passes out of the liver by biliferous tubes, all which end in the hepatic-duct, but a greater or less proportion passes by the cystic-duct, to be lodged in the gall-bladder. Though the principal use of this fluid, as we have observed, is to separate and discharge the feculent part of the aliment, yet there are other purposes, there is every reason to presume, it is intended to serve in the animal economy, as the bile seems necessary for perfecting the assimilation of the aliment and for giving to the chyle some principle, which en-

ables it to impart fresh energy to the general mass in its distribution through the system.

The natural appearance of this secretion in color, is a yellowish-green, of a mucillaginous or o'leose consistence, resembling in its frothiness when dissolved in water, a solution of soap and water. In its taste, it is more bitter in the human subject than in other animals.

With regard to the quantity of bile that is secreted, and poured into the duodenum in the 24 hours in a state of health, it has been much disputed by physiologists. The ordinary quantity found in the gall-bladder, is usually about an ounce, although it has not unfrequently been found to contain a much larger proportion.

The biliary fluid, in health, probably passes directly into the intestine, while the assimilation of food is going on; but when the emp-



ty state of the duodenum causes the end of the ductus communis choledochus to be compressed by its muscular coat, then it regurgitates into the gall-bladder; when the stomach is also distended with aliment, the gall-bladder undergoes a certain degree of compression, and the bile passes out into the intestinal canal. We should imagine the quantity of bile secreted in health varies in different individuals in the natural state, independent of disease; and hence, what is sufficient for exciting the action of the bowels in one individual, is not so in another; we can only judge from its effects, whether it is in excess, or formed in too small a quantity, and this is the most certain criterion to go by. However various the uses of this fluid may be, it is clear, its most important action is confined to the ali-

mentary canal; and there its different offices are,

I. It first extricates the chyle from the chyme or digested food as sent into that part of the intestines termed the duodenum.

II. It excites the peristaltic action of the intestines, one great and important part of its use; this should be particularly attended to by practitioners; for, if defective, this peristaltic motion cannot be sufficient for the expulsion of the collected matter, without such increased and violent action of their muscular powers, as to lay the foundation of stricture, ulceration and its consequences.

Hence, in all cases of slow action of the bowels, it is a matter of high import, and should be closely attended to by the practitioner, to observe, with minuteness, the character of the alvine discharges, in order, with



correctness, to judge of the quantity and quality of the bile present, whether it is sufficient for the purpose, or requires an additional supply. The same observance should take place where a diarrhœa prevails, to accurately know whether the quantity of bile is in excess, and to rectify that fault equally with the former.

III. The third use of this fluid is to impart the yellow color to the discharge, and this is confirmed by the pale appearance of the fœces in cases of jaundice, and also in children where it has not attained its complete elaborate state.

IV. A fourth purpose this secretion serves, is to prevent the accumulation of mucus and disengaged acid in the primæ viæ. So effectual is the bile for this end, that in Germany, inspissated ox-gall is a common prescription, and an effectual one in stomach complaints depending on this cause.

To understand more fully the nature and composition of this elaborate and important fluid, it may perhaps be proper here to give its chemical analysis.

I. It contains a large proportion of water.

II. A substance closely resembling animal albumen,

III. A peculiar resinous inflammable matter naturally and intimately mixed with it.

IV. Soda, forming a kind of soap or saponaceous extract:

V. Some neutral salts ;

VI. And a small quantity of oxyd of iron.

Besides these constituents, there is a coloring and odorant matter, but it is not yet ascertained whether these are properties of any of the above mentioned ingredients, or whether they belong to a particular substance.



Some chemists have thought, that they could likewise detect a saccharine matter in bile, but the experiments to this purpose, have by no means been conclusive.

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After this general view of the structure, functions, and economy of the liver, we come more prepared for entering upon the consideration of its diseases.

All diseases have been generally divided into two species, the acute and chronic; the former by their active operation and rapid influence, unless quickly counteracted, soon destroy the energies of life; the latter, by their slow and insidious progress, give a check to the enjoyment of health, and gradually undermine the constitution with-

out immediate alarm, till the evil has proceeded so far as too often to baffle recovery. Of the latter, there is no class of disease, to which this observation can be more generally applied, than, to those which are termed bilious disorders, or liver complaints, and there is no subject of practical medicine, which calls for more exact discrimination, and skilful management on the part of the practitioner.

They are in this country insidious in their attack, tardy in their progress, and considerably varied in their appearance; hence too many fall victims to the ignorance or misapprehension of those, to whom they confide themselves, from the true nature of the disease not being seasonably detected, or from the injudicious treatment of the disorder though known to depend on this cause.



It is, by experience, in a tropical climate, the real nature of hepatic affections, and bilious disorders in general can be best comprehended, and their successful management more correctly understood. It is here diseases advance with an almost incredible force, their effects are most serious ; and, an active and energetic use of medicine is the only resource, to check their rapid and alarming progress : It is in this school, then, a practitioner has the most enlarged opportunities of making his observations. He learns here to apply his knowledge with boldness and effect, and instead of trusting to the weak and inefficient efforts of nature, as in colder climates, he is forced to a different line of conduct, to meet them promptly with all the instruments, which experience and observation render him master of. It

was in a warm climate these truths were first impressed on my mind, and they have acquired additional strength since my return to my native country.

The functions of the liver and its peculiar secretion, the bile, have a most important influence in every climate, in the production and aggravation of disease; and it is not till within these few years, since our intercourse with the tropical regions has been extended, and the frequent treatment of bilious diseases in their own hemisphere been common, that this organ has been considered a subject of that magnitude in the animal economy, which it has always deserved. By the ancient physicians, though correct in their treatment, its morbid effects were confined to a very few diseases; modern



observation however, and an expanded train of experience, have pointed out this source as the hydra, which, oftner than any other morbid cause, proves fatal to mankind.

Indeed the more we contemplate the structure of this organ ; its magnitude compared with others ; its peculiar circulation, and the vast quantity of blood which passes through it, the more we must be satisfied, it is intended for a leading operation in the functions of life: Any considerable interruption or irregularity of which, must be attended with the most serious and fatal consequences ; and that even every lesser deviation from its natural state must be felt more or less, in the production of general derangement and disorder of a system, of which it forms so principal a part.

My intention then, founded on these

grounds, is to point out the absolute and indispensable necessity there is, for a more minute and close investigation of the changes to which the liver is liable, and of the variations to which the biliary secretion is exposed from different causes; at one time becoming completely locked up, and at another having its secretions poured out in the most depraved, acrid, and vitiated condition.

Having myself been long a sufferer from a diseased state of this organ, while in a tropical climate, and having surmounted the danger to which I was exposed, I was necessarily led to reflect deeply on this subject, and to study, what were the best measures that could be adopted, to counteract its diseases in all their peculiarities; my own case afforded me much interesting information, and



in some degree better enabled me, to form a more correct judgment, of its general operation on the human frame.

From an ample experience thus acquired, in tracing the appearance, and conducting the treatment of various affections of the liver, and bilious diseases abroad, in the different settlements of the Honorable East India Company, at Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Batavia, China, &c. I could not conceive that a morbid cause, so active and so general in the tropical countries, should lose its reigning and paramount influence over the animal economy even in this country. Ever since my return, this subject has particularly engaged my attention, and my own observation, as well as those of my medical friends who have been in the East Indies, support me in the assertion, that liver complaints and

bilious disorders, are as frequent here as in the warmer latitudes : but here they assume a different character ; their appearances are less distinctly marked ; the vitiated secretion does not shew the same rapid progress and strong apparent change, though the derangement it produces is not less severe or active in the destruction of health. It is to trace then these latent, these insidious and less obvious forms of attack so often mistaken, and that too fatally for patients, that the present work is intended ; in which I shall first consider the more perceptible forms of hepatic derangement, known to every medical practitioner, and then point out the varieties usually met with in this country, under other and mistaken denominations.



## INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

## I. ACUTE HEPATITIS.

This acute form of the malady is not so often met with in England; it is generally the production of a vertical sun by the excessive stimulus of heat, affecting the slow circulation of the organ, and exciting it to morbid and irregular action, with an immoderate increase of its secretion. The symptoms of this disease, generally commence with rigors or shiverings, followed by a pungent pain of the right side, which is felt also under the margin of the ribs, shooting more particularly in the direction of the back, and to the shoulder blade, cough, oppression in the respiration, nausea, sickness, often with

a vomiting of apparently bilious matter, accompanied with considerable fever; great watchfulness, and occasional delirium; great thirst, the tongue generally covered with a white crust extending also into the mouth and fauces; dejection of spirits, sometimes hiccup; loss of appetite, and difficulty of lying, except on the affected side, yet instances now and then occur, where the patient is unable to lie on either side; pressure also on the region of the liver, where there is usually some tension, induces here considerable increase of pain and tendency to cough, and the cough attending this disease, is oftner dry than moist; the bowels are frequently irregular, though oftner slow than otherwise; the urine secreted in small quantity, is of a high color, and often tinged with bile; the pulse is hard and



strong, and sometimes exceeding 120 in a minute, and at times intermitting. Where the inflammatory symptoms run high for some days, a deep yellow tinge affects the eyes and skin, and the continuance of inflammation induces, as a necessary consequence, adhesions of the organ to the contiguous parts, or considerable enlargement of particular portions of it takes place, as the lobes, where suppuration ensues, or sometimes scirrhusity is the consequence.

Where the inflammation acts with extreme violence, the increased secretion of bile, is sometimes thrown into the first passages, occasioning considerable derangement in the state of the evacuations.

In most cases, the secretion of bile is increased, though its passage into the duodenum is frequently impeded, so that jaun-

dice is no uncommon circumstance in this disease.

In most instances, the increase of the body or parenchymatous part of the liver, in consequence of inflammation, produces, I have observed, a corresponding change on its investing membranes, which are influenced by the general distension, and the symptoms therefore peculiar to membranous inflammation, I have frequently found, exactly resembling those which are present, when the liver is sensibly enlarged from inflammation.

In laying down the treatment of any disease, general principles alone can be communicated; in every case certain variations occur, which require judgment, experience, and observation in their application; an exact line of proceeding, cannot therefore be founded, suited to each constitution



and habit ; hence the discretion of every practitioner, must have much to work on.

In the treatment of acute hepatitis, the general means of obviating inflammation are to be resorted to, by strictly employing the antiphlogistic regimen. The most early recourse should be had, to depletion from the part, by cupping over the region of the liver, this operation should be repeated in ten hours, should the increased vascular action continue unabated, for no time is to be lost in checking the progress of this violent acute stage of the disease. Where cupping is objected to by the patient, leeches may be employed, applying at least fifteen at once, and encouraging the bleeding for some hours ; and, not satisfied with this local depletion, general bleeding should be resorted to at the same time, to the extent of twelve

or sixteen ounces drawn from a large orifice, to suspend the morbid increase of circulation, by inducing fainting or deliquium if possible.

Should the inflammation spread itself likewise over the peritonœum, investing the whole membrane of the abdomen; bleeding must not be lost sight of, but must be repeated again and again at no distant intervals, if the disease is not disposed to yield. The modern practice, of large and extensive bleeding, has been found by the most eminent practitioners of late, to be the only successful mode of treatment in this, as in other active inflammations, and that small bleedings, only suspend for a moment the increased action, without tending to give it that permanent check which is necessary for overcoming the disease. With these more active measures,



should be joined the free use of cooling saline drinks, impregnated with acids ; the admission freely of cool air into the apartment, and the use of a low vegetable diet, consisting of gruels, tapioca, and such other mild farinaceous matters in a thin form. After full bleedings, general and topical, without alleviation of symptoms, a large blister should be applied over the affected part ; most particular attention must be paid to the bowels, and every discharge from them most carefully and accurately surveyed, as it will furnish to the vigilant practitioner, information of the highest importance, and will convey to him the unerring intelligence of truth, as it regards the character of the secretions ; for without this examination, he will be labouring in the dark, on matters of the most essential interest to the welfare and security of his patient.

This attention is ever required in all acute hepatic cases. Cooling cathartics should be early and freely employed, and every means exerted to relieve the general distension of the liver, by emulging it of its bile, which is a matter of the utmost consequence, and should ever be kept in view by the practitioner.

When these active measures have preceded, milder means may then be adopted, directed to continue the secretions of the bowels and skin, and the form I have generally preferred for this purpose, is as follows:

R Pulv: Tragacanth: Comp:

Potass: Nitr:  $\overline{aa}$   $\ominus$  ij.

Pulv: Ipec: gr. ij.

Hydrar: Submur: gr. iv. m: divid:

in chart: vi. sum<sup>r</sup>: i. 4<sup>a</sup>: quaq: hora in gellat:  
rubr: aut mellis.



R Magnes: Sulph: ℥iij.

Liq. Ammon: Acet: ℥i.

Syrup: Rosæ ℥v.

Aq: Distil: ℥vi. m: ft: mist:

Coch: magn: iij. una hora post: sing: pulv: cap:

This practice I continue, to pursue with such variations as the circumstances and the progress of the cure requires, but the cooling plan should be persisted in for a week, or until the inflammatory action is wholly subdued, and it is decidedly correct that the sulphate of magnesia (or some such like principle) should be continued, in small doses three times a day, with the following addition at night:

R Pulv: Ipecac:—

——Aromat:

Hydrar: Submuriat:  $\overline{\text{aa}}$  gr. i. ft: pil: h: s:

Sumend\*:

In those cases, where considerable irritability is present, after having actively employed the measures of overcoming inflammation; I have found a sedative joined with the Magn: Sulph: particularly serviceable, such as the undermentioned:

R Pulv: Ipecac: Comp: gr: iifs

Magn: Sulph: ℥ij.

Lact: Amygd: ℥ij. ft: haust:

4<sup>ta</sup>: quaq: hor: sumendus.

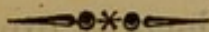
An adherence to this plan for three weeks, will generally secure the recovery, making such alterations in the diet, &c. as the improvement of the constitution, and the state of the digestive organs will admit of.

