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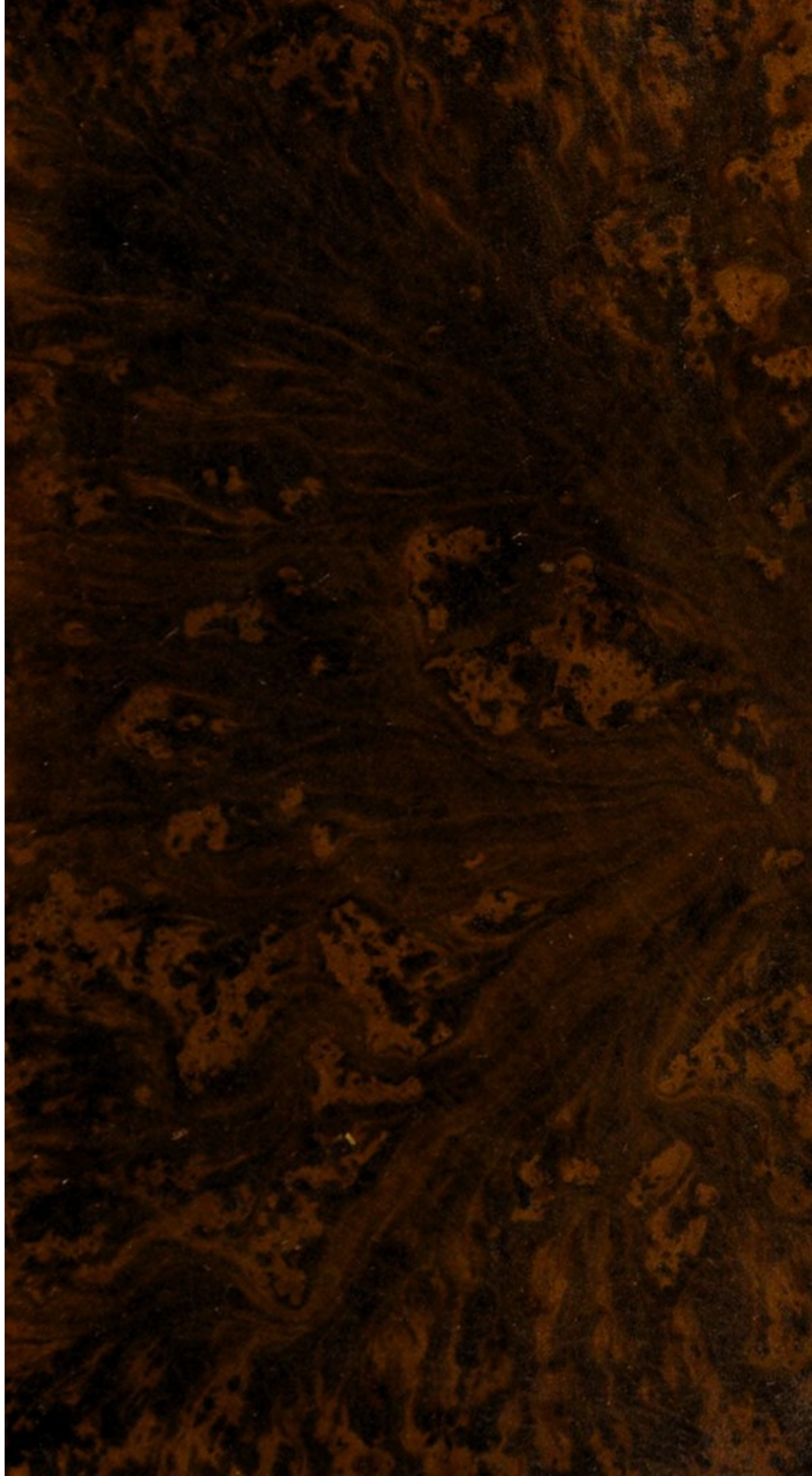
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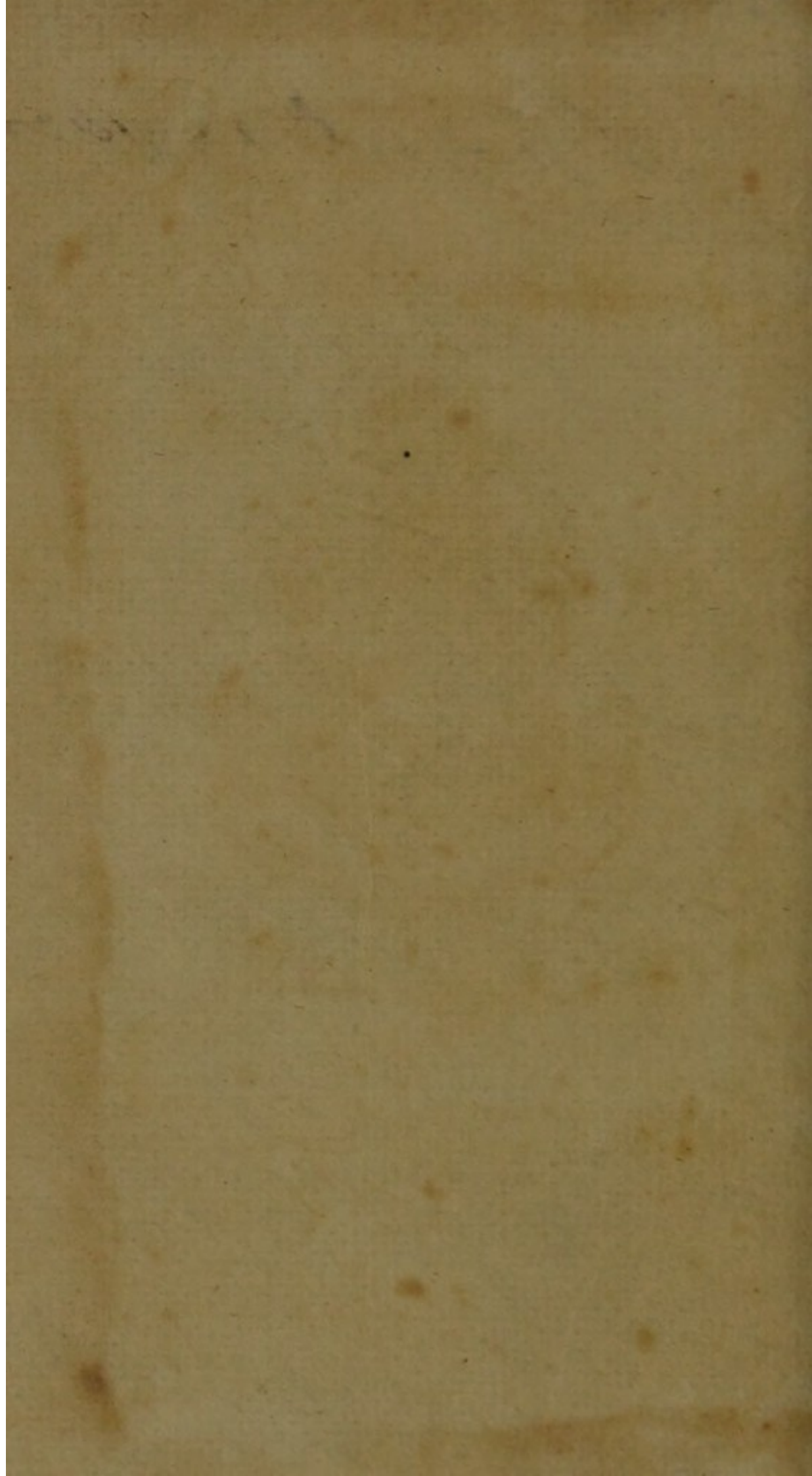


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TREATISE

OF THE

DISORDERS OF CHILDHOOD,

AND

MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS,

ADAPTED TO THE

DOMESTIC USE.

BY MICHAEL UNDERWOOD, M.D.

Physician to the Hospital for Children

in London.

Printed by J. JOHNSON, in Pall Mall.

1797.

By Authority of the Senate of the University of London.

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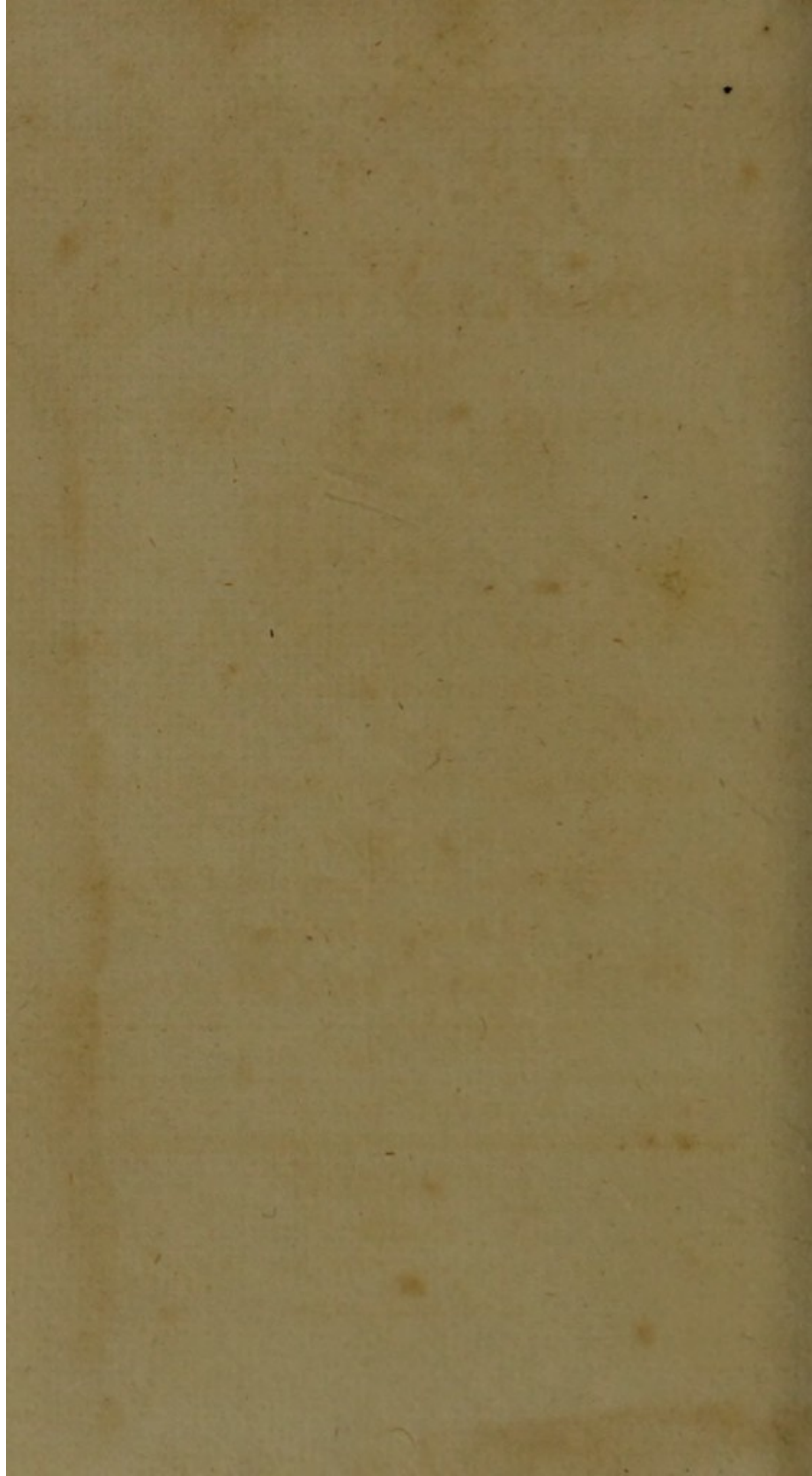
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A
T R E A T I S E
ON THE
DISORDERS OF CHILDHOOD,
AND
MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS
FROM THE BIRTH;

Adapted to DOMESTIC USE.

BY MICHAEL UNDERWOOD, M. D.

LICENTIATE in MIDWIFERY

of the

Royal College of PHYSICIANS in LONDON,

PHYSICIAN to

Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS of WALES,

And SENIOR PHYSICIAN

To The BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON,

Printed

FOR J. MATHEWS, N^o. 18, STRAND.

1797.

THE
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OF THE
DISORDERLY CHILDHOOD

MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS
SECOND VOLUME

BY
MICHAEL URBANWOOD, M.D.

LONDON
W. B. SHERWOOD & CO. LTD.

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E R R A T A.

Page 136, line 3 from bottom, for mastic, read mastich.

145, line 13, for cerus, read ceruse.

162, line 8, for nave, read have.



AN
INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

HAVING in the preceding volume considered all the more important diseases falling under the immediate province of the *Physician*, there remain only a few anomalous matters in his department; which having some relation to other complaints now to be noticed, may be suitably arranged in this part of the work. These will be classed relatively to other matters; having here a principal regard to disorders falling under the province of the *Surgeon*, with

VOL. II. B others

others that may be said to be of a mixed kind, but of which all persons venturing to prescribe for children should have some general idea; being rendered, it is hoped, in this work, as obvious and intelligible as possible.

IN regard to surgical Operations, the treatment of Fractures, large Abscesses, and other important articles in this department, it may be expected, that some reasons should be offered for what has been advanced. And, indeed, if more, or less has been said on these subjects than some readers might expect, it has been with the design of enabling the more intelligent to form some judgment of what may be expected in the several cases, without perplexing

plexing them by offering more than they could be supposed anywise to comprehend. In less serious instances, and such as may occasionally fall under the reader's own management, the same degree of information is held out, as in the medical department in the former volume; so that in every instance, the inquisitive reader may be competent either to superintend and to act, or, at least, to judge of the nature of the case, and its probable termination.

To the several Complaints will follow suitable *Directions* for the general *Management of Infants* in every article of importance to their health; to which particulars a small volume is wholly devoted.

BUT beside those affections which may be precisely termed diseases, infants sometimes present themselves to the world under circumstances that call for immediate assistance, being, as it were, in a kind of intermediate state between life and death, and with the appearance oftentimes of being really dead; but may, nevertheless, be reanimated by timely and judicious aid, so as to be *perfectly* rescued from any particular dangers.

ON this account, some practical directions on this head, it is presumed, may form no unsuitable *Introduction* to this volume, as the subject could not, with strict propriety, be arranged under the head
of

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE. v

of children's diseases. And what I have here to offer is the result of an experience that has been attended with more success than might have been expected.

I HAVE, indeed, both at the hospital and elsewhere, met with many instances of children born with very little, and others without even the smallest appearance of life, some of whom have remained entirely destitute of any sign of it, for more than a quarter of an hour, and yet have been happily restored. I pretend to little or no skill in this business not generally practised, and can scarcely guess to what to attribute this success, unless it may be an unwearied assiduity and perseverance in my attempts, whensoever

there are no certain signs of death, till I conceive nothing is possibly to be expected from them. And this has so often succeeded, that I have been tempted to think its importance, may possibly, not have been sufficiently attended to by every practitioner. I rest this presumption, not only upon some fortunate events where I have had little or no previous ground for hope, but where other practitioners had, in some instances, abandoned it. A certain steady perseverance in our attempts to preserve life, is, indeed, not only a duty we owe to the Public, as long as the least hope may remain, but one successful attempt is an abundant recompence for many failures; especially, as I imagine we shall rarely fail whenever there may be

be the least positive ground for hope of a favourable issue.

As to the MEANS, they consist only of warmth, clysters, stimulants, and especially blowing forcibly into the wind-pipe.

THE ordinary stimulants are the smoke of lighted brown paper, or tobacco; juice of onions; frictions with hot cloths, and brandy; cold brandy poured on the navel-string where it is inserted into the belly; striking the child's bottom, and the soles of the feet; stimulating the nose, and upper parts of the throat with a feather, (drawing out the mucus, or froth, that may present;) with every other similar mean calculated to excite a strong effort,

B 4 especially

especially that of crying; to which our attempts more particularly tend. On this account, I believe, no great benefit is to be expected from stroking the blood along the cord, or immersing the after-birth in warm water; the fetal life being extinct, the recovery of the child will depend on the blood passing freely through the lungs, which it cannot do till the child is brought to breathe freely and forcibly; the continuance of which also is never secure, till it begins to *cry*. To these ends, I have depended above all upon blowing into the wind-pipe, through the mouth, which I am satisfied, may be more effectually done by the mouth of the assistant being placed immediately upon the child's, than by means of a blow-pipe; at the
same

same time, preventing a premature return of the air, by the fingers of one hand placed at the angles of the mouth, and those of the other on each side the nose: (though some people imagine they have succeeded better by forcing in a more pure air through one of the nostrils, by means of a bottle of the elastic-gum.) But I have sometimes imagined, that I might attribute much of my success not only to the *continuance* of this, but to the *manner* of doing it, by attempting to imitate natural respiration, by forcing out the air I have thrown in, by a strong pressure against the pit of the stomach; thus blowing in, and alternately pressing out the air, for a long time together, omitting it only now and then, to make use of
some

some of the abovementioned means : which latter, however, can do very little till the child begins not only to gasp, and that with shorter intervals, but also to breathe in a pretty uniform manner. At this time, should the child not be disposed to *cry*, which is frequently the case, I think nothing is so likely to succeed as a tobacco, or other very stimulating clyster ; and putting a little Scotch-snuff, or other pungent powder, up the nose, which latter if they induce sneezing, will soon be followed by a strong cry, and the child be with certainty restored.

AMONGST other means, that of warmth was recommended ; to which end, the infant should be entirely covered with very hot cloths, which
should

should be renewed as fast as they become cool; or the body may be immersed in a tepid bath of salt and water, or milk, and be well rubbed all over: the cord may likewise be suffered to bleed a little, especially if the face or body do not soon acquire the natural colour—but this ought seldom to be done, or the cord be divided as long as any pulsation is to be felt in it.