Such is the most successful method, I can recommend for the treatment of acute hepatitis; a treatment drawn from ample experience, and an early attention to the disease



in those climates where disorders of the liver are most frequent, to which I was professionally called at an early period of life, and I have since devoted upwards of twenty years to this interesting subject.

## AFFECTIONS OF THE LIVER.



### II. CHRONIC HEPATITIS.

This form of the disease is, by far, the most frequent in Great Britain; it is often, when it appears in the tropical countries, a consequence of the acute species improperly treated, or having advanced too far in its progress, before the aid of medicine. This species is always slow in its progressive stages; the organ of attack will be, for years, suffering under its influence, and yet no external marks, or strong aggravation of symptoms, pointing out real disease, will indicate to the patient, the alarming state which he is labouring under; any transient symptoms of indisposi-



tion that arise, he imputes to a different and mistaken cause, never suspecting that the liver is affected, as the latent source of these occasional disturbed sensations he may experience; thus misled, it is not in his power to take the necessary precautions, and to guard against this insidious enemy to his repose.

So general indeed, is the prevalence of liver complaints, that I am fully satisfied, that this organ is the chief seat of most of those disorders *unattended by febrile action*. The symptoms of chronic hepatitis, often felt for a considerable time, are so slight, as to be nothing more than a sense of fulness after meals, with a disposition to drowsiness, occasionally accompanied with flatulence, and sometimes a sensation of fluttering at the pit of the

stomach, and at other times, the patient feels considerable lassitude and languor, succeeding the most trifling exertion, followed by a tendency to sleep; this sleep however, is seldom refreshing, but interrupted by distressing dreams; slight pain is occasionally felt on either side, but it chiefly fixes itself on the left side; to this may be added, that when in bed, the patient can only lie comfortable, by confining himself to one side; the mind here feels ill at ease, and is fretful and irritable, from the slightest causes; the stomach sympathizes in this state, and feels occasionally so disturbed, as to deceive the patient in the supposition, that his complaints arise from an affection of this organ, while the latter acts only the part of a sympathizing friend, affected by its vici-



nity to the seat of the real malady ; the pulse is here seldom accelerated, but is more generally found depressed, a dry skin, with much accumulation of heat, is often a leading feature, lowness and dejection of mind, are also usual attendants, and trifles, light as air, seem interesting and burdensome to the unhappy sufferer ; the bowels never perform their operation, in a proportion equal to the quantity of aliment taken in ; the appetite however, suffers here no diminution, on the contrary, it is not unfrequently sensibly increased ; the patient loses that relish for society, which is a concomitant of health, and feels often highly nervous, secluding himself, and ruminating, as it were, over his feelings ; anxiety and langour, are expressed in the countenance, which is frequently pale or sallow, often

a peculiar dulness in the eyes is observable; there is no increased thirst beyond natural, yet the tongue will be found furred, more particularly at the part next the throat; sleep is here often disturbed, with frightful dreams, and alarming imaginations, or when they sleep soundly, such patients awake unrefreshed, with lassitude, and sometimes a sensation, as if they were incapable of moving, and slight noises generally cause them to start; in some cases there is an obtuse pain of the right side and shoulder, with a fulness in the side and about the pit of the stomach, keeping up constant uneasiness; where the complaint has continued some time, an emaciation of the face is conspicuous, and in some instances, likewise of the body, and the general aspect of the patient, is



extremely unhealthy ; the excretions of the bowels exhibit unnatural colour and fœtor, are adhesive, of a dark, muddy, and often of a clayey appearance, and are generally voided with difficulty, much straining and discharge of flatus, being usually deficient in quantity ; but all these symptoms are generally so moderate, as to be little noticed by the patient himself: Even hepatic abscesses have been discovered on dissection after death, which had given no inconvenience during life, or even their existence been suspected, though such abscesses must have been the consequence of previous inflammation, and could not originate without its presence.

These various symptoms offer a true picture of chronic hepatitis, but they do not all occur in the same individual at a

time, but shew themselves in different persons, with much variety, both in extent, number, and degree, as the disorder exists in every gradation. Now and then, though rarely, cases do shew themselves, which are peculiarly stubborn and unyielding for a length of time: A case of this obstinate character presented itself last year, where my much esteemed friend Mr. Underwood, late surgeon on the Madras Establishment, and myself were in consultation together, it occurred in a gentleman, about thirty years of age, son to an East India director.

On these symptoms, and the existence of the disease, it is well observed by the late Dr. Paisley, "that no doubt can arise with an experienced practitioner; if we have not pain to direct us, an experienced touch will discover the obstruction, the tender-



ness and enlargement of the liver, I say, he adds *an experienced touch*, because it requires a frequent practical examination to satisfy one, respecting the different degrees of hardness, firmness, and sensibility, that constitute a disease in that bowel; however, appearances are seldom so equivocal, as to mislead the observant practitioner."

The vast number of cases, which have fallen under my care in many parts of India, render me so familiar with this disease in every form, from its most acute state, to its mildest and most deceptive appearance, that I have seldom found any difficulty in tracing its attack, and detecting the true source of the disorder. On the Malabar coast, the disease shews itself in both the acute and chronic state, and the report of a considerable number of cases there treated,

I made to the late Dr. Hunter, who was pleased, in a public manner, to express, in very handsome terms, his approbation of the successful plan I pursued in conducting the cure. On the Coromandal coast, I had the same formidable malady to encounter, the termination of which was, in most instances, equally fortunate. When at Mocha, off the Red Sea, so severe was the attack of this disease on those under my care, that an hospital was obliged to be established there, for their treatment, and though the range of the thermometer was from 85 to 100, a most unfavorable circumstance for the advancement of the cure, yet the success I experienced, far exceeded my most sanguine expectations, in the treatment of such an active disease.

At China, I had an opportunity of ob-



serving the liver, secreting its bile, in the most vitiated and depraved state; cholera morbus, and dysenteries, were the chief diseases under my care at this place, and I never witnessed such alarming effects, as the morbid secretion of the biliary system brought on in this situation; the fluid, from its hurried secretion, was not only redundant, but rendered highly acrimonious by the stimulus of heat; and thus, by re-acting on the organ producing it, I have found a disorder excited there in several instances.

A sensitive association indeed so intimately connects all the abdominal viscera together, as to render their motions dependent on each other, and thus unites also, the due performance of the functions peculiar to each, in the same intimate chain;

hence the disturbance of the action of the one, necessarily produces a corresponding condition in the action of the others; this is remarkably instanced in the case of the liver, which, as a secreting organ, derives its circulating blood from the stomach, intestines, pancreas and spleen.

From such an experience then, I am induced to make this strong and feeling conclusion, that such is the vast importance of the hepatic functions in the animal economy, and their extensive influence in the general regulation of health, that the least disorder or derangement of its circulation, producing an alteration in its secretion, excites morbid symptoms in every part of the body; that it holds an extensive sympathy with every organ, and what was formerly assigned as peculiarly belonging



to the stomach, is more properly to be referred to this viscus.

In order to understand the proper treatment of chronic hepatitis, it will be necessary to consider the various modifications under which the disease appears, so apt to mislead practitioners in this country, who have had little opportunity of tracing it, in its several stages and complicated varieties, in which it shews itself under the influence of a vertical sun. One of the forms in which it appears in this country, is that of

# I. HYDROCEPHALUS INTERNUS;

OR, WATER IN THE HEAD.

This often fatal and alarming malady, it has now been proved by modern prac.

titioners, and particularly by the testimony of Dr. Cheyne, in his Treatise on the Diseases of Children, is a certain consequence of a previous hepatic affection, and that the early attention to the state of this primary organ, is the only certain means of accomplishing a cure; I have had several cases, but particularly one of late, which strongly confirms this fact, and from its interesting nature, it will be found detailed in the collection of cases subjoined to the work. The evidence adduced in the well-known case of Sir Joshua Reynolds, is very striking; and the general enlarged appearance, of the organ in children who have died of this disease, strengthens the opinion: The only instances also, of those who have recovered of the disease, have been by the use of that remedy, which



is acknowledged to be so specific in liver disorders, and which acts more powerfully by emulging this organ, than by its operation on any other part of the system.

## II. COUGH, ASTHMA, &c.

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But besides this disease of the head, which has so long foiled the researches of physicians in investigating its true cause, a diseased state of the liver, is not less liable to affect the adjacent organs, the lungs, and to induce such a derangement in their functions, at one time from mere sympathy, at another time from pressure, as to occasion those forms of disease, which simulate chronic cattarrh, asthma, and even

pulmonary consumption itself : The symptoms in fact are the same, only as the cause exists not so much in the apparent seat of the malady, as in a distant organ, so the means of cure must be applied radically, to influence the state of the former, and restore it to health, before any relief can be expected to the pectoral, and seemingly the only morbid condition that exists to injure the patient ; on medicine being employed, so as to change the morbid state of the liver, the irritation of the lungs will immediately give way, and the disorder be found in most instances to take a favorable turn : The truth of this I cannot illustrate better than by the narration here of a particular case, in which I was consulted, in the year 1809, with that experienced practitioner, Dr. Dick, physician



to the Honorable East India Company, for the home department: The patient, in this case, had complained for upwards of twelve months, of difficulty of breathing, and impeded short respiration, accompanied with severe cough, completely resembling asthma; this, indeed, was the opinion, of several of the most eminent Physicians of the Metropolis, he had consulted for his complaint, during the period of their attendance. On a careful examination by Dr. Dick and myself, there could be no doubt of its being a confirmed Hepatic disease, as an evident enlargement of the margin of the liver had taken place to some extent, this occasioned pressure to be made on the diaphragm, thus contracting or lessening the space in the cavity of the chest: Hence, the pulmonary affection was merely sympto-

matic, and the origin of the evil, was to be traced to a different source: The cough here, may indeed be termed a cough of necessity, arising from the diaphragm being thrown upwards against the lungs by the tumid liver, this of course induced irritation of the air vessels of the lungs, and as a consequence, also some inflammation, from which arose an increased secretion of mucus, and the cough in this instance, was merely an effort of nature to pump up, or rid herself of the loaded deposit. This circumstance shews, the nice discrimination that should always be made in pectoral cases, or wherever cough is the leading symptom; examination should regularly take place of the hypochondriac region, before attempting the treatment, as this would then lead us, to discover the



source of many disturbances of the general health, which originate in the hepatic organs, and would also direct us to the prevention of many secondary diseases, of a more vexatious, and sometimes of a more fatal nature, than those from which they originated. This opinion is so strongly and so properly enforced by the late Dr. Paisley, in a letter to his friend, that I cannot omit quoting it here, "I cannot," says he, "avoid putting you upon your guard against a disorder of the liver, which I have seen in Europe, and several times in India, attended with fatal consequences from its being overlooked; the disorder I mean, is what may be called a liver cough, the obstruction, in this case, is pretty generally accompanied by some degree of inflammation and pain, though seldom

“ acute, unless pressed with the fingers,  
“ or when the external membrane is also af-  
“ fected, but it often happens without pain or  
“ inflammation ; the cough (the only symp-  
“ tomatic complaint,) is the misleading  
“ symptom of the disease ; the patient pro-  
“ nounces his own disorder a cold, and  
“ it often happens without further en-  
“ quiry, that he is put on a course of  
“ ineffectual pectorals, takes exercise, and  
“ shifts his situation for health, until his liver  
“ either suppurates, or becomes an indolent  
“ mass of irrecoverable obstruction ; in very  
“ irritable or inflammatory habits, any mis-  
“ take on the commencement of the dis-  
“ ease, is of the most serious consequence ;  
“ the liver, diaphragm, and lungs, adhere  
“ and suppurate, a purulent spitting suc-  
“ ceeds, and instead of a pure uniform



" pus, the substance of the liver is expect-  
 " torated by a deep hollow cough, in the  
 " form of a glandular membranous appear-  
 " ance mixed with purplish dissolved blood  
 " of a parenchymatous look ; the disorder,  
 " like all other inflammatory disorders of  
 " the liver, is very tractable in the begin-  
 " ning, by the antiphlogistic and other  
 " means." " It is to be observed," he farther  
 adds " that in all confirmed disorders of the  
 " lungs of any standing, the liver is always  
 " affected, but in this disorder, the lungs  
 " are only the secondary object, and never  
 " give any trouble if the obstruction of the  
 " liver is removed, as in them there are nei-  
 " ther tubercles, nor infarctions." This  
 connection between consumption and liver  
 complaints, was strongly instanced to me  
 in the case of a lady residing in Southampton

Row, of an extremely delicate constitution, the chief symptoms here were violent pain of the side for a considerable time, with an apparently colliquative diarrhoea; from the issue of the case however, it appeared an instance of highly diseased liver; by the treatment I employed, the discharge was gradually lessened, and reduced to the natural consistence and appearance; her other symptoms abated in the same proportion, and in the course of two months, under my care, her health was unexpectedly and completely restored.

### III. MESENTERIC DISEASE.



A consequence of diseased liver is very often an affection of the mesenteric glands, which



enlarge, and no longer perform their due office of secretion ; this is a proof that the mixture of healthy bile, is necessary with the other fluids of the intestines, either to give that stimulus which is essential to the proper activity of the organs, or to separate from the fluids that part which is to be secreted in the mesenteric glands. A deficiency or vitiated quality, therefore, of the bile, as in chronic hepatitis, occasions their taking on disease, and that of the most serious and alarming nature : I cannot here avoid relating a most singular case of the kind, which, some years ago, fell under my observation ; it was in a lady of a delicate and weakly habit, where, apparently, the whole chain of these glands felt enlarged, and hardened, and, in one particular part of the abdomen, a cluster

of them had enlarged to such an astonishing size, as to equal two eggs; this tumor was irregular in its shape, and extremely sensible and painful, on making any considerable pressure on the part; so deep was its seat, as to seem, as it were, connected with the very spine; on this complaint I was consulted with Dr. James Curry, of Guy's Hospital, and her own apothecary, a most judicious, and well informed practitioner; in consequence of the treatment, her health became, first, much improved, and, on my being called in, a second time, to visit her in the country, by the directions then given, and the remedies employed, I had the pleasing satisfaction, in the course of ten weeks attendance, to have reduced the local disease, and to restore her general health.