To these means may be added the cautious use of electricity, which appears as likely to be successful in these, as in most other cases to which it has been applied: but I have never been in a situation to make trial of it, or I certainly should, as I once knew a child happily recovered by it, after being laid out
for

for dead, for near two hours, in consequence of a fall from a two-pair of stairs window.

BUT should these several means fail ; as a last resource, a very different kind of stimulant may be tried, and instead of laying the infant aside in a warm flannel, it should be exposed to sudden and severe cold, which I remember once to have succeeded after the life of the child had been despaired of.

I SHALL just add, that, amongst other symptoms of some supposed irrecoverable injury a child may have sustained in the birth, is that of a discoloured and often fetid, or bloody water forcing out of the nose, after the lungs have been two or
three

three times artificially inflated. Under these circumstances, however, I many years ago succeeded in two or three instances so far as to animate children sufficiently both to breathe and to cry; but they afterwards lay in a moaning state for four or six hours, and then expired. To succeed thus far, indeed, if I am rightly informed, may prove of importance, where the course of a family estate may be pending on a living child. I have, however, lately been fortunate enough to succeed completely, under the most unfavourable circumstances, and after a great quantity of discoloured mucus, and something like meconium, was forced up both from the throat and nose; and the child, an unusually large one, is still living.

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IT will be presumed, I dare say, that the above scrupulous attention is not designed to be inculcated in every instance of apparently still-born infants, but principally where the death of the child may not only not be certainly ascertained, but there has previously been reason to expect it would be brought alive into the world.—The great importance, however, of the subject, it is hoped, will be a sufficient apology with most readers for the length of these directions; and as the attempt to restore infants to life has always been a most pleasing employment to myself, the desire of being an occasion of inducing others to a *perseverance* in the use of the like means, emboldens me to risk
the

the censure of any female practitioners in midwifery, who (if such there be) may deem it prolix or superfluous. The anxious parent, I doubt not, will always covet a perseverance in every mean, as well to reanimate, as to preserve her offspring.—To the candour and auspices of such the ensuing pages are commended, with the author's most cordial hopes, that they may on many occasions, successfully supply the want of oral advice.



The history of the United States

is a subject of great importance

and one which has attracted the

attention of many writers

and has been the subject of many

works of great value

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TREATISE,

Ec. Ec. Ec.



IN the former volume, devoted to such diseases as fall more immediately under the province of the *Physician*, considerable attention has been paid to disorders of the skin; either from their being found to require direct medical treatment, or from their standing in connexion with other disorders falling strictly in his line.

THERE are, nevertheless, many affections of the skin of a different kind, which being either usually unconnected with any disorder of the system, or else forming sores on the surface requiring their appropriate topical applications, fall more strictly under the care of the *Surgeon*, and may therefore more properly constitute a part of the present volume.

OF the cutaneous affections falling under one or other of the latter descriptions, I shall, for order sake, begin with such as appear on the Head.

SCALD-HEAD.

THE Scald-head is a very troublesome complaint, and is said to be often a scrofulous symptom; but it is certainly more commonly communicated by contact, and when lighting on a scrofulous habit may be more difficult of cure.

cure. It is, indeed, highly contagious, especially amongst children, at schools, or other places where they mix freely together, exchange hats, or other covering of the head, with such like intercourse; by which means, it has sometimes been communicated through a whole school.

FROM some considerable experience, I may venture to say, that being usually a mere complaint of the skin, it may be most successfully treated by external applications. This disease is seated in the little glands at the roots of the hair, is sometimes dry, but at others moist, and then produces little ulcers, which being thoroughly cleansed, and made to digest, may be safely healed up; as I have found in many other affections of the skin, in which the system has, often over-scrupulously, been conceived to be concerned.

It is not uncommon, I know, to administer a variety of internal remedies, and perhaps they may sometimes be required; though I think I have seldom given any thing more than lime-water, or a decoction of the woods, and a few purges at the decline of the eruption.

If the complaint be taken early, before it has spread far over the head, and whilst the scabby patches are small and distinct, it may be frequently cured by an ointment made of equal parts of sulphur, flour of mustard, and powder of staves-acre, mixed up with lard or butter; or by the sulphur ointment, with a small addition of the white calx of mercury. And this last preparation may very safely be made use of, if the patient be kept within doors, and the body properly open; as it will be necessary to rub in only a small portion, once or twice a day, on the parts immediately affected. But if the disease

ease

ease should spread, or has already extended itself over a great part of the head, the hair must be shaved off, and the head washed twice a day with a strong decoction of tobacco; repeating this process till the scabs disappear, and the hair grows up from the parts they had occupied. Or, instead of the decoction of tobacco, the head may be well washed with the soap lotion, with the addition of a small quantity of the pure water of kali, and the scabs anointed with the ointment of nitrated quicksilver, in the place of the sulphur ointment and calx of mercury; the former being a very powerful, as well as safe application, and may be used in any quantity that may be necessary.

BUT the complaint is sometimes of long standing before medical assistance is asked, and is not only extended over all the head, but the scabs are thick, and rise high above the surface, re-

turning as often as they may fall off. I have, however, never failed to cure the common scald-head by a method not so much generally unknown, as too seldom complied with in time, on account of its apparent severity. It consists only in well washing the head, first close-shaved, with a piece of flannel and a strong lather of soap-suds, and then rubbing in very forcibly the common tar-ointment and a good quantity of the powder of white hellebore, for near an hour at a time, always using it very warm; and covering the head with a bladder to preserve the ointment on the part, as well as to keep it from sticking to the cap, or other covering made use of. When this has been done three or four times, not only the scabs, but the hairs will also loosen, which must be pulled out, however unpleasant the operation may be, as it will, indeed, prove a kindness

ness in the end; but must be repeated till all the hairs be taken out: after which new hair will rise free from scabs, which is a sufficient indication that the disorder is effectually removed.

THERE is, however, a spurious kind of scald-head, that is sometimes more difficult of cure; but it requires nothing but patience in the use of one or more of the above remedies, or at most, an alterative plan of the flower of sulphur, or of some mild mercurial preparation, with the common decoction of the woods, or the Lisbon diet-drink. Or, should the difficulty consist in getting out the hair entirely, or destroying the diseased glands at its roots, quick-lime may be had recourse to, in one form or other, and is exceedingly preferable to an adhesive pitch-plaister; but must be used with caution. In a few instances, the milder mercurial ointment has a wonderful efficacy.

C 4

efficacy. This remedy, however, as well as the quick-lime, should be made use of only under the direction of some medical man, and ought then to be cautiously applied, and instead of being forcibly rubbed in, like other ointments, should be only spread lightly, and very thin on the scalp: the body should at the same time be carefully kept open.—In the spurious scald-head, particularly, it may be prudent to open an issue, or fix a seton in the nape of the neck.

SCURFYNESS *of the* HEAD.

SOME infants early contract a scurfyness on the head, which increases as they grow up, becoming likewise very thick, and itching exceedingly. It can scarcely be termed a disease, and is only worthy of mention with a view to preventing mischief, from the application

cation of improper remedies; or its degenerating into a real complaint, through neglect. Amongst the poor, indeed, it often arises from that source, and can be removed only by proper washing, and combing the head, and otherwise keeping it clean. But should it arise spontaneously, as it sometimes does about the time of teething, I believe that very little need to be done, nor ought to be, further than keeping the head clean, and often combing, or brushing it cautiously, as above directed: at most, the scabs may be touched, every now and then, with a little cream till they begin to loosen, or with a drop or two of arquebuse water if they be too moist; at the same time, carefully avoiding taking cold on the part.

THE ITCH.

THIS disorder so commonly known and easy of treatment, is mentioned chiefly for the sake of introducing a caution against popular washes and girdles ; which are generally either useless or hazardous. Such are often had recourse to in order to avoid the unpleasant smell of the brimstone ointment ; which, however, if the whole body be well rubbed with it, for a week or ten days, rarely fails curing the genuine itch. There is, indeed, a spurious kind, (as of the scald-head) which is far less, or often nowise contagious, but is more difficult of cure than the genuine. Should the brimstone ointment, therefore, fail, sulphur should be administered inwardly, and sometimes mercurials ; which may likewise be added to the ointment, and in a few weeks,

weeks, at most, will not fail of removing the complaint. It is common to administer at the same time some alterative diet-drink.

SHINGLES, *and* RINGWORM.

THE Shingles and Ringworm have little distinction but in their figure; the latter taking a round and ring-like form; I shall, therefore, treat of them as one.

THE Shingles, like the foregoing complaints, is a disease of the skin, infesting some children almost annually, and appearing in dry scurfy blotches, on different parts of the body. It becomes troublesome chiefly from the violent itching that constantly attends it, and would probably get well of itself: it even sometimes has the appearance of being critical, or is, perhaps, rather an indication of some favourable

able

able change in valetudinarians, especially in adults, who are sometimes found getting the better of chronical complaints at the time the shingles makes its appearance. It is, however, often a blemish; as it frequently attacks the hands and face, and especially the forehead. It is amongst the vulgar errors, I believe, that when it appears on the breast or loins, if it should extend round the whole body, it would prove fatal. This form of the disease is termed the herpetic belt.