Many other similar cases might be added, and they point out the necessity, which ought to be strictly paid to the regular state of the intestines, to prevent accumulation, as aggravating every liver disorder : When we reflect on the quantity of food that is necessarily taken, from time to time, into the stomach, its improper stay in the bowels, cannot fail to be highly productive of disease ; where the function of the liver is deficient, and its secretions in such a sparing quantity, as not to give the due action to the intestines for its expulsion, or where, even though, not in a lesser quantity, it is prevented by obstruction, either through spasm of the duct, a collection of viscid mucus, or gall-stones, from passing into this reservoir, and mixing with the food in its progress through the intestinal passage, the usual peristaltic motion be-

comes then, suspended, or incomplete for its natural purpose of clearing the canal; the bowels themselves, are thrown into irregular and forced action endeavouring to supply this defect; and thus the foundation of disease is laid through their whole track, the evacuations that take place are effected with difficulty and pain; and enlargement of vessels, ending in hæmorrhoids or piles, is another attendant of this state.

#### IV. STOMACH COMPLAINTS.

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An irregular or depraved biliary secretion, is certainly the grand source of stomach complaints; the secretions of this organ, are materially affected by the state of the liver, and its sympathy with this latter organ, induces, of course, a disorder of the



functions of the stomach, and a vitiated quality of its natural fluid ; hence, we often find a predominant acid the effect of disease, a leading symptom in disorders of the stomach, and the organ is kept, as it were, in a constant state of fermentation ; digestion accordingly becomes feeble and imperfect, the matters are poured into the bowels, not in their proper assimilated state, the bowels themselves want their proper supply of healthy bile, and there is no mediating power, or neutralizing agent, such as the bile imparts, to correct the irritation from this cause ; hence, arise indigestion, eructation, flatulence, and all the other morbid symptoms, which prove so distressing to dyspeptic patients.

In these complaints, the left portion of the liver, pressing upwards, is annoyed

by the right portion of the stomach coming against it, which induces irritation, and uneasy sensations to be experienced in the hepatic region, and which are improperly imputed to the stomach; their primary origin being in the liver, and the stomach only the instrument that mechanically excites them.

#### V. HEAD-ACHS.

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There is a very painful species of head-ach, which sometimes renders life almost a burden, and is often attended with considerable giddiness, that owes its attack to a bilious origin. In such patients, the stomach is not affected, the appetite continues as usual, and is even increased, but the bowels are always in a slow state from the de-



ficient secretion or inertness of the bile, and the moment accumulations occur, the attack of headach supervenes: As it comes on often periodically, and in fits, it thus differs, essentially, from those headachs, which arise from a fulness of vessels, or partial pressure on the brain.

#### VI. LOWNESS OF SPIRITS, AND DESPONDENCY OF MIND.

That hysteria or nervous disorders, as well as hypochondriasis, or the symptoms of a disordered imagination, are often produced by liver complaints, cannot be denied, and a vitiated secretion or black bile is proverbially stated, as one cause of melancholy; this evidently shews the powerful influence of the liver, on the nervous sys-

tem, and the sympathy produced between the action of the body and the mind: To such a length has the deranged feelings, from this cause, often been carried, that suicide has been the consequence, as on the most minute examination of its causes, no other could be traced, than a fault in the biliary secretions, arising from a disordered liver: We cannot trace how easily that fine matter may be wrought upon, which constitutes the medium between the body, and the thinking part; and when, on dissection, nothing but a diseased liver has appeared, we must evidently refer it to this source.

Hence, it is probable, our reasoning is highly erroneous, when we attempt to confine the use of the bile to any single operation, as, from its nature, it seems



so well qualified to answer a variety of useful, and complicated purposes in the animal economy.

#### VII. CHRONIC DEBILITY AND WEAKNESS.

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It is not an unfrequent occurrence, that cases of general debility arise, which resist the most powerful tonic, and restorative remedies ; wherever this happens, a latent hepatic obstruction is generally the foundation of the malady, and its mode of acting may be easily explained ; the absorbents, from a want of the proper stimulus, the bile, are incapable of operating with sufficient energy, to prepare chyle in the quantity necessary to nourish the body, and perhaps, also, of an inferior quality ; in this case, though the appetite may be increased, and even the aliment taken into the sto-

mach, still it lies a useless load, until the liver is roused, and is enabled to perform its functions, by secreting its fluid, and imparting it in sufficient quantity and quality, to answer all the purposes for which it is, by nature, intended ; no traces of chyle is discoverable in the digested food, until after its intermixture with the bile, and therefore it requires this fluid, to enable the vessels to take up that nutritious part, capable of renovating the impaired powers of the constitution.

It was remarked very early by Lord Bacon, and with much truth, “ that the  
 “ bile is the incentive, and stimulus of many  
 “ functions of the human body, and he  
 “ considers its healthy state entirely depends  
 “ on the quantity and quality of this  
 “ fluid.”



## VIII. OF FLATULENCE.

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Wherever flatus, or wind is generated in copious quantities, in the stomach, and bowels, and where, from its abundant presence, it produces considerable distension, and general uneasiness ; from the extensive pressure, such gas sometimes induces in these parts, oftentimes, as it were, stretching the whole fibres of the body ; it may be considered as a constant attendant of a disordered liver ; indeed such accumulations of air cannot take place, but in those constitutions where the biliary, and gastric fluids are secreted in the most imperfect, and altered condition. This symptom of flatulence is too often regarded as the mere mark of a nervous disorder, and therefore overlooked ; wherever it occurs it is

always on the contrary, to be considered not only as indicating a faulty state of that important process, on which the continuation of life, and health depends, but likewise as producing, in the organs it affects, such a state of irritation and pressure, as occasions its morbid sympathy to be extended to the primary parts, connected with the very principle of existence.

#### IX. REMARKS ON THE BILIARY SECRETION.

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It is impossible to convey in words the great varieties, the strange changes and alterations, which are often displayed in the character and appearances of this secretion; however, I shall attempt to describe, such leading circumstances as arise, and are most frequently observed; to thoroughly understand the intrinsic, and valuable in-



formation they convey, from which practical and important deductions can be drawn, requires an assiduous experience, in order to satisfy the mind on this head.

In many hepatic obstructions, the functions of the liver remain so torpid, and inactive as to resist, for a length of time, the influence of remedies, and when roused from its indolence, it often happens, that the first efforts it makes, are shewn by a discharge of a liquid dark bile resembling coffee-grounds diluted, and occasionally a fluid of a still darker color not unlike the appearance of ebony or jet; this is generally a full and satisfactory evidence, of the organ's becoming energized, or endeavouring, as it were, to empty itself of its improper collection, which should at all times be viewed as

a most favorable omen : it sometimes will go on making such like discharges for a short time, and then after this full disgorgement of its long collected and vitiated fluid, bile of a more healthy quality will be secreted, and we most usually observe the amendment of our invalid keep pace with the amended condition of this secretion ; for I have almost invariably found, in affections of the liver of long standing, that where this discharge was kept up for several days, the patient gradually improved, and generally obtained that state of health, to which he had long before been a stranger.

I very often in the course of my experience, have had occasion to remark, the biliary secretion some days shewing itself extremely vitiated, and then for many days after, none whatever could be dis-



covered ; in these cases, we should not rest satisfied until the liver is acted on, in such a way as to shew some steadiness of principle ; at other times I have observed, the contents of the bowels will often in their appearance resemble mud, or a matter of that well-known darkish color, and wherever I have seen this state of discharge continued for some time, the case generally has assumed a stubbornness of character, and has required considerable energy to be enforced, in order to rouse the lethargic liver to its duty ; under such circumstances, it has generally been a symptom of direct benefit, when my patient has complained of some glowing, or diffused heat in the region of the bowels, attended with a nipping, and griping effect, which symptom recurring two or three times a day, leads me to augur favorably

of such an occurrence, as it convinces me, some bile is emptied into the intestines, and that not in a very sparing quantity, and I have scarcely ever been deceived, in finding the secretions at such seasons, amply provided with this fluid: should this diffused heat and griping, continue going on for a week at intervals, it has uniformly afforded me firm grounds, for a favorable prognostic, as to the speedy issue and recovery of the patient.

But in other instances, the matter from the bowels will display all manner of characters, as to color, consistence, adhesiveness, and the like, sometimes resembling clay, sometimes pitch, yeast, often a dirty green, and all varied shades of color; such like properties, constantly indicate a faulty biliary secretion, and until the liver is (if I may be excused the expression) spur-



ed to its proper function, the condition of things remain the same, but the moment any perceptible effort is made by it, circumstances then change for improvement ; and our great anxiety is, to keep alive its interest, by which means, we shall speedily be gratified with the secretion of healthy bile ; but seldom or ever does this effect take place, without the previous warning symptoms of occasional heats, and gripings over the bowels ; and when we discover this correct bile, we should proceed with delicate caution, not to annoy the organ too much, as now we must in a manner rest on our oars, having gained our desired object, for should we over stimulate it, this would be defeating the very purpose for which our endeavours were exerted.

In all disorders of the liver of any standing, where this viscus has long been slug-

gish and inactive, when roused into much action, it may be considered as a certain fact, that the first secretions thrown out, are always in an ill conditioned state.

Where the bile passes of a bright yellow appearance, and resembling the yolk of an egg, it is to be regarded as belonging to its healthiest condition.

When bile passes the intestines in any quantity, in those constitutions which have been deprived of it for any length of time, (I mean in those instances, where the quantity previous has been so scanty, as by no means to give the bowels that due physical assistance required ;) I have invariably found, it occasion considerable burning heat at the rectum, like the feel of some scalding fluid, which generally lasts some minutes, and previous to the discharge, those gripings and glowing heats over the bowels already



noticed, usually take place as the forerunners of it ; a strong proof of its acrid nature from long retention.

I could wish to expatiate further on this subject, but words cannot convey correctly, that practical information which I am desirous to communicate, and must therefore leave this for experience to seek ; for it is the lesson of experience, and by experience only it can be acquired.

I am well aware, the liver is occasionally placed under great difficulties, such as having its ducts shut up by gall-stones, viscid mucus, tumors, or contractions ; yet, I am firmly convinced, the constitution more frequently suffers from a torpid, inactive, and indolent condition, than from the reverse, where its action is in excess, and its functions carried on too rapidly.

## X. REMARKS ON THE GASTRIC FLUID.

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It has been considered, that the presence of bile in the stomach, is the source of the derangement of this organ, though, from anatomy, it is clear, that this fluid never passes into the stomach without its violent exertion, as in the act of vomiting, or where the biliary secretion is prevented from getting into the intestines by its natural passage.

In bilious disorders, or liver complaints, there is no doubt that the fluids of the stomach discover a yellowish appearance, and bitterish taste, the consequence of a vitiated, and altered property ; but this state, it is clear, can be produced by sympathy alone, and the liver, in a morbid condition, or under disease, is as capable of



exciting it as the uterus, an organ still more distant, whose effect on the state of the stomach in early pregnancy, is well known and admitted.

In fact, such is the nature of the stomach, that it may be considered as the centre of all sympathy, and influenced by the derangement of every other organ of the body, as well as of the liver, without any necessity for having recourse to the supposition of bile being mixed with its contents, in order to their acquiring a faulty or unhealthy condition.

The interruption of digestion then, in all cases, occasions the fluids of the stomach to be changed in their color, and nature, by the acid produced from the fermentation of the food not being neutralized, and not entering into the new composition, or combinations which take place,

where the health of the organ is unimpaired ; the food in the stomach is never thoroughly digested, or passes into chyle ; it is here only a preparatory process, which is perfected in the duodenum, and this perfection of it, or real assimilation, cannot take place till it receives the admixture of the bile to animalize it : The bile, in fact, is the most animalized fluid of the system, it is that fluid, which has passed twice through the general circulation, without being renovated, or receiving that fresh principle from the air, which is essential to its vitality ; a portion, therefore, of this most perfect, or complete animal matter, is required to be mixed with the chyme, as it descends from the stomach into the duodenum, to give the real animal nature to the newly formed substance, or chyle : Hence, where it is wanting from an obstruction of the liver,



the body is, both deprived of its nourishment, and becomes emaciated, and the nourishment received has not its useful parts separated as it ought.

The proofs, that bile does not enter the stomach naturally, may be drawn from the appearance of the contents of the stomach, which are, generally, of a yellow, and not of a green color, when discharged by vomiting, and next the presence of acid, which never can be the case along with bile, the latter proving the grand neutralizer of this principle: The effect of bile, on acids, in producing a deep green color, is strongly instanced in the early bowel complaints of infancy, and the same effect it always shews in its mixture with acids out of the body; as this appearance is never displayed in the real contents of the stomach when first discharged; for the presence of bile only

takes place in the last efforts of vomiting, and, on being pumped up into the stomach, it becomes mixed with some remaining portion of acid, and thus acquires a green tinge, it would not otherwise possess; for green discharges never appear with the first matters thrown up; the presence of bile in *this* organ, except as in the manner already stated, is, therefore, a vulgar prejudice, resting on no solid foundation, and opposed both by fact, analogy, and experiment.