THE shingles, or ringworm is certainly very easily cured, the eruption yielding very readily to stimulating and astringent remedies. Ink therefore, (as it contains an infusion of galls) has been a common, though inelegant application, and may serve very well where better forms are not at hand: it is sometimes made into a paste with flower of mustard. Spirit of wine; lotions

lotions of diluted extract of lead, with the addition of vinegar, or white vitriol; and ointments containing lead, answer very well; or a liniment of calcined zink and lard: but the ointment of nitrated quicksilver is preferable to most others. The use of a flesh-brush is a good preventive in habits accustomed to the complaint.—It can be only in unhealthy children that there can be any fear in regard to external applications, or need of internal remedies.

SHOULD the shingles spread and become sore, it should be treated as directed below.

The ULCERATING-SHINGLES.

THIS is a malignant species of the above complaint, but is generally local. It is mentioned only as having relation to the former, being rather a sore than
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an eruption, and not very common in children.

SUPPURATIVE applications may be made use of in the early stage of the complaint, such as ointments of minimum, soap, and Venice turpentine, or a suppurative poultice*, in order to liberate the diseased glands on the surface, and absorb the acrid discharge. After this, the parts should be washed with saponaceous lotions, and lastly, with strong solutions of vitriol. Should these fail, the ointment of nitrated quicksilver will be proper; and as the last remedy, caustic applications, of which, butter of antimony is the best, with which the little ulcers may be touched lightly from time to time, under the eye of some medical person.

* A very good poultice of this kind may be made of figs, onions, and white lily roots, boiled in water to a soft pulp, with, or without the addition of a little bread and milk.

The

The patient may likewise take a decoction of burdock-roots, or sarsaparilla.

Of WARTS and CORNS.

THOSE warts which appear upon the fingers, hands and necks of children, may be considered as a small inconvenience, or a trifling deformity, rather than as a disease. They are seldom painful, except they have been improperly irritated; and have no tendency to proceed to any unfavourable termination.

THE hard, and almost insensible wart, with a broad base, and having a covering of skin, is the most common species. This little excrescence seldom rises high above the level of the surrounding skin, on the back of the hand; and is often remarkably flat and low when it spreads on the inner part of the hands or fingers: and being a spurious production,

duction, seldom possesses a portion of vital energy sufficient to prolong its duration beyond a few years. Hence, we commonly observe, that those warts which have appeared in infancy, disappear imperceptibly after the age of puberty, without the aid of external applications.

THE various methods that have been recommended of destroying warts may be reduced to two; viz. such as interrupt the circulation of the blood through the substance of the wart; and those which destroy, or otherwise consume its structure.

LIGATURES, therefore, made of horse-hair, silk, or waxed-thread, answer the first of these intentions; and whenever they can be applied, are the least dangerous, and effectual mode of destroying the wart. For it is a certain fact, that warts destroyed by ligature return less frequently, than when destroyed by any other means.

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THE knife, or caustic applications, and the actual cautery (or hot iron) is the second method, and is more, or less suitable according to circumstances.

WHEN the surface of a wart is destroyed by caustic, the hard crust must be scraped off the next day, and the medicament be re-applied; and this process must be repeated daily until the excrescence be destroyed down to its root.

WHEN a wart is situated on a joint, or on one of the lips, or the eye-lid, it will not be prudent to use caustic applications.

EXCISION seems to be the least proper remedy, because the excrescence is so very liable to sprout again when it has been cut through; and is only advisable when it is proposed to employ caustic applications to the wounded part.

CORNS appear always on the feet, usually the upper part of the toes and on the joints, or under the nails, and are painful, especially if pressed much by tight shoes, or other covering of the feet. They differ in other respects from the wart, the corn having the appearance of an inverted wart, the surface of the former being not unlike the inferior part of the latter.

The corn seems to be little more than hardened skin, and to be owing merely to compression: it is therefore rather a morbid change of that part, than an organized excrescence, and on that account does not endure the rough treatment of the wart. It may, however, be safely pared down from time to time, but not to that degree as to be made to bleed, or be rendered sore. The common wafer made use of for sealing letters, moistened and applied
to

to the corn, is both a harmless covering and defence, and has sometimes appeared to loosen this excrescence, and occasion it to be thrown off.

STEATOMATOUS TUMOURS, *or the*
SUET-LIKE WART.

BESIDE the common wart, there is a different kind of excrescence, which, though when appearing about the neck and face, commonly passes for a wart, is in reality a suppuration of the little sebaceous, or suet-like glands, and appears chiefly about the face, neck and head, where this kind often grows in great numbers, especially in teething children, and will fall off, and appear again frequently during that period. They discharge a suet, or cheese-like matter; after which they heal up, and return again, like the stythe, or styte on the eye-lids.

As a preventive, the adjacent parts may be well rubbed two or three times a day ; but when the tumours are become of a certain size, they should be inclosed in a ligature, before they break, or be touched with the caustic called nitrated silver immediately afterwards.

INFLAMMATION *of the* EYES.

THE eyes of new-born infants are very apt to be inflamed during the first three or four days after birth, especially in the winter season. If it be owing to taking cold, it is probable it has been either immediately after the child was born, before it has been given away to the nurse, or very soon afterwards ; and on this account, a flannel cap becomes a very necessary part of its covering previously to its being formally dressed.

THIS

THIS kind of inflammation, however, is usually of very little consequence, and generally disappears of itself, upon merely keeping the head warm, or by washing the eyes with a little rose-water. Should the inflammation continue many days, or perhaps seem to increase, three or four drops of the water of acetated litharge, and a grain or two of white vitriol may be added to two ounces of the rose-water; and the infant take a little manna, or rhubarb and magnesia, if the bowels should not be sufficiently open. But there is an inflammation to which infants are liable, that sometimes continues a long while, and therefore calls for further attention. I do not allude to that redness on the eye, known by the name of blood-shot, which will often remain a long time, return, and disappear again, without the least injury to the child; nor to the watery eye, which

will sometimes continue for many months, and even for years; of which notice will be taken afterwards. But the affection intended here is accompanied with the true appearances of ophthalmy, or inflammation of the white of the eye, attended with a discharge as in the ophthalmy of adults: it will sometimes get a little better by common means, but seldom remains so for many days together, and generally increases at the end of the month.—It often seems connected with the state of the bowels, and the coming on of a purging will then frequently carry it off.

I HAVE nothing out of the common way to recommend for it*; nor does it require much to be done, unless it prove tedious, as it has been said it sometimes

* For a more full account of the treatment of *ophthalmys*, see *Surgical Tracts*, 3^d Edition.

does, in which case the parts behind the ears should be made sore, in the way I have before described, and be kept so for some time. Previous to this, it is often necessary to apply a blister to the neck, and a leech to one or both temples; to keep the body open, and make use of the cooling eye-water before recommended. If the child be inclined to a frequent return of it for years, as even very healthy children are, it will sometimes degenerate into what is termed the watery-eye; an excellent remedy for which is a grain of white vitriol, mixed with such a small portion of fresh butter as will form it into a liniment, which should be put into the inner angle of the eye every night, at going to bed. In some of these cases, however, the ointment of nitrated quicksilver has proved a more speedy remedy, and is

a less painful application; but should be continued for some weeks.

THERE is, however, a case of watery-eye attending older children, in which the discharge is very hot and acrid, and the eye at the same time inflamed. These affections disappear, and recur again suddenly, without children having sensibly taken cold, or any other manifest cause; and will continue so doing for a great length of time. It is not a common complaint, and as far as I have noticed it, has attended only such children as have other marks of humour, so called, or some disorder of the skin.

THE complaint has proved very obstinate, both in regard to the inflammation, and watery discharge, though all the common means of cure have been successively attempted, until the head has been shaved, and an oil'd-silk
cap

cap applied over the whole scalp. This never fails to procure a great discharge from the head, and I have known it remove the complaint in two or three days, after a long use of other remedies.

BUT there is a far more formidable inflammation, which has of late years been called the purulent fore-eye, distinguished from every other by the vast quantity of thick matter discharged, and great swelling of the lids.

THIS is so dangerous an inflammation as to require the best advice on its very first appearance. It now and then appears at the birth, but more commonly seizes an infant a few days afterwards, without any previous complaint; and when neglected, sometimes not only destroys the sight, but dissolves the eye itself, in less than a week's time. I have likewise seen it exceedingly violent in children of four or five years old,

old, but rarely without some blow, or other accident.

IN this disease, every thing that may remove inflammation, and unload the vessels of the part, should be immediately had recourse to. The body should, therefore, always be kept open, and leeches be applied to the temples, especially in children of four or five years of age. In bad cases, at this period, scarifications also of the inner-coat of the eye-lids, (which generally falls out upon their being opened;) blisters to the back, nape of the neck, and behind the ears, are often essentially necessary. It should ever be remembered, that in advanced childhood, the taking away of blood at the beginning is often not to be dispensed with, nor to be sparingly done. The application of one leech to the temple, or neck will have no good effect, though
often

often repeated : two, three, or more, according to the strength of the child, should be put on at a time, and a blister to the back soon afterwards ; which will often do more to conquer the inflammation, than most other means put together, if had recourse to in time.