#### XI. OF THE INTESTINES.

Next to the hepatic system itself, there is no part of the body, where the influence of the bile is felt so extensively as in the intestines or alimentary canal. The intestines are composed of a muscular tube, of various diameters in different parts, forming two



arches, the one large, and loose, and floating in the abdomen ; the other smaller, and connected by apendages, in a fixed state to the back, and sides of this cavity ; Their length is six times that of the body, and they are every-where interspersed with vessels, and nerves, suited to their appropriate offices ; they are possessed of two kinds of action, the one is termed their peristaltic motion, the other that active exertion, which takes place on the evacuation of the fœces ; the first is the means employed by nature, to perfect the process of converting the aliment into chyle, and to expose it afterwards to the mouths of the vessels, destined to receive it ; it is a slow, gradual, and never ceasing operation ; while the latter is violent, temporary, and coercive : On the proper regulation, however, of these two operations, much depends for the health

of the system. In many constitutions, the former is impeded by a morbid accumulation of mucus, which nature, originally, intended for the defence of the delicate surface of these parts, from the too great irritation, which the bile, and pancreatic juice, in mixing with the aliment, are, sometimes, apt to produce; this accumulation of mucus, in case of disease, requires much attention on the part of practitioners; it impedes the action of remedies, it renders the bowels torpid, frequently locks up the secretion of the bile, and prevents it passing freely into the intestines; by this means, the aliment is deprived of the very principle from the bile, which should be conveyed to it, and the chyle is therefore deficient, we may infer, in certain properties, it ought to possess: In all cases, a separation of this mucus, from the intestines, is an



object of importance which requires to be particularly attended to, as it differs from mucus in other situations, and often acquires a glairy gelatinous consistence, of the most viciid and tenacious kind: The difficulty of removing it can only be known to them, who have paid a proper attention to the subject, and repeated purgings, will hardly be sufficient in many cases to separate it from its attachments, particularly when pent up and confined to certain portions of the intestines, where the folds and windings favor its retention.

The action of the bowels to evacuate the fœces, is however its most coercive or violent operation, and in many cases where extraordinarily exerted, it has produced the most serious consequences in occasioning rupture, hæmorrhage of vessels, apoplexy, &c. ; nature certainly intended that

this operation should be done with ease and safety, and it is only in cases of disease, or from improper conduct on the part of the person himself, that it can be attended with danger, inconvenience, or pain; for rendering it an easy operation, it is clear the bile is formed by nature as the grand saponaceous compound to mix with the refuse of the aliment, and by this mixture to give the proper stimulus to the intestines for its discharge: A deficiency, or an excess of bile, therefore, will be equally injurious, and produce morbid effects connected with the discharge. The excess of bile in this climate, we have seen is not so frequent as its deficient state; but where it does take place, and produces a powerful spasmodic action of the bowels, it often occasions a morbid change of organization of the most serious consequence; the deficient bile induces,



as a consequence, a slow action of the bowels, as well as an increase of acrid mucus; accumulations of fœces next take place, in certain portions favorable to the retention of matters, particularly in the sigmoid flexure of the colon. The action of the bowels is occasionally exerted, but not with sufficient effect to get rid of the load they contain, and its muscular fibres are thus kept in a constant state of ineffectual exertion; a thickening at particular parts take place, laying the foundation of stricture, a disease of a most alarming nature, and incurable, unless where the assistance of the surgeon can be applied: The frequency of this disease, and of accumulations in various parts of the intestines, is proved by dissections; that these arise from the deficient and unhealthy secretion of bile cannot be doubted, when we find this secretion, the means nature em-

plays in a proper quantity for eliminating the canal; its importance therefore in the œconomy cannot be too strongly insisted on.

In all hepatic cases, strong conclusions may be drawn from the alvine operations, and the manner in which they are discharged, their appearance and consistence; wherever they are brought off with much straining, when the matter is scanty in proportion to the food, when it is small and apparently figured, or much compressed, or curled round resembling a corkscrew, when great ineffectual and painful exertion takes place with only a discharge of wind, and where the evacuation is frequently with a sputtering, or squirt, and the patient feels tight and banded about the body; under all these circumstances, a diseased state of the intestine is to be suspected, and should be ascertained by a careful and minute examination, which the prac-



titioner ought never to omit; as there is no disease to which the human frame is incident, that is more liable to remain undetected. This examination will most generally shew, either a thickening of some part of the rectum, or an actual stricture formed in the passage, and it cannot be too much imprest on the mind of every practitioner, that the presence of the above symptoms, affords always a certain indication of an altered structure, or morbid change in the passage, and the earliest means of ascertaining this, should never be lost sight of, as it is only by this early detection, effectual means can be employed to accomplish a cure; for indeed till this state of the intestine is taken off, it will be impossible for the liver to perform regularly its functions, for though the bile may be poured out and mixed with the feculent matter, the

stricture of the intestine will cause it to be retained, and accumulations constantly to go on, which the natural action of the bowels cannot overcome to render the discharge regular and free.

In several cases, such has been the accumulation of indurated fœces in the bowels, that at a particular part of this canal, they have been so completely aggregated into a mass as to entirely wedge up the intestine, and form into a kind of substance much resembling a solid tumor, both in its feel and in its sensible properties when pressed on, such-like apparent tumors I have known to take place in different parts of the abdomen; this appearance has often deceived practitioners, and it is not to be wondered at, from its occasioning by its irritation on the surface of the intestine, considerable inflammation and pain to take place, the same



as any other active mechanical cause ; such peculiar circumstances of disease, when once detected, require an active and energetic enforcement of medicine, and shews the nice and accurate discrimination, which is necessary to form a correct judgment of the real nature of such appearances, for without a practitioner is placed on his guard in this respect, he may often be misled by such phenomenon, viewing it as a tumor of a very different nature ; nor is it less necessary when once removed, that a proper attention be kept up to prevent the recurrence, which can only be done by relaxing the hepatic ducts, that the sparing secretion of bile may be amended, and that harmony of function restored between these parts which is essential to the complete establishment of health.

## XII. ON DROPSY.

This formidable disease, is too often the termination of liver complaints, when left to themselves, or incorrectly treated. Where this symptom appears, it may be considered as indicating a general breaking up of the constitution, and tho' in no case is a patient to be given up, it affords but a melancholy presage both to the practitioner, and to the invalid ; the latter, unfortunately, too often supposes this as his only complaint, and that if he could once get rid of the accumulated fluid, then he would be well ; the practitioner, indulgent to his prejudice, evacuates the water, which affords at the moment, some temporary relief, but a few weeks shew the accumulation as great as ever, and the miserable patient becomes a victim of disappointment and chagrin ; to this may be added that the weakness induced by the removal



of the fluid, too often hurries on the fatal event sooner than it would otherwise have taken place.

Dropsy from a disordered liver commonly discovers itself first in the form of ascites, where the fluid occupies the cavity of the abdomen ; paucity of urine is here the leading symptom, as in other cases of dropsy, and the skin possesses also the same dry feel, and anserine appearance ; The urine is not merely high coloured, but here it displays a real bilious tinge : It is not till the circulation of the liver becomes highly obstructed, that the effused fluid comes to accumulate ; so soon as the pressure on the venous system is so great, that the absorbents can no longer carry on their office, of removing the fluid poured out in the usual proportion as in health, then it must be deposited in the surrounding cavity, and a collection gradually takes place ; this collection, when it arrives

at a certain length, increases all the morbid symptoms which attend the original liver disease ; the affection of the stomach from the pressure of the fluid confining the situation of the organ, becomes aggravated ; the same takes place in regard to the lungs, and the dyspnœa, or difficulty of respiration, particularly in the recumbent posture, becomes alarming ; the sleep is highly disturbed with frightful dreams, and in the end, the fluid confined originally to the abdomen, is diffused also into the lower extremities, which acquire a prodigious size, and also ascends to the chest, producing hydrothorax : Under these circumstances, the pulse becomes intermittent, and the action of the heart highly irregular ; the oppression and sense of suffocation reduce the patient to the most dreadful state, and every night is for a length of time, expected by the attendants to be his last ; life however, even under this dread-



ful aggravation of disease, becomes often long protracted, till the unhappy sufferer is equally a burden to himself, and to his surrounding friends.

In directing the treatment here, the plan recommended for the cure of the liver complaint, (the origin and cause of these secondary symptoms), is never to be lost sight of, but to these means are to be farther joined such others, as may remove the pressure of the accumulation, by exciting the action of the absorbents, and opening both the skin and kidneys to perform their proper functions, in a degree beyond the usual standard of health. The operation of tapping seldom affords permanent relief; in the early stages it is more likely to answer best, because then there is a chance that the parts may recover their tone; but when the disease is so far advanced, that the parts are unable to regain their energy,

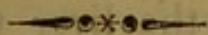
it generally accelerates the termination, by removing that remaining firmness and elasticity, which they even acquired from the pressure and distension of the fluid, acting as a mechanical stimulus upon them ; the cure therefore, is to be trusted to an energetic use of the remedies calculated to remove the primary malady, for without this, all other applications are in vain, and the prejudice of Surgeons in favour of operating in such cases, is often to be highly reprobated as injurious to the patient, and adding no eclat to themselves.

Dropsy will never arise in liver complaints, where the treatment recommended is early and zealously adapted, and this should be one strong inducement on the part of patients for an early attention to themselves. Here the proverb particularly applies,

“ Principius Obsta.”



## TREATMENT OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS.



Having thus explained the principal forms of hepatic disorders, shewing the extensive influence of the liver in the production, aggravation, and fatality of disease, we now come to consider the principles to be laid down in the treatment, the most important part of the whole ; chronic hepatitis, we have stated to be the most frequent in this country, and in proportion, as general as the acute in India ; that it is slow in its progress and deceptive in its appearance ; nay, that it will continue for years without the patient being aware of its existence, or its discovering such characteristic signs as may induce even a practitioner, to suppose that the ailments of the invalid owe their origin to this source.

From this view, there can be no doubt that every one will, on reflection, consider the disorders of the liver to be of the first importance, and will perceive the propriety of assiduously enquiring into their nature, in order that he may know them when they exist, and that the efforts to remedy them may be conducted on rational principles.

The state of chronic hepatitis, is materially different from that which marks the acute, while in the latter, a copious and morbidly increased secretion of bile prevails, tinging the skin, and working its way into every vessel, and pore; so in chronic hepatitis the reverse of this takes place, the slow and weakened circulation of the organ, lessens the secretion in the same proportion, and a deficiency of bile operates here, as the morbid cause with equal power, as its redundancy in the former condition: This opinion,



nearly new in practice, is confirmed by ample and conclusive experience, though contrary to the received notions of many of this country, by whom it is supposed, that all hepatic disorders owe their origin to an excess, rather than to a deficiency, of this active excrementitious fluid.

In all hepatic complaints, in order to ensure a successful practice, the first point is to understand accurately the state of the disease, and this is only learnt by a skilful examination of the secretions that pass by the stomach, and intestines, this is a part which has seldom been attended to by practitioners, but is of the first importance if properly considered; in all cases where the hepatic functions, are slow or impeded, the contents, both of the stomach and bowels, acquire a vitiated state; in the former, there is a faulty gastric secretion mistaken for bile, which it is not;

in the latter, there is a heavy, adhesive, glairy, and vitiated mucus which lines the intestines, of a most tenaceous consistence, and which prevents the regular action of these organs, and the formation of chyle in its proper state and quantity from the aliment received; these facts should have a material influence in directing a just, and successful mode of treatment, they are like beacons to the mariner, for his safe steerage and fortunate passage through the dangers of hepatic disease, and if attended to, they will enable the practitioner to form an accurate prognosis on their progress and termination. It is well known that those, accustomed to the inspection of the secretion of the kidneys, acquire a knowledge and experience in the variations, in the color, consistence, smell, and other particulars of that fluid, which qualify them to give the most



astonishing prognosis on the nature and issue of many diseases : The celebrated Dr. Lind, of Haslar Hospital, I am informed, never felt the pulse of his patients, but judged from the appearance of the tongue and the eye. In the same manner, I contend, that the knowledge of the existence, extent, and issue of hepatic diseases, is chiefly to be learnt from a careful and regular observation of the alvine discharges, which, again, I express, every medical man should be accustomed to make, as it requires time, and close observation, before he becomes sufficiently acquainted with all the varieties, which are evidenced in the appearance of the biliary secretion, and before he can with firm confidence, deduce from them such practical information as will confirm him in his opinion of the decided truths they invariably convey ; this is indeed a subject which no phy-

siologist has entered into, for, although there is an analysis given of the leading principles of the secretions of the human body by chemical writers, yet no examination has been made of their variations, in the state of health and disease; and of the different proportions which mark the same principles in these separate conditions; truly it is only by such an examination giving the necessary experience, that a person can be completely sensible of all the changes going on in this secretion, and its effects, which are often singular, numerous, and complicated, acting sometimes on the joints, at other times on the muscles; frequently affecting the mind, and driving the unhappy sufferer, in particular cases, to madness and suicide; at the same time, in by far the greater number of instances, there is no pain or other sensation, to direct us to the seat of the actual malady, and in three-fourths



of the cases, if there is any pain present, it is on the opposite side, where it fixes its power on the phrenic nerve in that direction.

Where bile is locked up, or a great accumulation of it takes place in the liver, and gall-bladder, it produces congestion, and consequently pressure upon the large blood vessels of the abdomen, obstructing the equilibrium of circulation ; the head here sympathizes, and always feels tight and corded, with a sense of stupidity, not unlike the effects that arise from the operation of opium ; there is also a dry burning heat of the skin, more particularly affecting the palms of the hands, the same as in hectic cases.

In conducting the treatment then, of this peculiar morbid cause, our remedies must be accommodated in their action to the progress of the disorder ; and in investigating the treatment of these complaints, it is neces-

sary to ascertain not only, what medicines are beneficial, but also what changes they produce in the circumstances of the case, and whether the secretions of the liver are either suspended, deficient, or vitiated.

Hepatic, or liver disorders, in this country, admit a division into two stages:

1. That of a simple derangement of the hepatic functions ; and
2. An actual change in the organization of this gland.

As the progress of chronic hepatitis is slow, so it is long before any altered structure of the liver takes place, though its functions may be interrupted, and its secretions imperfect, sparing, and of an improper quality ; the attendant symptoms in this stage, are affections of the stomach, headach, transient pains in different parts, particularly the shoulders and side, and lowness or depression of mind.