EVEN in new-born infants, it is expedient, in many cases, both to take away blood, and to keep up a constant discharge from behind the ears, which may be done by applying, every three or four days, a narrow slip of blistering plaister to these parts, and afterwards dressing them with the spermaceti cerate, or other mild ointment. The edges of the eye-lids should be kept constantly greased throughout the day, especially in new-born infants, that the thick matter may find an easy escape. At night, the cerate of acetated litharge may be spread on soft linen, and applied to the eye, and over it a
very

very soft cold poultice made with the compound water of acetated litharge, laid on as lightly as possible; that by its constant moisture, the eye-lids may always be kept supple. But if the discharge should seem to be confined, or the eye affected by the weight of the poultice, this application should be changed for soft linen rags, which should be frequently wetted with cold brandy and water, or some yet more astringent lotion.

THROUGHOUT the complaint, astringent and stimulating applications are to be made use of, unless the complaint be very slight, or sensibly gives way; being not only far preferable to other means, but so necessary, that should emollient poultices, and merely cooling eye-waters be depended upon, the event were likely to be fatal. What may be the very best remedy, in the worst cases, it may not be very easy to determine,

determine, having for a long time succeeded, and in reasonable time, by different means. But having of late years had frequent, and successful recourse to the camphorated water of *Bates's* dispensatory, I am inclined to give it a general preference to other remedies. One dram, or a tea-spoonful, of this, to two ounces of pump water, will be a sufficient strength to begin with. A few drops should be instilled into the eyes, several times in the day, as well as the lids be frequently washed with it. It will sometimes be necessary to inject it into the eyes with a syringe, the lids being so much swelled, as not to admit of its entrance by other means.

THE external remedies alluded to, in the place of the camphorated water, are the tincture of opium, and ointment of nitrated quicksilver, which may be applied every night at going to rest;

rest; the former being dropped into the eye after the lids have been touched with the ointment*. It is sometimes proper to lower and soften the ointment with a little fresh butter.

It has been said, that where this inflammation has not been properly treated from the beginning, the eye is sometimes exceedingly injured by it, so that even the eye will burst. At other times, the coats become much thickened, and the pupil more or less opake by means of one or more specks which the inflammation has occasioned. It should be remarked however, that

* This tincture and ointment are usually a very speedy remedy for the sore-eye induced by the small-pox, and measles; a complaint under almost every other mode of treatment very tedious of cure. This ointment is, in every case, to be applied very sparingly, by means of a small camel-hair pencil; and in most cases only on the inner part of the under eye-lid, or to the larger angle of the lids, (as it is called) towards the nose.

we sometimes meet with an agreeable surprize at the decline of this formidable complaint, and find the eye much less injured than had been suspected at the time we were first able to get a sight of it. And at others, even where the coats of the eye have burst, the aqueous humour (so called) has been restored, and being afterwards retained, by the healing of the coats, the patient has recovered his sight. On the other hand, the latter have sometimes been so greatly injured, or the pupil contracted, that though the eye has not been sunk, the sight could not be restored by any means. In other instances, a long and cautious use of proper escharotics, or slight caustics, and paring off the thickened coats, have afforded a certain degree of vision; but the attempt requires a Master's hand.

SORENESS

SORENESS *of the* EYE-LIDS.

THIS complaint is so much of the nature of the former, but with more sensible affection of the lids, and less of the eye itself, that I need only to recommend for it, the use of the like applications. In particular, slight scarifications of the lids, in some instances, and the application of the ointment of nitrated quicksilver, and immediately afterwards instilling a few drops of laudanum into the eye, will usually very soon have a good effect; but the cure is often a work of time.

VENEREAL SORE-EYE.

IN some permanent inflammations, I have been inclined to the opinion of
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the late Dr. HUNTER and others, who after having tried a variety of means, and assisted in consultation with different physicians, have been induced to think, that many of the very stubborn inflammations originate from a venereal taint, and can only be successfully treated by its specific remedy, in one form or other.—Every practitioner will be very careful how he takes up such an opinion in particular instances*; however, it is right to observe, that if none of the means above recommended should produce a favourable change in eight or ten weeks, I

* The *French* physicians seem too much inclined to regard the purulent ophthalmia in this view, being a very common symptom, amongst others truly venereal, in many infants in the *Hotel-Dieu*, *l'Hospice de Salpêtrière*, *Vaugirard*, and *des Enfants trouvés*; but when this species of sore-eye appears alone, the case should not be hastily concluded to be venereal, however violent the inflammation may be.

believe nothing but mercury will have any lasting effect.

THOUGH it is not my design to treat on this disease, it may not be amiss to observe, that whenever a venereal taint actually exists, it is more safely treated by unction than in any other way; and infants would probably be cured much oftener than they are, if recourse were had to it in better time than it commonly is. If internal remedies, however, are for any reason preferred, I have found none so efficacious, convenient, and safe, as the late Mr. WARD's white drop.

THERE is likewise an inflammation of the eyes in children, arising seemingly from a foul state of the first-passages; and then no applications to the eyes will remove it, without recourse to active purges. Two or three grains of calomel should, therefore, be given
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at night, and jalap, or fenna-tea the next morning, and these should be repeated three or four times in quick succession, as the child may bear it.

A LIKE inflammation may also take place during difficult teething. In this case, the gums must be lanced, and the operation repeated, as may be found necessary.

SPECK *on the* EYE.

THIS is often a consequence of long continued inflammation, and is mentioned by writers as very difficult of cure when of long standing. I shall only observe, that in a very great number of cases, a drop or two of the water of ammoniated copper instilled into the eye, two or three times a day, has removed such specks, in the course of a few months, and sometimes much sooner, without any other means. Should

this fail however, trial may be made of a solution of the muriated quicksilver; one grain being put into four ounces of water, and the ointment of nitrated quicksilver be applied in the manner before recommended, and like the other remedies be continued as the disposition to inflammation may admit.

CATARACT *and* GUTTA SERENA.

ALTHOUGH these disorders are not very common in young children, they do, nevertheless, sometimes occur; and infants have even been born with a cataract in one or both eyes, or totally deprived of sight by the gutta serena. I shall therefore speak of the two diseases together, and the rather because some of the remedies are here accommodated to both.

IN the former of these, the pupil of the eye (or sight, as it is called) appears

pears white, or pearl-coloured, instead of black ; but in the latter, has no unnatural appearance, except that it is larger than common, is attended with a certain unmeaning stare, and does not dilate, nor contract itself when exposed to different degrees of light.

It would, indeed, ill become a man of the least character and experience to affect to have much to offer in a way of remedy for these dreadful complaints ; the oldest and best practitioners never having pretended to be very often, or by any means uniformly successful in the treatment of them. From what I have known, however, they are not to be despaired of, and I should think it unpardonable not to hold out every occasion of good, or of comfort in my power, however little it may be, in cases wherein art has so generally failed.

WHERE a disposition to cataract and gutta serena have been suspected, I have known very considerable benefit obtained, and even the sight fully restored by an alterative plan of calomel and hemlock; or by the long continued use of an aromatic vapor with the compound spirit of ammonia*, conveyed to the eyes by means of a tube properly adapted; and brushing the eyes and the adjacent parts, several times a day, with soft and smooth brushes, which are properly constructed by *Messrs. Ayliffe and Gee*, in *Wardour-street*.

SOMEWHAT agreeable to this idea is the plan since recommended by Mr. WARE in his late treatise on certain disorders of the eye; and like many

* Half an ounce of the spirit with two ounces of water, should be kept boiling over a lamp, and be made use of two or three times a day.

other important discoveries, was the effect of accident. Upon this he happily improved, having succeeded in several instances of incipient cataract when the consequence of external injuries, by exciting a transient inflammation. The application he has employed to this end has been ether, either alone, or diluted with a third or fourth part of a weak solution of muriated quicksilver, and sometimes mixed with oil of amber, which has in some cases been soon attended with a sensibly good effect, though in others not till it has been repeated for several weeks. The success attending these cases, Mr. WARE adds, encourages him to hope for the like where the cataract is either soft, or fluid; in which state it usually is when the disorder is discovered in infants, either at the time of their birth, or shortly afterwards.—The use of such remedies,

however, should always be under the direction of a surgeon.

IN the gutta serena, electricity has succeeded in several cases; and in one instance, a lady whilst under such a course, suddenly recovered the perfect use of her eyes, through a blow she accidentally received on the face, which produced a copious bleeding from the nose. In imitation of this, the like discharge has been lately artificially procured by wounding the internal vessels of the nostrils; but without apparent good effect. Mr. WARE in the above mentioned treatise confirms this favourable opinion of electricity, and adduces four instances of gutta serena cured by it, and as many by a medicated snuff composed of ten grains of vitriolated quicksilver with about a dram of the compound powder of asarabacca, or in place of that, the liquorice-root or sugar: but these remedies,

medies, also, should be ventured upon only under the eye of the surgeon. To these brief observations I have only to add, that I have lately seen a gentleman of near sixty years of age, for whom I had been consulted about three years before, who some time after having been let blood in the above mentioned way, and made trial of electricity without any apparent advantage, has recovered from a gutta serena of near two years standing, under the use only of a common eye-water; which as I cannot conceive to have had any share in the cure, conspires with a few similar instances to hold out ground of encouragement to other sufferers, sufficient to prevent despair, under this melancholy disorder.