In all these cases, the sparing secretion occasions a sluggishness of bowels, and an attention to these circumstances, joined with a minute observation of the secretions, will invariably ascertain the true cause of the malady. The treatment here pointed out, is clearly to give full action to the stomach and bowels, by which the functions of the liver will materially be influenced; and I cannot indeed, too much impress, the indispensable necessity there is, that our grand aim should be directed to the well emulging of the biliary ducts, and the being completely satisfied as to that essential and important fact, that the peculiar secretion passing by this outlet, is free, and unembarrassed.

From the experience of practitioners in tropical climates, mercury has long been acknowledged, as the decided specific in all hepatic affections; but however proper it may be, in

the state of hepatitis in these climates, the same mode of treatment is not to be pursued here : The cure by mercury requires much judgment, nicety, and discrimination, to know the exact length to which it should be carried, for the purpose of acting upon the disease, without its being pushed so far, as to have such influence on the constitution, as may prove injurious to the general health.

The amazing doses of calomel borne in warm climates, is no criterion to go by here, and the habits of this country, though the mercurial principle may be just, require milder methods of proceeding ; mercury is to be used only in a gentle and discreet manner, and is seldom necessary for any length of time, in the first stage of the disease.

As we have seen, that a tough glairy mucus lines the coats of the intestines, in



hepatic cases, preventing the flow even of the small quantity of bile that is secreted, so the first step is, a careful removal of this vitiated matter, which keeps up morbid irritation, by the regular and constant exhibition of deobstruents; and during their use, the secretions should be judiciously noticed, to discern when this is fully effected, and when the secretions display the true character and natural bilious appearance; as soon as the latter takes place, the passage of the bile is ensured, and the preserving of this, and promoting its increased quantity by continuing to act on the functions of the liver, and augmenting its energy and circulation, are the next object; this is to be effected, by joining with our deobstruents at this period, such auxiliary remedies of the tonic and invigorating class, as may produce the desired effect, without at the same time lessening the

power of the deobstruents, which is never to be lost sight of; while we thus act on the organ and its secretions, the state of the stomach is not to be overlooked, the secretions here, are equally faulty as in the bowels; they consist, as we formerly stated, of a vitiated gastric matter resembling bile, but in fact possessing no portion of this fluid; and it is this circumstance which misleads practitioners, and makes them suppose, that there is rather an excess than deficiency of bile, when they observe the matter brought up by the efforts of vomiting; the stomach therefore ought to be corrected, as well as the bowels, of its similarly offending contents, which, from their irritation on the organ, generally continue the appetite unimpaired. It is only then, by these indications strictly laid down, and persevered in, that the cure of hepatic complaints can be accomplished;



for indeed the bowels may be apparently emptied, and a profuse discharge take place by them, such as will satisfy a patient that they are sufficiently open; and yet there may be a real confinement of the passage of the bile, or else little or none secreted. Hence we should by no means rest satisfied, until our endeavours have fully succeeded in emulging the liver : It is like the Augean stable, which demands equal zeal on the part of the patient, as on that of the practitioner, until this point is decidedly gained. The medicines employed should be assisted by diet and regimen ; in the choice of diet, the proportion of vegetable food of the mild farinaceous kind should here exceed, but those vegetables which are apt to ferment and create flatulence, or distention, should be studiously avoided : The animal food should consist principally of mutton or beef, but veal and pork is

to be avoided, as well as most of the white meats ; likewise all oily matters, as they will turn rancid on the stomach, and produce a greater acridity of the gastric juice. It is not however so much in the quality, as in the quantity of food, in which man generally errs, the food whatever it may be, should be well masticated, and I cannot too strongly enforce the absolute necessity there is for it to be well broken down with the teeth, and eaten leisurely, by which means the secretion of saliva will be increased and mixed with it, which passing into the stomach will promote digestion, and augment the powers of the organ, for the union of the gastric and salivary fluids is certainly intended to act by a chemical agency on the food, in the preparation and separation of chyle.

The meals, particularly dinner, should



also be made at an early hour, and supper should be as light as possible, instead of deferring full meals as is the present unhealthy fashion, to a late hour of the day; all fermented liquors are to be carefully avoided by the patient, and though a little wine may be indulged in, it should never be carried to that extent as to produce heat, or cause the fever of digestion to be sensibly felt.

By following up this arrangement, the first stage of chronic hepatitis may generally be remedied, and the nicety lies more in finding out the true cause of the disorder, than in the actual treatment at this period, which can only be done, we cannot too often repeat, by a careful inspection of the secretions; for the symptoms whether of stomach, bowels, head, or chest, are all equivocal, and may arise from a different cause than mere hepatic sympathy; hence the latter can only be as-

certained by a nice examination of the part or organ, which tells more in the advanced, than in the first stage of the disorder, or from observation of the alvine contents, which is at all times the truest evidence; and thus we are again reduced, as our certain criterion of information, to that observance of the secretions, so often recommended; the importance of which has never before been extensively surveyed, or accurately investigated,

## II. ALTERED ORGANIZATION OF THE LIVER.

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From the first stage, then, we come to the more advanced progress of the disease, where the structure of the liver has already undergone an alteration in its healthy texture, from enlargement of substance, and occlu-



sion of vessels ; this takes place in various degrees, and to various extent ; the morbid disposition also extends, from simple thickening, to the ultimate stage of scirrhusity : it is amazing, under the influence of that irritation, to which the liver is subjected in the course of disease, to what a size it will often attain, and what a quantity of solid matter will occasionally be added to its substance : surprizing instances of this, are to be found in the writings of medical authors ; and that these morbid changes may be properly understood, we shall refer to Dr. Baillie's excellent work on morbid anatomy, where they are traced with much accuracy, and nice anatomical investigation, under all their complicated varieties and appearances.

From this consideration of the ultimate stage of hepatic disease, as depending on the altered texture of the organ, it is clear it must

require the most active, and energetic means, to check the progress of such alarming evil; mercury, though partly objected to in the former stage, cannot be dispensed with here; it should be introduced as nearly as possible to the seat of the disease, and by this primary operation on the liver itself, in exciting its general action, and as it were emulging it, its effects will be more speedily experienced; and whether mercury ameliorates and augments the secretions of the other organs as it does that of the liver, remains a point yet to be ascertained.

With this medicine are to be joined, the powers of other deobstruents, most suited to make a decided and favorable impression on the organ, and by assisting the general remedies by local means, much advantage will arise in expediting a cure: It is not to be concealed however that there



is an ultimate stage, in which we cannot expect success, a strong reason for an early attention to the symptoms, which indicate the existence of such a disease ; in this case, the impeded circulation of the organ, producing pressure on the venous system, occasions the appearance of dropsy, and when this consequence of scirrhus liver shews itself, little is to be expected : This state however seldom occurs, till a late period of life, as already noticed on that subject, and where it does early, success will often attend our treatment.

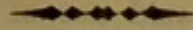
A popular remedy in liver complaints with most invalids, is the Cheltenham waters. However useful these waters may be in the convalescent state, they do no service in the actual stage of the disease, and when they are employed, it is unfortunate for the patient, by superseding the advantage of ac-

tive, and adequate means suited to the true nature and urgency of the disorder ; their application cannot be too much reprobated, as injurious and delusive in a real liver disorder, and till the patient is actually in a convalescent state, they should never be resorted to ; they may assist health already beginning to be restored, but can by no means bestow it in the first instance.

From this detailed and practical view of the treatment of hepatic complaints, in nine-tenths of the cases that occur, their removal is within the reach of such an active and attentive management as we have here enjoined ; and if the directions of the practitioner are strictly adhered to, and persevered in, we may with some confidence assert, that the result will be much oftner successful under very unfavorable circumstances, than could have been expected or *looked for*.



## CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.



Many who peruse the present work may feel disappointed, that the Author has not entered more largely into Theory ; but those who know the fallacy of all reasoning in medicine, will give him credit for making it entirely a Practical Treatise ; the statements recorded are all drawn from practical facts ; an attentive and unwearied investigation for several years on the various changes in the different secretions, has enabled him to furnish the preceding remarks on the subject, and by forming his indication, entirely from their state and appearance in the manner he has pointed out, he has been enabled to remove the complaints for which he has been applied to, and their removal has been always attended with a healthy return of the biliary discharge, which he invariably found the sure test of renovated health.

In concluding the present work, the Author must apologize to his readers for the seeming tautology that appears in some parts of it. This arises from his conviction of the importance of the subjects, and of the necessity of pressing, by repetition, certain leading points on the attention of his readers, whether professional or otherwise. It is his wish, that every one should view the attack of bilious diseases in the same formidable light that he does—they would then make use of every early effort in their power to remove them, and by such timely attention, prevent the many serious and fatal consequences, which too often arise from delay.

In the treatment, he has only entered into general

principles. This is sufficient for the profession, and for the public it is unnecessary to enter into medical minutiae, which they could not of themselves carry into effect. The utility of it to the public is to point out the frequency of hepatic disorders, the dangers of their continuance and neglect, and the importance of early caution to correct the habit, and prevent the accumulation of the secretion of the liver to excess, or its too sparing quantity, both equally productive causes of disease. Though many volumes have been written on the subject, there is no author who has impressed the indispensable necessity of vigilant attention, to the state of the secretions as a leading criterion to direct our conduct in this class of maladies, and the little regard which is to be paid to the state of the bowels alone without this circumstance : It is a maxim drawn from long and tried experience, and from a constant practice in the treatment of the disease presented to the author in all its forms and varieties in this and other climates.



## CASES.

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To illustrate the practice detailed in the preceeding pages, and to shew the success which has uniformly attended its proper application, I shall now enumerate a select number of cases, which have fallen under my care, out of a great many others equally fortunate.

### CASE. HYDROCEPHALUS INTERNUS.

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Towards the end of last year, I was consulted respecting the case of a delicate young lady nearly four years of age, who had for some days previous to my visit, been attacked with fever, and for the preceding twenty hours had been lying in a state of stupefaction, apparently resembling one asleep : On minute examination of the appearances, I was fully satisfied, it was a case of real hydrocephalus ; It was with difficulty I could rouse her for a moment, when her eyes were immediately again closed, the pupils, on inspection, appeared much dilated, and occasionally turned upwards, there was also a disposition to squinting or strabismus ; at this time the drowsiness had been constant for eight hours ; the bowels extremely confined, the pulse much accelerated with some degree of fulness : Forming my conclusions on the nature of this disease, as arising from a primary affection of the liver, I immediately began as the plan of cure, to excite the action of this organ : Blood was drawn from its region by cupping, and enemas thrown up into the bowels, joined with strong

cathartics ; next day produced no change on the symptoms of the patient, on the contrary the torpor and drowsiness seemed increased, for she lay in a total senseless or comatose state ; the strabismus or squinting was now completely formed ; the bowels still continued obstinately constipated, in spite of the exhibition of the cathartics, which produced only a trifling discharge, probably brought on by the glysters ; finding my patient continued in this alarming state, I had recourse to the most active means, the cupping was repeated to the extent of several ounces, succeeded by the application of a blister on the hypochondriac region, the head was kept well raised and a cool regimen enjoined : the following medicines were likewise administerd ;

R Pulv: Scam. Comp: gr. ij.

Hydrar: Submur: gr. i. ft: Pulv: secund:  
quaq: hora sumend:

R Potass: Tart: . . ʒiij.

Mann: Opt: . . ʒvi.

Resin: Jalap: . gr: xij.

Infus: Sennæ . . ʒiv ss.

Tinct: Aloes . ʒiij. m: ft: mist: sum:

Coch: ij. mag: sing: hor: post: Pulv:

In addition to the above, enemas were continued.

On the fifth day from my commencement, I had the pleasing satisfaction to observe the bowels disposed to resume their natural action, the motions became more copious ; my plan was still continued and directed to the affection of the liver : In the progress, the symptoms varied, and were alternately better and worse, and often accompanied by an uncommon degree of torpor.



It was not until the 8th day, the action of the liver seemed recovered from its lethargic condition, and the suspended operation of its functions, which hitherto prevailed ; this was apparent by the motions, which now assumed their proper and healthy bilious tinge, having the appearance of wetted rhubarb, this appearance confirmed me in the happy presage I had formed, in which I was not disappointed, the stupor and drowsiness gradually abated ; but still afraid of a relapse, and that the biliary secretions might be again defective, I paid the strictest attention to its progressive operations, by which, the return of health and complete recovery was ensured in 18 days from the period of my first visit. Such cases of hydrocephalus, depending clearly in a hepatic source, require all the energies of the practitioner to be employed, and no direct or clear opinion can be pronounced, as to the recovery, until the object of well emulging this organ is decidedly effected, as the heaviness, and the other symptoms of the head in these cases are only a consequence of a suffering and impervious or closed liver.

#### CASE. ACCUMULATION OF DISEASED MUCUS.

Mr. K—, of Hunter-street, aged 58, corpulent and plethoric in his habit, had for several years been occasionally subject to pain and tightness of the chest ; on going up stairs, or any ascent, the breathing became immediately affected, and he was compelled to pause from stair to stair in order to get breath ; his pulse had been marked to have occasional interruptions during the last



three years, the intermissions of which were sometimes really alarming from the long pauses made in the circulation: Some months since being requested to visit him, I found on enquiry he had passed considerable discharges from the bowels of extremely heavy viscid mucus, of a yellowish color, and previous to my visit at this time, he had passed several motions of this kind: I ordered him, in this state, immediately to bed, and for three days he took small doses of the subcarbonate of potash locked up in the almond mixture, every four hours, with a thin diet, chiefly of gruel: for four days he continued to discharge, several times in the course of each day, large quantities of mucus, unmixed with any other matter, to the extent, I am firmly convinced, of from eight to twelve pounds; his diet was carefully improved till the bowels had acquired some apparent strength, and marks of recovery; the removal of this astonishing load of mucus, seems to have acted on the patient like a charm, the pain of the chest was wholly removed, he could ascend the stairs with comfort and ease: His case had been considered by several medical gentlemen whom he had consulted, as dropsy of the chest, by some, as an accumulation of fat about the heart, and by others, as ossification of the vessels. This case tends clearly to shew, what serious symptoms may be produced solely by immense collections of mucus, acting either from its weight or vitiated and diseased condition; I could enumerate several other instances, where the accumulations of such mucus, occasioned symptoms of the highest importance and concern, all produced from a defective secretion of bile, and a corresponding torpor of the intestines.