I SAY nothing in relation to the cure of the cataract by a surgical operation, either by extraction or depression, except it be, that neither of them is advisable

viseable for infants unfortunately born with the disease, till they have attained to five or six years of age.

AMAUROSIS.

IN the Amaurosis there is likewise no change in the external appearance of the eye, though the sight is much obscured, attended with the appearance of flies, or dust passing before the eye. This complaint has lately been successfully treated by the external use of the capsicum. To this end, one grain of Cayenne pepper is to be infused in cold water, of which a few drops are to be instilled into the eyes, three times a day. But this remedy likewise should be under the direction of some medical man.

The STITHE, or STYE.

THE stithe is a small inflamed tumour on the edge of the eye-lids, more commonly on the side towards the nose; but there are sometimes two or more at a time. It rises suddenly, as if from a cold, or blast, and in the end suppurates, or forms matter, of a thick, or cheesy consistence; often, indeed, not for several weeks, or even months, but sometimes much sooner. It is occasioned by an obstruction in the glands of the eye-lids; and the matter being inclosed in a hard cyst, or bag, the inflammation often returns in the same spot, till the cyst being destroyed by repeated suppurations, the cavity is afterwards filled up, and the complaint disappears.

ALL that is necessary to prevent the returns of this temporary blemish, which greatly weaken the eye, is to imitate

imitate this process of nature. To this end, the little abscess should be lightly touched, as soon as it breaks, with the caustic called nitrated silver, cut to a point, (carefully avoiding doing injury to the eye) which by destroying the cyst, at once removes the complaint.

WHEN these fistules are small, or hang by a very narrow base, they may be safely cut off, or tied very tight with a bit of silk, and when separated touched with the caustic before mentioned.

DEAFNESS.

CHILDREN are frequently rendered deaf, in different degrees, of one or both ears, by very slight colds, and at the expiration of a few days the hearing returns, without recourse to any means. It is, however, sometimes otherwise, and it becomes necessary to give a little purging physic; to keep
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the ears warm; and to confine the child to the house: and where this does not succeed, the complaint is not a little difficult to cure. Should it arise from hardened wax, it will be proper to syringe the ears with warm water, to which should be added a tea-spoonfull of lavender, or honey-water; and a few drops of warmed oil of almonds may be instilled into the ears at going to bed. If these little means fail, warmer remedies should be made use of, such as the following, which I have found very frequently successful.

Take of Oil of Almonds, half an
ounce,
of Rectified Oil of Amber,
twenty drops,
of Camphorated-spirit, half a
dram,
of Tincture of Castor, one
dram; mix these together, and instill
four

four or six drops, previously made warm, into the ear affected, night and morning; afterwards inserting loosely a bit of cotton.

DEAFNESS, however, is sometimes owing to the want of a due secretion of wax, and is then much more difficult of cure. To promote this secretion a few drops of the soap-liniment, oil of almonds and ether, and such like warm acoustics should be tried, and continued for some time, if they should not occasion much pain; and in all cases, blisters may be applied behind the ears. The juice of onions, or a clove of garlic, raw, or roasted, put into the ears, has sometimes restored the secretion, and removed the deafness; and in many cases it has been effected by electricity. I have, however, lately fallen upon a method that has been universally successful

cessful by very simple means, consisting only in adapting an entire covering to the ear, made of any adhesive plaister spread upon thin leather, so as completely to exclude the external air. The plaister should be renewed as often as it gets anywise loose, repeating it till the secretion of wax is in sufficient quantity; which seldom requires more than five or six weeks. But I am sorry to add, that although aurists have found it so difficult to restore this secretion, and have therefore conceived, deafness to be often owing to the want of it, I have frequently found it no wise relieved by a return of the secretion. Possibly, this may be owing to the cause of deafness lying in the nerve, which is frequently the case; and here also electricity is particularly adapted, either through the external ear, or the Eustachian tube, within

within the mouth. Medicated snuffs also that invoke gentle sneezing, and discharges from the head, have sometimes been found surprizingly efficacious; as hath likewise sea-bathing. Should these different methods fail, very little is to be expected from art. Nature, however, sometimes effects the cure, and children after having been deaf for several years, suddenly recover their hearing, especially females: one fortunate instance of which happened lately.

EAR-ACH.

IT were needless to say much on this article. The pain is usually spasmodic, or if not, it is owing to taking cold in some part about the head, especially the teeth. In this case, a
dose

dose of cooling phyfic, and a little *Gascoyne's* powder at bed-time; with a clove of garlic put into the ear, or a poultice of onions applied over it, will remove the pain.

If it arise from spasm, the pain is often exceedingly severe, and is apt to return frequently; being readily excited by every little cold. The juice of rue is here a good remedy, or if this fail, a little laudanum added to the warm liniment directed for deafness; or six or eight drops of laudanum alone, made warm, and applied by a marrow-spoon.

TOOTH-ACH.

I JUST glance at this complaint, which frequently accompanies the former at every age, while some young children suffer greatly by it during, or after

shedding their first teeth, and parents suffer with them exceedingly.

If it be thought proper to have the teeth drawn, that is the well known and certain remedy; but where that operation may be, on any account, objected to, palliatives will sometimes succeed, such as a blister behind the ear; a clove of garlic, or three or four drops of laudanum, made warm, and instilled into it; grated ginger and white of egg mixed into a sort of plaister, and laid on the cheek; a drop or two of oil of cloves, on a bit of cotton, passed lightly into the hollow tooth; and especially the paste, or plug, contrived by Mr. COCHRAN of Broad Street, from which the great and good effects I have seen, will, I hope, be a sufficient apology for mentioning.

CANKER

CANKER *of the* MOUTH.

THIS is chiefly a complaint of children, being rarely met with in adults; is often talked of by nurses, and is usually as trifling as any. It has, indeed, been said by some writers to prevail very much in *England* and *Ireland*, and to be often a serious complaint. Such a disorder, if it really be canker, may be treated as under the next article; but the common canker I have never found troublesome to cure.

It sometimes makes its appearance in the month, at others, about the time of teething; and frequently at the age of six or seven years, when children are shedding their first teeth, and the second are making their way

F 2

through

through the gums, which are covered with little foul fores, extending sometimes to the inside of the lips and cheeks. It seldom requires more attention than was mentioned under the article of teething, any mild astringent application, and keeping the body open, usually effecting a cure; or if otherwise, and the complaint makes its appearance at the time of teething, it will generally go away as soon as the teeth are come through.

THE worst species of this complaint that I have happened to see, has been during the second period of teething, when a child has been shedding a number of teeth together, leaving the rotten stumps behind, which have been neglected to be drawn out. The whole gums will then sometimes be spongy, or dissolve into foul, spreading fores, and small apertures will be formed,

com-

communicating from one part to another, accompanied with an oozing of a fetid, and sometimes purulent discharge.

If the stumps of the decayed teeth can, in this case, be easily got at, they ought to be extracted; after which some such application as the following will soon brace the loose gums, and heal up the ulcers.

TAKE, of Armenian bole,

Myrrh,

Bark in fine powder,

Cream of tartar, of each a
dram;

of Honey of roses a sufficient
quantity to mix all into a
paste.

Take, of Lime-water, seven ounces,
of Tincture of myrrh, and
of Honey of roses, each, half
an ounce; mix them together.

THE gums should be touched several times in the day, especially after meals, and at going to bed, with the above paste, and the mouth washed occasionally with the mixture.

IF no considerable change for the better should take place, in a week or ten days, a dram of alum may be substituted in the place of one of the drying powders, and instead of the above mixture, one acidulated with as much of the muriatic acid as the parts will endure, occasionally made stronger, till some amendment be perceived; the belly being, in the mean time, kept properly open. If internal remedies be thought necessary, Peruvian bark, sarsaparilla, and mineral acids will be the properest; and the child may be kept on a diet of milk and vegetables.

GANGRENOUS EROSION *of the* CHEEKS.

THIS complaint has some resemblance to the canker, though it is much more dangerous, and is not a mere local disease. It appears to attack children from two, to six or eight years of age; usually the unhealthy, and such as have been subject to worms. The whole body often feels cold on the approach of the disease; after which a black spot appears on one of the cheeks or lips, and spreads fast; but without any mark of inflammation. Oftentimes the whole side of the face is eaten away, together with the lip, so that the bare jaw-bone and inside of the mouth appear. In the end, the entire lower-jaw falls down on the breast, and the whole side of the face is dissolved into a putrid mass; a wasting purging taking

place from the offensive matter that is continually swallowed, especially by very young children.

IN the CURE, internal as well as external remedies are required; and only such as correct putrescency, and support the strength, appear to be of any use. A few drops of the muriatic acid, therefore, taken inwardly, in an infusion of red rose leaves, or in the child's drink; the saline draught in effervescence; and in the end, the bark, in doses suited to the age, with good broths, jellies and wine, are the proper remedies. The parts should be washed, and likewise injected with muriatic acid in chamomile, or sage tea; and afterwards dressed with the acid mixed with honey of roses, and over all a carrot poultice. The child should in the mean time be gently purged with magnesia, or rhubarb, to carry
down

down the putrid matters it may have swallowed.

INDURATION *of the* BREASTS.

IT would be improper to pass over the slightest affection that has on any occasion exceedingly alarmed the parent, and sometimes perplexed medical men. Of this kind are affections of the breasts in female children, previously to, or about the time of their beginning to enlarge. At this period, they sometimes become very painful, and upon examination a hardness and swelling are discovered, and in some instances, sharp points may be felt, which are very painful when pressed. The hardness is seated deep, around and behind the nipple, and is sometimes loose, at others somewhat fixed, and attended with

with severe lancinating pains, which have given rise to disagreeable suspicions in regard to the probable nature of the complaint, and would, indeed, at a more advanced age, claim a serious attention. When happening in families addicted to scrofula, that disorder is naturally suspected, and sometimes a morbid scirrhus has been feared. In some instances, only one of the breasts is affected, and after some months, the other, or sometimes both nearly at the same time.

A VARIETY of alterative medicines, assisted by external applications, have been administered in different instances, and continued for several months. These have sometimes taken away the pain, reduced the tumour, and diminished the hardness; but have, in no instance, entirely removed the complaint. Yet no evil consequence,
in

in any instance under my eye has ever ensued, in patients at the above mentioned age; nor have I heard of any from other practitioners, though it has been seriously apprehended.

THE result of the whole has shewn, that the remote cause of the complaint has originated in an irritability of habit, in connexion with that distention of the parts, which at a certain age, nature always promotes; and accordingly, it has been said, is found taking place at the time, or some months after the pain and hardness have been noticed.

THE design of this chapter being to hold forth encouragement to parents, from the probable harmless nature of the complaint, it were needless to point out the means, that on different occasions, have been, sometimes unnecessarily, employed. I shall remark
only,

60 ABSCESS *in the* LOWER BELLY.

only, that keeping the body open and cool, with every other attention to the general health, must in every instance be proper.

ABSCESS *in the* LOWER BELLY.

CHILDREN though less liable to this disorder than adult persons, are sometimes attacked by it at an early age. It commonly arises from falls, or blows received on the part, or from lying on the grass, and other similar occasions of a cold in the bowels. It is always attended, and sometimes preceded by bowel complaints, and not unfrequently by the true cholera. In either case, there is always a pretty early appearance of tumour near, or upon the share-bone, accompanied with great tenderness and pain, especially to the touch.

THE

THE intentions of CURE are directed to the pain, fever, and state of the bowels. To these ends, a cooling plan is to be pursued, in order, if possible, to prevent suppuration, or gathering. Therefore, soft opening medicines are required, such as castor-oil, infusion of fenna, oil of almonds and manna, and such like, with frequent clysters, and afterwards opiates, and saline draughts, as the degree of pain and fever may demand. The part affected should be fomented externally with a decoction of white-poppy heads, leeches should be applied once or more, and afterwards a blister, if no relief be obtained, and the external tumour be not in the mean time increased. But if the parts become more swollen, a large bread and milk poultice should be applied, and changed two or three times every twenty-four hours; and the matter

ter let out as soon as may be. The sup-
puration being underneath the mus-
cles, there will not be much disco-
louration of the skin, as is the case
when matter is formed in the cellular
membrane, or in the fat, above the
muscles. Such a change therefore,
must not be waited for; but an open-
ing made as soon as any fluctuation can
be perceived, lest the matter should
make its way into the cavity of the
belly, or produce floughs and a foul
ulcer. After the matter is let out, no
other application is usually required
than the same kind of soft poultice.
The bowels must likewise be kept open
by the gentle laxatives before men-
tioned, and the diet be very light, and
of easy digestion.

The PSOAS, or LUMBAR ABSCESS.

FREQUENTLY as this disorder takes place in adults, it is as often met with in younger subjects, and even such as are only four or five years of age ; and must therefore be ranked among the diseases of childhood.

It is a true chronic, or slow inflammation, and like the last-mentioned complaint, is often occasioned by bruises, strains, or lying on damp ground ; and is not uncommonly connected with a scrofulous taint of the habit. The inflammatory symptoms being rarely severe, matter is formed slowly, and many months elapse before it can be felt externally ; which sometimes points high up about the loins, hip, or groin, and at others, above the middle and on the inside of the thigh : in the
most

most benign, the abscess frequently bursts in the groin. It is, in any case, a very dreadful disease, and is noticed here, only for the sake of warning parents of the danger of so insidious a complaint, pointing out its first symptoms, and just marking the outlines of a practice which has proved the oftenest successful; the very design of this work constraining me to be very brief on surgical cases.

A SLIGHT lameness and shortening of one of the legs, is, usually, the first change that is noticed. In a little time, the thigh is observed to be bent forward and upwards, which gives an appearance of depression to the muscles of the hip. But its most characteristic mark, in its early stage, is a sensation of weakness in the loins, with a tenderness about that part, manifest upon a careful examination.

THE

THE first indication is to prevent maturation, if possible, upon the approach of these first symptoms, and before those of a hectic nature supervene; but unfortunately, they are too often over-looked, or mistaken in the beginning.

WITH a view to a resolution of the inflammation, recourse should be had to bleeding by leeches, and cupping; and by blisters, issues and setons; by emetics; purging with calomel; by the warm bath, a supine posture, and low diet; and sometimes, a caustic, or quicklime mixed with honey, applied upon the loins, near the backbone; but above all, as lately recommended, by electricity: a stimulus, which in all affections of the joints, and deep seated inflammations, previous to the formation of matter, is, perhaps, the most successful.

SHOULD these means fail, or advice be sought for too late to expect any

thing from them, of no less consequence is the treatment after the matter is formed; which should be evacuated, by an artificial opening, as early as possible. If the abscess be large, instead of making a large opening, in order to afford a free vent to the matter, as was formerly practised, the aperture should, I think, in every case be small, that the abscess may not be emptied suddenly. The opening may, therefore, be made by a seton, preferably to a lancet, unless it be done in the manner very lately recommended by Mr. ABERNETHY, which in very large collections, I am satisfied, is an important improvement, and is likely to render this disease, for ages usually fatal, far less untractable. The principal circumstance in this plan, is the making a small opening in such a manner and oblique direction, as to be capable of
being

being closed again after having given vent to a part of the present collection of matter; and repeating the little operation at such intervals, and as often as shall be necessary.

It is only since this work has been in the press, that I have learned from a recent publication of Mr. ABERNETHY's, that he is now of opinion, that the whole of the matter may be evacuated at the first opening, and is therefore not anxious about the obliquity of the aperture. He closes it, however, carefully, and assists its healing; making a fresh puncture as often as the abscess shall fill to a certain degree.

THIS sentiment is submitted upon Mr. ABERNETHY's authority: for my own part, the only case I have seen since my former edition, in which the whole of the matter was evacuated, did not succeed.

HE likewise recommends the use of opium, at regular intervals, in doses suited to the occasion, as useful in mitigating the pain and irritability of the abscess, and in consequence the hectic fever.

Mr. ABERNETHY adds, that the great benefit derived from occasional emetics and electricity, encourages the hope, that many of these abscesses may be dispersed without any permanent exposure of their cavity, and that thus the patient may escape the sufferings and hazard to which an operation necessarily exposes him.

WHEN the abscess has been some time opened, the diet should be changed for one more cordial and nourishing, and the bark, steel, or vitriol be administered; and the patient enjoy a pure air, and take such gentle exercise as his situation will admit of without an increase of pain.

ABSCESS *of the* HIP-JOINT.

THIS is an equally dangerous disease with the above, and differing little, but in the precise seat of it. The swelling and pain are here, indeed, more circumscribed, and the abscess always gives way near the region of the joint. The preceding symptoms and treatment, however, much resemble those above mentioned. But the equivocal nature of the first appearances, and the difficulty of ascertaining the probable degree of subsequent injury, are such as would not in detail at all profit the reader.

I SHALL observe, however, that a degree of lameness is frequently the first thing noticed, and a short time afterwards, both the thigh and the calf of the leg become sensibly less-

fened. The patient alfo doth not ftand equally on both legs, and the affected one projects outwards from the body; and in the end, the thigh becomes fhortened. It is generally attended with a fevere pain in the knee, and very early, an uneafinefs in moving the head of the thigh bone in its focket.

THIS difeafe occurs from infancy to manhood, and often derives its origin from trifling accidents. It is mistaken for rheumatifm and fciatica in adults, and in children, for indolence, accidents, fcrofula, and worms; whence an erroneous practice is frequently adopted.