## MISTAKEN PECTORAL CASES.

An officer of rank in the army, recently arrived from the West Indies, and who resided at the New Hummums, Covent Garden, became my patient in February last. He had, while in the West Indies, been subject to an affection of the liver. His present symptoms were a troublesome cough, attended with oppression of the chest, and some fever, his skin was hot and dry, and he expectorated much yellow matter resembling pus, which created in him much uneasiness and alarm, fearing that it might arise from ulceration of the lungs. I assured him, however, that this expectoration was nothing more than vitiated mucus, and that the whole train of symptoms were connected with a disordered condition of the liver, and not any diseased state of the lungs. My opinion was verified by the issue of the complaint, from which he entirely recovered in less than a month.

Mr. B —, of South Audley-street, of a delicate constitution, about 20 years of age, had been residing some time in the country, where he had bathed several times. On his return to town, I was called to attend him, when I found him laboring under considerable influence of fever, violent pain of the head, with a thick coated tongue, and extremely thirsty, face flushed, and a general increase of heat pervaded the body, pulse particularly accelerated with some hardness; he had been poorly some few days, feeling alternate chills and heats.



He was confined to his bed, and by febrifuge, and deobstruent medicines, in about a fortnight he became convalescent, which induced him to take an airing in the carriage, he remained out some time, during which he felt the air to chill him considerably; and in the space of 24 hours from this period, a fresh accession of fever took place, accompanied with considerable tightness, and oppression of the chest, attended with some cough, pulse full and frequent, bowels betrayed an evident fault in the biliary secretion. In about ten days the fever assumed an intermittent, or aguish character of the tertian form, the cough still continuing, and in a short time, this was succeeded with an expectoration apparently purulent. A highly respectable physician was at this time in attendance with me, who after a few visits decidedly pronounced the disease as marked consumption, pointing out to me his positive belief that tubercles had formed in the lungs, and in order to give his opinion greater weight, he particularly referred me to some valuable observations of the late Dr. Heberden recorded in the Medical Transactions, on the formation of matter, and the errors sometimes committed in viewing the fever as of the intermittent stamp, instead of seeing it in its true hectic bearing. The cough and spitting continued, as did the intermittent, his opinion remained the same, indeed the conclusion drawn by him was, that the patient could not outlive two or three months; in this decision, however, I entirely differed from him, and this I stated to the friends of the patient, observing that I considered the chills or rigors, as marking a diseased condition of the liver, and not of the lungs. The event verified my prediction, as, in the course of a few months he recovered.



Miss G——, aged 11 years, daughter of a merchant in the city, was sent to Kensington, for country air, at the express desire of her medical attendants, who pronounced her to be in a deep decline, or last stage of pulmonary consumption. She was at this time placed under my care, I found her with a teasing and almost incessant cough, attended by an immense quantity of expectoration of thick mucus resembling pus, with a dry hectic heat over the whole body, great thirst, much emaciation, and considerable debility, to that degree she could scarcely stand: The pulse beat 120 in the minute. On minutely examining this case, I was soon fully satisfied that her alarming train of symptoms did not arise from an organic affection or ulcerated state of the lungs, but from a considerable obstruction or altered structure of the liver, indeed this was the case to an extensive degree, as an enlargement of this organ was distinctly marked at its lower lobe. Hence this expectoration consisted not of real pus, but vitiated mucus depending on the fixed irritation kept up in the pulmonary organs from this cause, by the increased action produced in these parts. My opinion was justified by the event; the arrangement of her case commenced early in July, and by the end of August, her health was re-established.



Miss N——, about 13 years of age, born at Jamaica, had arrived in this country four months. At the time I was consulted, she was under the care of two physicians, both men of importance, who gave it as their opinion, that her disease was pulmonary consumption,



and that ulceration had absolutely taken place in the substance of the lungs. On my first visit I found her labouring under a severe hollow cough coming on in violent fits, but not quite so severe as it had been ; the pulse was small and exceedingly accelerated ; the tongue was little affected ; her expectorations consisted of large quantities of viscid mucus resembling pus, but was really nothing else but mucus secreted from an irritating cause, and shewing a diseased appearance. After examining the side and body, in a very careful manner, and seeing her again, at which time I had an opportunity of viewing the secretions : I pronounced the disease to be evidently an affection of the liver, and that the lungs were suffering from the cavity of the chest being contracted, from which confinement they were incapable of performing their functions, but with difficulty and distress ; shortly after this the expectoration ceased, and her health progressively improved to her full recovery.

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I have now under my care the case of a gentleman, 40 years of age, who had six months previous to my seeing him laboured under a cough and difficulty of breathing, referred by those physicians who had hitherto attended him, to a diseased state of the lungs. On his application to me, the leading symptoms were much emaciation, impeded respiration with a teasing cough, to that degree he could not lie in bed without having his chest raised, great dejection of mind and prostration of strength, with a slight pain at the pit of the stomach ; his pulse at this time was 120, with a hot and



dry skin, the appetite not much impaired, but he felt full and uneasy after dinner, the tongue apparently in a natural state. On examining the body, I clearly discovered some fullness in the right hypochondriac region, and on pressing my finger in the situation of the liver, it produced sensible pain and uneasiness, causing him such irritation, as to oblige him to cough considerably. Here then was embodied the source of the mischief; a considerable enlargement had taken place in the liver, which was sufficiently perceptible at the margin of the ribs, this enlargement no doubt extended deep into the organ, and equally pervaded its upper surface; the consequence then of this alteration of structure, was to curtail the usual space of the thoracic viscera, by the pressure made on the diaphragm, the natural effect of which would be by the confinement induced, the teasing cough constantly present in such cases.

He was immediately placed on a course of mild deobstruents, and I directed to be rubbed over the right side, for 25 minutes every night, the following liniment:

R Ung: Hyd: Fort: 3ss.

Camphor: gr. iv. ft: Lin:

In the course of a few days, a decided amendment took place, the cough became less troublesome, his breathing freer and less impeded, and in a fortnight the cough had almost left him, the pulse is daily lessening in frequency, and the general hectic heat greatly abated; at the end of five or six weeks, I entertain no doubt but that he will be completely recovered, as the enlargement of the liver is already very considerably reduced.



Mrs. P.—, of Phillimore Place, Kensington, of a thin and delicate frame, about 38 years of age. Her complaints were a severe cough, with much oppression of chest and laborious breathing for some time, and to that degree, that the least motion in moving up or down stairs, occasioned such distress in the respiration, as rendered her unable for a while to speak ; she had been under the care of several medical gentlemen, who had prescribed for her a variety of pectoral medicines, without any lasting relief. The source of her cough and pulmonary symptoms I soon discovered to be seated in the liver, the upper lobe of which being enlarged, pressed on the diaphragm, and thereby confined the situation of the lungs, which not being allowed their proper expansion, impeded their functions ; the lower edge of the liver was much thickened, which led me of course to consider that its upper surface might have become in the same altered state. In a few days from this view of her disease, I was enabled to considerably relieve her, and at the expiration of six weeks, she was perfectly well.

The preceding cases place in a stronger point of view, (what has been only casually noticed by former writers,) the strong influence which a disordered condition of the liver has on some of the principal organs, particularly on the pulmonic system. From not having a thorough knowledge of this fact, some of the first professional characters have been misled, both in their prognosis and treatment ; hence, we cannot be too much on our guard in all cases where the lungs are affected, in investigating whether these organs, or the liver, are the primary seat of the malady, and the central and active source of the morbid irritation.



## CASES. ACUTE HEPATITIS.

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Miss —, in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy Square, aged 22, of a delicate and spare constitution, was attacked with acute hepatitis, the earliest symptom she experienced, was that of feeling so extremely heavy and disposed to sleep, that it was with great difficulty she could at all keep herself awake, this arose about 14 hours previous to the attack of pain, which now she began to feel in a very sensible degree in the right hypochondrium, shooting to the back and shoulders, accompanied with considerable general heat, full and quick pulse, much thirst, great restlessness and uneasiness; the liver, when pressed on with the fingers, was so exquisitely painful as to occasion her to experience great distress, the bowels had been in a state of confinement some time, she felt some oppression of the chest, but without cough; bleeding was instantly employed to the amount of ten ounces, with active cathartics; on finding, at the distance of 8 hours, the inflammation was extending over the membrane of the abdomen, with an increase of pain, the bleeding was repeated, cupping over the part was likewise used; observing the bowels were not acted upon in any way satisfactorily, I ordered glysters to be thrown up every six hours, at the same time following up nearly such an arrangement as recommended in the treatment of this disease. She went through a most restless and painful night, and in the morning the symptoms of spreading inflammation had much increased, with a general tenderness over the chief part of the peritonæum, the pulse felt tight, full, and much



accelerated, the tongue foul, with great thirst ; bowels had acted, but sparingly : She was bled a third time nearly to fainting, cupping was again had recourse to, subsequent to which a large blister was applied over the right side, towards evening the pain was in a great degree arrested, inflammation was reduced, and a general relief was the consequence. The bowels happily had now been emptying themselves more freely, the discharges were highly foetid, and appeared like *foeces* long confined ; from this period the symptoms gradually yielded, she passed a much better night, with occasional slumbers, and in the morning I observed she had discharged several black liquid motions, which continued of that nature through the day, every thing now assumed the most favorable disposition, and by keeping up the principle advised under the head of treatment for acute hepatitis, my patient daily amended, and her recovery was completely effected in three weeks.

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Mr. Y——, of Bernard-street, aged 49, of tall stature, and delicate make, who had returned to this country six months from Barbadoes, where he had resided some years. He had not enjoyed good health for a considerable time, was in the habit of taking freely of wine, and of late his legs swelled towards evening. In the month of June, I was desired to visit him, and found his disease to be an acute affection of the liver, much pungent pain over the organ, cough with short and laboured respiration, extremely thirsty with furred tongue, a diffused dry heat pervaded over the whole of the body, the pulse was hard, full, and frequent, could not lye but



on the right side, great dejection of spirits, and considerable restlessness; he had been laboring under these symptoms nearly twenty hours previous to my having seen him, and which had the last four hours increased with considerable violence. Immediately about eight ounces of blood were drawn from the arm, and cupping over the side to the amount of nine ounces more; he was likewise ordered the following :

R Hyd: Submuriat: gr. xij.

Ext: Colocynth: Comp: gr. xxv.

Sap: Castill: gr. x. ft: Pil: ix.

Sumt: iij. quaque hora.

R Infus: Sennæ ℥iv.

Potassæ Tart: ℥v.

Mannæ ℥ss.

Tinct: Jalap:

— Aloes  $\overline{aa}$  ℥i ss: m: ft: mist:

Capt: Coch: iv. mag: cum sing: dos: Pil:

The medicines operated, and brought from the bowels a considerable quantity of foetid water, but no solid matter, nor were there scarce any fæces mixed with the discharges, the breath was relieved, but the pain of the side had increased, and the inflammation extended over a large surface of the peritonæum, the pulse was more frequent, and somewhat irregular, fearing from the mode of his general living, and his present state of constitution, I hesitated about bleeding again from the arm, thinking I might impoverish too much his debilitated powers, therefore as he objected to cupping again, 15 leeches were applied over the side and abdomen, and a cathartic enema injected, a short time after which, a profuse

operation from the bowels came on, bringing off an immense quantity of feculent matter, most highly offensive in smell, after which he experienced almost instant relief; he was then ordered the following:

R Lact: Amygd:  $\mathfrak{z}$ i. ss.

Magnes: Sulph:  $\mathfrak{z}$ i. ss.

Mann: Opt: . .  $\mathfrak{z}$ i.

Pulv: Ipecac: gr. ss. ft. Haust.

4<sup>a</sup>. quaque hora sumendus.

The bowels kept discharging, and in proportion as they seemed emptied, the inflammatory symptoms diminished, and by confining him to his bed, on a low vegetable diet and acid drinks, making such alterations in the medicines, and on other points proportioned to the improved condition of his strength, as he was by degrees getting better, and at the end of 14 days his health appeared restored; but considering this indisposition as arising from an imperfect secretion of bile, he was advised to continue on some deobstruent plan for a month, with a suitable diet, when his health was entirely re-established.

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Mr. F——, of Marchmont Street, of a plethoric temperament, aged 29, was attacked with acute hepatitis, it commenced with shiverings, nausea, followed by a considerable vomiting of vitiated gastric fluid, tightness of the chest, with some oppression of respiration and cough, headach, great thirst, with considerable diffused heat over the whole body, pulse hard, full, and much accelerated, attended with great restlessness and acute



pain of the right side, running towards the shoulder blades, the gentlest pressure over the liver, gave him exquisite pain, uneasiness, and a disposition to cough ; these symptoms began to affect him in the night, and were amazingly increased by the morning, when I first visited him ; I instantly bled him from a large orifice in the arm to the extent of 14 ounces, and ordered some active cathartic medicines. In the evening of the same day, the inflammatory symptoms were materially increased, the bowels had been operated on but sparingly. Bleeding was again employed, and as the pain of the side had increased, and was spreading over the peritonæum, cupping over the part to the quantity of 8 ounces was likewise had recourse to, with cooling deobstruent medicines, &c. ; he was very restless through the night with occasional delirium, and in the morning I found the symptoms were considerably augmented, with a general extending inflammation over the whole membrane of the abdomen. Fourteen ounces more of blood were taken from the arm, and he was again cupped, cathartic enemata were thrown up.

Indeed this case was stubborn, and accompanied with such high inflammatory action, as did not yield until after seven bleedings from the arm, being cupped over the side and abdomen four times, and having twelve leeches applied ; the bowels were very torpid, and it was not till the third day, that they operated at all efficiently ; at this period my patient's dangerous and alarming state, was by degrees removed, and by strict care and nice attention (such as I have previously advised) for a week, the symptoms of inflammation were wholly overcome, and his health restored in rather more than three weeks.



## CHRONIC HEPATITIS.

CASES.

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Mr. L——, a gentleman, 38 years of age, after a residence of ten years at Bengal, returned to this country, two months after which, he felt himself indisposed, and complained of great debility; considerable pain, resembling rheumatism was felt in both shoulders, more particularly occupying the left one, attended with a dull heavy pain occasionally in the right side; these symptoms were attended with considerable depression of spirits, his skin was hot and dry, more especially the palms of the hands, which towards evening were exceedingly uneasy, with a mottled appearance and burning heat; the appetite was good, rather keen than otherwise, his nights however were restless, and often interrupted by frightful dreams and distressing apprehensions, the pulse was but little affected, there was no increased thirst: yet in the morning the tongue at the root part was coated with much thick mucus.

After having ascertained these particulars, I examined the region of the liver, where on pressing my finger, he described it, as occasioning him much uneasiness and pain; the alvine excretions were particularly improper; I prescribed him a course of medicines so as to alter the deranged functions of the liver, and thereby repair the faulty bilious secretion, by which means his recovery was effected in six weeks.

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In January last I was consulted, by letter, from a gentleman of Southampton, who was recommended to me by his relation, whom I had attended in town, with an affection of the liver, and who, at this period, was on a visit to him ; and as the description given of the complaint was tolerably accurate, I prescribed medicines for the case.

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*Southampton, January 4, 1814.*

SIR,

Having been strongly recommended to consult you on my case, by Mr. H. late your patient, and not having it in my power to quit home, I considered, if I drew up a statement of my sufferings, you might be enabled to render me some service.

I have been getting very poorly for these last three years, and which of late has much increased, my age is 42. I, at times, have a dull heavy pain about the shoulder blades, occasionally feel a fullness and tightness of the right side, always after dinner I feel full and much inclined to sleep ; my appetite is good, I eat of nourishing kinds of food, yet feel weak, and any trifling exertion fatigues me, I have no thirst or fever ; towards evening my hands are dry and hot, my nights are disturbed by distressing dreams, my stomach and bowels seem always full of wind. I am generally costive, yet occasionally the bowels are relaxed. Often when I go to motion I have much straining, and little or none comes away : My water is nearly as pale as spring water, I am much cast down in my



spirits. If you are from these particulars able to render me benefit, I shall ever gratefully acknowledge the same.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

J. N.

*To Mr. Faithhorn, Surgeon,  
Berners'-street, London.*



From the above plain statement it appeared, that the biliary secretions had long been in a highly deranged state, and that there prevailed an irregular condition of the bowels, such as sometimes attends a flow of the bile, or other times its total occlusion, or imperfect formation; the cause of this was evidently both a slow or impeded circulation of the organ, and also a quantity of viscid slime or mucus, obstructing the biliary ducts, and likewise lining the surface of the bowels, thus preventing the flow of the bile into the duodenum. In my directions therefore, two objects were to be attended to, the first was, to remove the vitiated mucus which had accumulated in these passages; and the second, that of giving the due action to the liver, by which its functions might be properly carried on; both these points were happily accomplished by the plan recommended, and in the space of three weeks I succeeded in giving him complete satisfaction, his health being greatly restored, and from the perseverance of a month longer, with some addition of tonic, and other invigorating remedies, his constitution was so amended, that he declared in his last correspondence to me, that his spirits, and general frame of health, appeared to him as vigorous as ever.



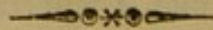
Mr. P——, a gentleman of a firm muscular habit, and in stature rather above the middle size, who had been long in business, and at the age of 65, retired from active life, began, in the course of a twelvemonth, to be much troubled with symptoms of indigestion, flatulence, and occasional pains of the right side, extending to the top of the shoulder; in the early part of the day, he was tolerably well, but immediately after a full meal, felt much distension, pressure, and uneasiness; his nights, if not sleepless, were much broken and interrupted by a slow hectic, which occasioned considerable irritation, his look was sallow, the eyes had a dull yellow tinge, were heavy, and oppressed, his bowels were irregular, but generally constipated, his urine in small quantities and high colored; this train of symptoms had been gradually increasing, and though not such as to prove highly alarming, yet they rendered him in the highest degree uncomfortable, and preyed on his mind and spirits in a wonderful degree; in this state, exercise was a burthen, and he could not relish any thing that was attended with exertion, or created any activity on his part; what he formerly took pleasure in, was now irksome and distressing, and he seemed to possess the real *tedium vitæ*, with every means of enjoyment in his power.

On being called to him, I entertained no doubt of the origin and nature of his complaints, and on examining the region of the liver, there was felt some slight uneasiness on pressure, and the margin, though not sensibly enlarged to the touch, was firmer and fuller than it ought to be; the alvine excretions were of a dry, firm, and compressed appearance, wanting both that mucus destined for the purpose of lubricating them, and also that yellow fecu-



lent character, which shews a proper mixture of the biliary secretion, and in its due quantity.

In directing the treatment, the first step I considered necessary, was to give action to the biliary secretion, by affecting both the liver, and also expediting its secretion through the intestines; the consequence of this was, that the state of the system became very soon altered, the power of the stomach was improved, and the process of digestion rendered active and correct; the same change was operated on in the bowels, the secretions of which acquired their proper yellow color, were less tenacious and firm, and became covered with a thin layer of mucus; these changes were rapidly followed by a return of health, animation, and spirits, and a total loss of the unpleasant symptoms that had for a long time past embittered life: The patient resumed, with alacrity, his former habits, entered into the society of his acquaintance and friends with satisfaction, and saw every thing in that agreeable light which attends a healthy body and contented mind; the same plan was continued for some time, and so sensible was the patient of its advantages, that he would by no means give up his medicines, after I had considered them as no longer necessary.



Mr. F——, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, was under my care for a chronic affection of the liver, the symptoms of which were confined to acute pain about the shoulder blade, and restless uneasy nights. On examining the side, I found the lower surface of the liver thickened, and somewhat hardened. He was immediately put on a proper course of deobstruents, with suit-



able instructions, when at the end of two months his health was entirely re-established.

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In December last, I was requested to visit Mr. W—, of Baker-street, aged 47, who had been ill twelve months, he was of a sallow complexion, appeared much emaciated at this time, and labored under an exquisite formed hectic fever, his stomach was irritable, and much affected with nausea and vomiting, more particularly on the taking of solid food, he had also a slight cough, some tightness in breathing, a considerable quantity of dry burning heat pervaded the whole body, the tongue appeared dry, without any mucus covering, pulse was hard, and quick with irregularity, and he experienced excessive thirst. On examining the abdomen, I observed some considerable fullness of the right hypochondriac region, acutely painful to the touch, and on much pressure, nearly occasioning fainting.

From the appearances altogether, I felt scarce any doubt that suppuration had taken place in the substance of the liver, but as it did not point favourably for the success of an operation, none could, with propriety, be adopted; however, at the end of a fortnight, the abscess burst, and nature, most fortunately for the patient, emptied the matter through the biliary ducts, and it continued to pass by the bowels for three weeks; from this period, the fever, and other symptoms, gradually subsided; by mild tonic medicines, joined with some deobstruents, and a carefully arranged diet, he, to the astonishment of all his friends, in the space of three months regained his health.

Mrs. K——, of a tender and nervous constitution, came out of Essex to place herself under my care, she had been ailing four years, and had sought relief from several of the faculty without any permanent benefit : She complained of a pain in the left side, distress in the stomach after meals, more particularly after dinner, which would often be rejected, considerable quantity of flatulence in the bowels, her tongue was clean, without fever or thirst, appetite unimpaired, her nights were restless, being much annoyed with frightful and alarming dreams, the palms of the hands generally felt hot and burning, bowels were irregular, her mind seemed under the influence of considerable depression : Judging from the outline of these symptoms, that the liver might be the primary and only cause of her sufferings, I was led to examine the side, when I discovered a fullness and some hardness of the edges of this organ, the secretions of the bowels were in quantity scanty, and, in quality, egregiously incorrect ; the first step I proceeded on in this case, was to cleanse well the alimentary canal, with the following

R Hydrar: Submuriat: gr. v.  
 Al: Soccot: . . . gr. iv.  
 Sap: Castil: . . . gr. viii.  
 Pip: Ind: Cay: gr.  $\frac{1}{6}$  ft. Pil: iv. h: s: sumendus.  
 R Pulv: Rhei:  
 Potass: Subcarb: aa 3ss.  
 Magn: Carb: . ʒi.  
 Tin: Sennæ: . . 3ij.  
 Sacch: Alb: . . ʒiv.  
 Sp: Ammon: C: m. xxx.  
 Aq: Distil: 3iv. m. ft.  
 Mist: Sumr: dimid: cras primo mane et  
 reliq: 2<sup>da</sup>. hor: postea.



After those medicines were taken, I proceeded on that arrangement of principle which kept the great cause the liver in view, and by bringing it to a more correct action, it consequently was enabled to secrete its bile more perfectly, by which means the spirits and strength of my patient became improved, and her general health was regained at the end of nine weeks.

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Mr. C——, of Wimpole-street, aged 42, of short stature, and rather of a full make, had throughout his life, until within these five last months, enjoyed a good share of health. On his application to me, he complained of some tightness over his eyes, with a general state of lassitude and debility, much depressed in his spirits, and inclined to melancholy, his countenance was sallow, with a considerable heaviness and dullness of the eyes, appetite so increased as often to make him think that enough was not provided, and he eat his food with much eagerness, (this symptom I have often noticed in hepatic obstructions) bowels constipated, and when acted on, the operations were made with much straining effort and difficulty, with but a small discharge, pulse good, and has no particular thirst. The secretions were highly incorrect and vitiated, the abdomen felt hard and distended, and the edge of the liver was much thickened. The first consideration in this case, was to take off the determination of blood to the head, by brisk cathartics, preceded by cupping at the back of the neck, after which, in order to render the action of the hepatic organs more perfect, he was put on a short course of deobstruents, and in five weeks his complaints were completely removed.



Mr. P——, 44 years of age, and who had passed several years of his life at Jamaica, had, till within these two years, been of an active and cheerful turn of mind, but something had for many months so preyed on his spirits, as to render those things which were the most comfortable and agreeable to him, the most burthensome and distressing. On his application to me, he observed: he could not account for that dull and heavy state of oppression he experienced, no pain was felt, his appetite was good, and the only symptom which he particularly noticed to me was his being troubled with immense quantities of wind, and in such abundance, as obliged him to frequently be throwing it off the stomach, which from the noise it often occasioned, used to perplex and vex him exceedingly; his general countenance appeared cast down, pulse rather depressed, his sleep was heavy, and he did not awake as he formerly did, but felt a great exertion required to rouse himself, bowels acted daily once, but this operation was performed with much difficulty and straining effort.

Judging from the large collections of wind which were constantly generating in the stomach, (and which could not possibly be formed if the biliary and gastric fluids were in a correct condition), that the liver did not perform its office with that necessary energy required, directed me to examine in what state the organ felt, this I did, and could not discover any thing to draw any practical conclusion from, as there was neither sensible enlargement nor induration; I then proceeded to observe the secretions with diligence, and here I obtained such full and sufficient evidence of their unhealthy character, as to completely satisfy me that the primary cause of this patient's des-



pondency, and large accumulations of wind, originated from the morbid and imperfect bile, which the organ had been for a long period pouring out ; thus having obtained from this accurate test, such unerrable intelligence as to the nature of this case, I felt no difficulty in assuring my patient, that, by attentively persevering in the deobstruent arrangement which I should prescribe for him, that he would obtain, in a short time, a return of general health and spirits, and which was fully attained in the course of eleven weeks, by rousing the torpid liver to that energy capable of secreting its fluid in quality and quantity correct.

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Mr. H——, of Gower-street, after a residence of seventeen years on the Malabar coast, was of late affected with a dull heavy sensation in the right side, to which was joined a stiffness and inability of the ankles and knee-joints. A particular sense of heaviness always seized him after dinner ; the pulse was no way affected. On examining the affected side, it appeared fuller than the opposite one, and the edges of the liver evidently hardened and sharp. The diet and medicines prescribed were strictly persevered in for seven weeks, at which period he was perfectly restored.

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Miss D——, of Beaumont-street, of pale complexion, aged 24, had not been well for a length of time ; at the period I was consulted she informed me her spirits were exceedingly low and depressed, that every thing around her appeared dreary and dismal, with every effort made in her power to oppose its influence, but without effect,



her head often felt tight, and occasionally was attacked with giddiness, her remaining long in a confined situation, or any particular effluvia arising even from dinner, would often bring on fainting, the slightest circumstance usually caused a flushing of the face, which, after dinner, or on taking a glass of wine, became highly and distressingly so; she was subject to very cold feet, appetite irregular, a good deal troubled with flatulence, and fullness about the pit of the stomach, her nights' rest were tolerable, pulse small and depressed, no thirst, nor was the tongue affected; bowels confined.

On viewing the secretions, which betrayed sufficient evidence of incorrectness, both in quantity and quality, causes fully adequate to upset the proper economy of other organs, which generally sympathize with a disturbed liver. In this case, those principles were enforced capable of unloading this gland of its impure bile, and bringing its action to that standard suitable to the secretion of a more healthy kind, and in accomplishing this, which was secured in rather more than seven weeks, my patient's recovery was perfected.

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Mr. V——, of Devonshire-place, aged 59, of a tall, thin make, who had in general enjoyed a good share of health, which was interrupted, these last three months, by a considerable drowsiness and disposition to sleep, and which, after dinner, was so much increased, as required great exertion in order to prevent his falling asleep, was much annoyed with large collections of wind in the stomach, and generally felt oppressed after meals, had pains occasionally running over the left side, was without



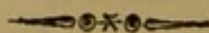
thirst, with a regular pulse, had of late been losing flesh, more particularly so about the face, which appeared greatly emaciated, bowels irregular, felt a general weakness and debility, every trifling exertion fatigued him, his rest at nights were pretty good, yet in the morning he felt tired and unrefreshed, with as much seeming weakness, as if he had not rested at all, this latter circumstance is a frequent attendant in these complaints, and usually indicates an improper chylication, from the deficient powers of the absorbents, occasioned by the torpid liver; by absorbents and deobstruent remedies suited to energize this organ, and correct its secretions, which were materially wrong; in strictly keeping to the regimen enjoined, and these means, his health was regained in a month.

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Mrs. W——, of Charlotte-street, aged 34, lusty, and of a plethoric habit, who had been married ten years, and been the mother of six children, for the last fifteen months had felt herself extremely poorly, and on her consulting me, complained of much tightness and oppression of the chest, with some obstruction of respiration, almost constant headaches, with occasional giddiness to that degree, as often to make her afraid of falling, no thirst, appetite somewhat impaired, is largely troubled with wind, both in the stomach and bowels, the catamenia regular, bowels constipated, and when operating, discharge very sparingly, and that with great straining exertion; the skin feels hot, dry, and burning, pulse in a measure depressed, countenance leaden and sallow, with weight and heaviness of the eyes. After having



observed the secretions, which were exceedingly improper, I examined the right side, but could not detect from the feel of the liver, at this part, any alteration, although from the symptoms and state of the secretions, there remained no doubt on my mind, that the upper part of its surface was considerably diseased. The first step I took in this case was that of cupping from the nape of the neck, with a pretty strong and brisk cathartic, followed by drawing blood from the hypochondriac region with leeches, and then directing her strictly to persevere in the deobstruent arrangement advised, which after having taken a week, began to operate on the functions of the liver as seen by the improved condition of its secretions; this kept gradually going on amending to the return of health, which was established in rather better than six weeks.



Mr. O——, of Orchard-street, aged 36, of a lean spare habit, had found himself not altogether well for near ten months, at the time of my seeing him, his principal ailment was a constant disposition to drowsiness, and to that degree did it prevail after dinner, that it was with much difficulty he could keep himself awake, he was likewise much annoyed with large collections of wind in the stomach and bowels, his spirits were much cast down, and the depression had of late so much increased, that led him to retire from society, which at this time was highly offensive to his state of feelings; the appetite continued unimpaired, he was without fever, his eyes and countenance evidenced a strong dejection and disquieted mind, the bowels operated once daily, but



in a very scanty and ill conditioned manner, he felt irritable and fretful from the slightest cause, and altogether seemed greatly disordered.

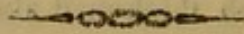
Having often found these symptoms brought on by an imperfect secretion of the biliary fluid, I was led to inspect the condition of the liver, and in what manner it performed its functions, both of which were far from being right; the abdomen felt full, hard, and tight, more particularly at the margin of the ribs near the liver, which was much thickened about its edge. I instantly employed those measures, capable of bringing the liver into more action, in order that the bilious secretion might thereby be increased, which was gradually accomplished, to the entire recovery of my patient in less than eight weeks.

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Miss V——, of Welbeck-street, aged 25, of a full and robust constitution, with a florid complexion, had felt herself poorly these four months, and had gradually been getting worse. On her consulting me, she complained of constant headaches, with giddiness, and a kind of dimness over the eyes at times, a full heavy pain at the pit of the stomach, pulse rather oppressed, no thirst, appetite but slightly impaired, bowels inclined to confinement, the catamenia regular, but lessened of late, very little exertion fatigued her, and if placed in a confined situation, she was apt to faint away, was much troubled with flatulence, could not, without some difficulty, keep herself awake after dinner. In closely investigating the nature of this case, I found some thickening at the edges of the liver, and some sensibility on pressure over it, the secretions of the bowels were small and vitiated.



I ordered her to be cupped over the right side, which operation was repeated in five days ; and as she was of a plethoric habit, ten ounces of blood was likewise taken from the arm ; the bowels were well discharged, and by bringing the liver to form its bile in a correct quantity, and of a more healthy quality by deobstruent, and other auxiliary medicines, her health was entirely regained in less than seven weeks.



Mrs. N——, of Edward-street, aged 34, of a plethoric temperament, had been suffering from indisposition four years previous to her application to me, when she complained of a pain of the left side, and which she had experienced at intervals throughout her illness, but of late it had been more constant and increased, she was troubled with a teasing cough which had resisted the pectoral remedies prescribed, was highly irritable and nervous, and from the slightest cause appeared greatly agitated, the pulse hard, irregular and frequent, rather thirsty, with a thick mucus covering the tongue near the throat, bowels irregular ; a considerable increase of heat pervaded the surface of the body, more particularly the palms of the hands. These symptoms were so indicative of hepatic distress, as led me to entertain scarce any doubt as to the primary source of the mischief going on, and which an examination, entirely cleared up ; for I instantly discovered some extensive enlargement of the liver, which was acutely sensible to the slightest pressure ; the secretions likewise betrayed a strong evidence of their being poured out from an irritated and disordered organ. This case required some energy of treatment, as from



the altered structure of its surface, it appeared to have been for a length of time suffering from disease. My patient most strictly adhered to the regimen and medicines recommended, and which, by a perseverance in for ten weeks, entirely re-established her health.



Colonel L——, of a full habit, who had resided many years in the East Indies, and while there, had been attacked with acute hepatitis, which had so considerably broken his health, as obliged his return to this country, in order to repair the consequences of this formidable malady : In the course of the voyage homeward, he seemed recovered, as no remains of hepatic affection were experienced. He had returned upwards of two years, at the end of which he was seized with a severe cold, that left behind it much weakness, considerable languor, and a general unnerved state ; to remedy this, he had recourse to the usual palliatives of country air and mild tonics, notwithstanding which, he made but little progress towards the restoration of his health : At this period I was called to him, and on learning the history of the original hepatic disease, I had scarce any doubt, that the chronic affection had gradually succeeded the acute complaint ; that the liver, impeded in its circulation in consequence of previous derangement, was no longer able to secrete the bile in the due proportion, and that the whole symptoms which now attended him, as listlessness, stomach ailment, slow fever, and impaired action of the intestines, were to be traced to this morbid source, and only to be removed by ameliorating the state of this organ ; it was also clear, that the attack of catarrh had brought the dormant hepatic disorder more into action, and



hurried on the liver disease to its present aggravated condition.

On examining the liver, I found it evidently give pain on pressure ; there was a slight puffiness and tenderness of its margin, although its general size did not seem much enlarged ; his urine was generally pale, yet at times would shew a high saffron color ; the motions were light, clayey, partly soft, and partly compressed, without the appearance of due assimilation.

Having so far satisfied myself of the patient's situation, I entertained no doubt of his recovering, by attention on his part, to the rules I should enjoin ; he was immediately put on a course of active deobstruents, to restore the energy of the liver, and expand its circulation, by which the biliary secretion might be increased, and thereby give activity to the bowels, both for assimilation and discharge ; in the course of ten days, the bowels began to betray those symptoms of gripings and heats, which most usually attend an increased secretion and discharge of bile (where previously it has been long confined) ; the alvine matters assumed, of course, a more natural and healthful appearance and bilious color, the stomach distress gradually gave less uneasiness, the appetite became improved, and the symptoms of fever that harassed his nights, by degrees abated and wore off ; his strength and health, by a strict adherence to the same arrangement for two months, were completely recovered. It is now upwards of three years, and he has experienced no relapse.

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## CONCLUSION.

On finishing the enumeration of the different varieties of chronic hepatitis, it will strike every reader, the disease is one of the most fallacious nature that can occur to a practitioner ; he has, for the most part, no pain to direct him in the early stage of the complaint, and should any uneasiness be present, in a majority of cases, it fixes itself in the opposite side to that which forms the seat of the affection ; he is therefore left entirely to form his judgment from collected observation on a variety of symptoms, such as we have embodied in the history ; yet, notwithstanding, all the information derived from these sources, he is often under the necessity of resorting to that dernier and infallible guide for his direction, the state of the secretions ; as well as a minute examination of the hypochondriac region, so far as it can be accomplished ; thus he will seldom be mistaken in a just opinion of the malady, and if so, his treatment will be conducted on such rational principles, as to ensure, in the greater number of cases, a favorable issue of the disease.

An examination alone, however proper, will not invariably determine the precise condition of the liver ; as this organ, to the touch, may feel in the most correct state at its inferior edges, while, at the same time, its upper surface may be enduring the greatest inroads of disease and alteration of structure. It is from this circumstance being overlooked, that cases of liver disease have so frequently foiled practitioners, from their true seat and nature lying beyond detection.

So, on the whole, we cannot too often repeat, that in forming our judgment, we are not to be guided in all

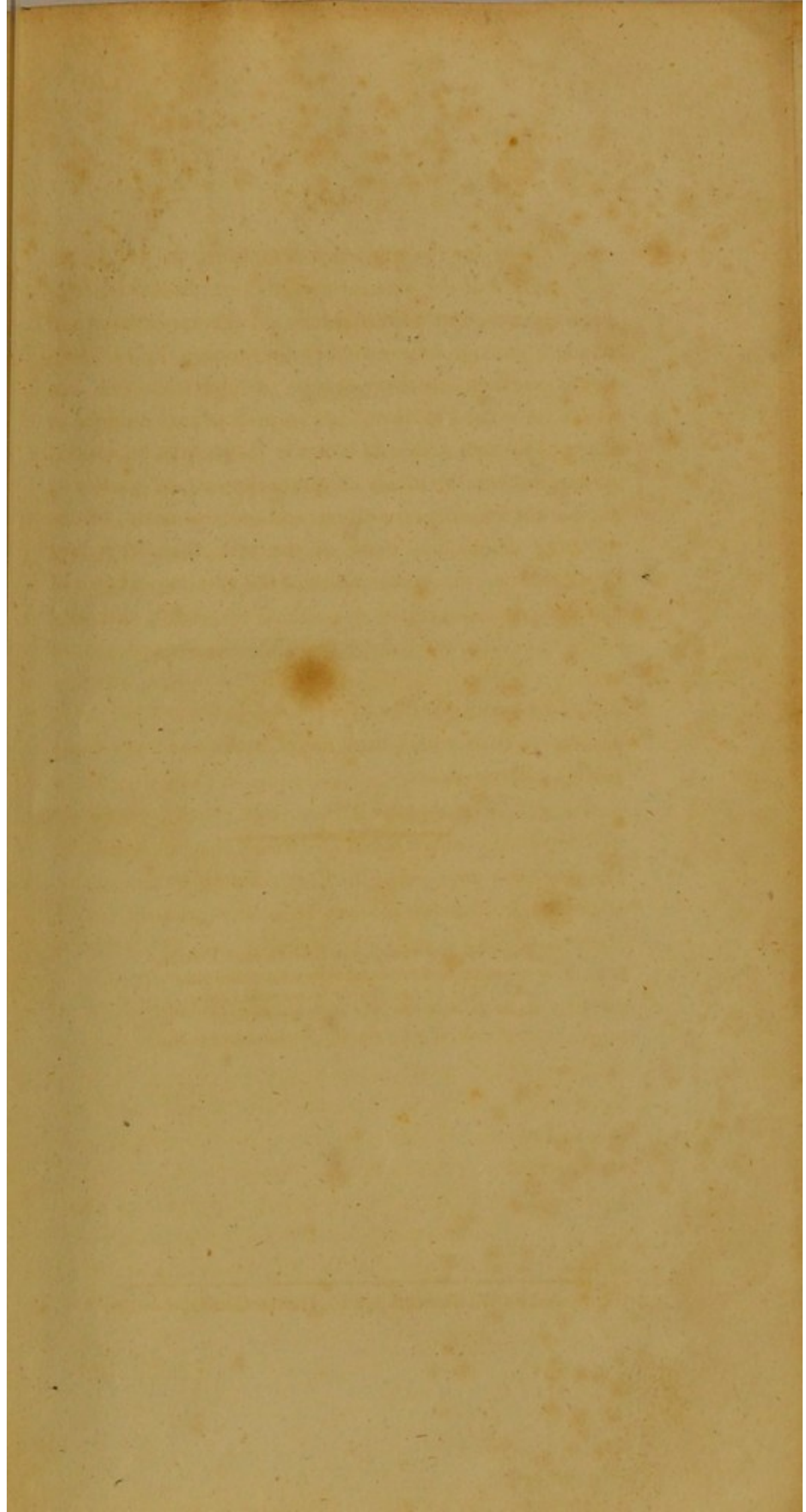
cases either by the apparent symptoms, or yet by the examination of the part for ascertaining the existence of such diseases, but to rest chiefly on the appearance and changes passing on the biliary secretion ; by such evidence as these passing changes demonstrate, we can never be misled in marking the presence or absence of disease, a truth which cannot too frequently be noticed or imprest on the minds of practitioners and patients ; for here we have more direct and certain means of developing the hidden cause of the evil, than from any other source. A consideration of the vast importance of the biliary secretion in the animal economy, naturally leads to correct indications, and consistent measures of treatment ; the neglect of this, I am persuaded, has been not unfrequently the cause of many falling sacrifices to disorders, from which they might otherwise have completely recovered.

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### ERRATA.

- Page 34, line second, for Britian read Britain.*  
 — 70, line sixth, for hould read should.  
 — 78, line fourth, for Gree read Green.  
 — 81, line fifth, for vicid read viscid.  
 — 122, line thirteenth, for tha read that.





Glasgow  
College 1831