ON the head of treatment, I fhall only obferve, that in a view to prevent the formation of matter, which is the firft intention, the means can differ but little from thofe prefcribed
for

for the foregoing complaint; among which are issues and setons, which should be applied in the manner that will be directed for the palsy of the lower extremities. Should an abscess, nevertheless, be formed, its after treatment must vary considerably according to the degree of injury of the joint, and adjacent parts. Nothing, however, will contribute more to the cure, than long and strict rest of the limb.

ABSCESS under the FASCIA of the THIGH.

THE nature of this deposit is so much of a kind with the two preceding ones, as well as so much less dangerous, that it would be needless to do much more than mention it.

THE seat of the tumour is the forepart and outside of the thigh, and the

72 WHITE SWELLING *of the* JOINTS.

matter lies deep, on the surface, or in the substance, of the large muscles.

SOME surgeons are of opinion that the whole of the matter should be evacuated, and by a larger opening than for the psoas, or lumbar abscess. I have, however, seen the method which I have noticed as successful in the former, equally so in this abscess; and from the result in one very bad case, am disposed to think, there may be considerable advantages in closing the aperture, and making fresh punctures as the matter shall collect.

WHITE SWELLING *of the* JOINTS.

I SHALL be equally brief also on this article, the disease being well known by every surgeon, and entirely above the management of parents; my intention
in

in naming it being only to afford them a general idea of it, and to mention from experience a few remedies, that have been found successful, in young subjects, if had recourse to in good time, and before any matter has been formed. Such are, the repeated application of eight or more leeches, and afterwards small blisters to the joint; gentle frictions of the part; two or three vomits a week, with entire rest of the limb; and in the end, sea-bathing, especially if the patient be of a scrofulous habit. In a few instances that I have known, electricity has had an immediate, and surprisingly good effect, even where the joint has been considerably enlarged, the pain very great, and the child incapable of straightning the limb.

PALSY of the LOWER EXTREMITIES, with
CURVATURE of the BACK-BONE.

THIS complaint has been of late years so thoroughly announced, that it must be unnecessary here to enter into a minute detail of it. It will be proper, however, carefully to distinguish it from the simple curvature of the back, in which a greater number of joints is concerned, and the legs are not peculiarly affected; as well as from a complaint presently to be noticed, under the name of *debility* of the *lower extremities*, in which there is no manifest change of figure in the back-bone.

THE Palsy of the lower extremities is certainly confined to no age, and being at first very frequently mistaken in young children for the trifling effect of some fall or strain, is intitled to
peculiar

peculiar notice in this work. I have never met with it, indeed, where it has not been preceded by some fall or violent exertion, though such supposed accidents are seldom much noticed previous to the debility taking place; and it is, indeed, probable, there may be some predisposing cause, without which no common strain would induce so much mischief in a part continually exposed to accidents.

THE Curvature is generally in the neck or back, though sometimes in the upper part of the loins, and varies in extent and degree according to the number of joints that may be affected. The first symptom noticed by children of an age capable of expressing their feelings, is an increased sensibility, and irregular twitchings in the muscles of the thighs. This is succeeded by a dislike to motion, especially to moving briskly; the patient on such occasions

casions finding himself likely to fall, his legs getting entangled through their weakness, and a disposition to cross each other, in his attempts to step forward. Soon after this, he perceives himself unable to stand upright long together, and that the legs and thighs have lost much of their natural sensibility. Matters seldom continue long in this state, and the weakness increasng, patients lose more and more the use of both the lower extremities, till some are unable to move them at all even in bed; and these advances of the disease are said to be more rapid in adults than in infants. In the latter, I have particularly remarked a rigidity of the ankles, by which the toes are pointed downwards, so that the heels cannot be brought to touch the ground.

A CURE is more frequently effected, I think, than some practitioners have imagined,

imagined, if it be but attempted in time. The means, indeed, are few, the chief remedy consisting in a large issue or seton placed on each side the curve, at such a distance as may prevent their bursting into one. Where the curvature comprehends three or more joints, the seton may be preferable to an issue, but if the latter be on any account elected, I should advise its being made by the knife rather than a caustic; both as being less painful, and for the sake of the consequent inflammation before there has been time for suppuration to take place. Some practitioners, it is right to notice, have thought differently; but the good effects of this previous inflammation were very manifest in a recent instance in an infant only ten months old. For a very sensible relief was afforded as soon as the inflammation took place, and before any
suppuration

suppuration appeared ; and though the child had been many months a cripple, with loss of health and appetite, unable to support its head, and the sternum very much distorted, the relief was so great in one week after the incisions were made, as left no room to doubt of a perfect recovery ; which accordingly took place a short time afterwards, without any deformity remaining.

THE issues should be kept open till the patient perfectly recovers the use of his legs, or even a while longer, at least one issue, which ought not to be dried up till the patient can walk firmly alone, and shall have recovered all the height which he may have lost in consequence of that stooping which the disorder has induced.

IN addition to the use of these means those of cold-bathing, frictions, the bark, and such like, have been recommended ;

mended ; but I have myself never seen any benefit from any thing where the issues have failed, which I have found efficacious where no other remedy has been made use of. After the recovery, however, if the patient be of a scrofulous habit, sea-bathing is peculiarly indicated.

DEBILITY *of the* LOWER EXTREMITIES.

THE disorder intended here is not noticed by any medical writer within the compass of my reading, or is not so described as to ascertain the disease. It is not a common disorder any where, I believe, and seems to occur seldomer in *London* than in some other parts. Nor am I enough acquainted with it to be fully satisfied, either in regard to the true cause, or seat of the disease, either from my own observation, or
that

that of others: I shall therefore only describe its symptoms, and mention the several means attempted for its cure.

It seems to arise from debility, and usually attacks children previously reduced by fever; seldom those under one, or more than four or five years old. It is a chronical, or lingering complaint, and not attended with pain, fever, nor any manifest disease; so that the first thing observed is a debility of the lower extremities, which gradually become more infirm, and after a few weeks are unable to support the body. There are no signs of worms, nor other foulness of the bowels, therefore mercurial purges have not been of any use; neither has the bark, nor hot, nor cold-bathing. Blisters, or caustics on the bottom of the back, and hip-joint, and volatile and stimulating applications to the legs and thighs,

thighs, have been chiefly depended upon; though there is no appearance of any enlargement of any of the joints of the back, nor of suppuration in the external parts, and therefore no resemblance to the last mentioned complaint, the lumbar abscess, nor that of the hip-joint.

WHEN only one of the lower extremities has been affected, the above means, in two instances out of five or six, entirely removed the complaint: but when both have been paralytic, nothing has seemed to do any good but irons to the legs, for the support of the limbs, and enabling the patient to walk. At the end of four or five years, some have by this means got better, in proportion as they have acquired general strength: but even some of these, where the debility has not been entirely removed, have been disposed to fall afterwards into consumption

82 DISCOLOURATION, *accompanied with*
sumption of the lungs. On this account it may be suspected, that the complaint is sometimes owing to scrofula.

I HAVE seen a similar debility seize grown people, especially women, after some very long illnesses, and has continued a year, or more; during which time they were utterly incapable of walking without the help of crutches. These cases, however, have always been attended with great pain in the commencement of the complaint, though without tumour of the limbs; and have been benefited by the external use of the waters at *Bath*.

DISCOLOURATION, *accompanied with*
DEBILITY *of the* LIMBS.

ATTENDANT upon weakness of the lower extremities, there is sometimes a dis-

a discolouration equally distinct from those already mentioned,* and another yet to be noticed. It takes place at a more advanced age, and seemingly in consequence of previous bad health. I know of no writer who has noticed such a complaint, and have not met with it often enough to be distinctly acquainted with its nature, nor have I, as yet, fairly seen the result.

CHILDREN so affected have gone off their feet, as it is called, or dragged them only very feebly, after having been able to walk stoutly for some time. They have become in every respect weak and languid; their head has grown large, and their limbs become emaciated, but do not feel cold to the touch, though of a deep leaden-blue colour from the fingers and toes to the elbows and knees;

* See Vol. 1.

with the face almost equally discoloured, and like that of adults in a fit of asthma. A fall, or such like accident, has sometimes been suspected as the cause of these symptoms, but unsupported by any appearance on the backbone, or other parts.

THE bark and cordials have been made trial of without any advantage; and cold-bathing has seemed to be prejudicial. The application of leeches to the livid parts, friction, spirituous and volatile embrocations, and blisters; repeated electricity; tepid sea-bathing; steel, exercise, and a generous diet, are the means I have hitherto directed, after purging with calomel; but as yet, I have said, I am not able to state their certain effects.

IN several instances, a discolouration of this kind, which has appeared only at times, and recurred again during many months, attended with long and occasional

occasional difficulty of breathing, has disappeared totally as children have acquired general strength and good health; without manifest advantage from any means that have been used.

CURVATURE *of the* BONES *from* WEAKNESS.

CROOKEDNESS of the bones, particularly those of the lower extremities, has been mentioned as a common consequence of rickets, and may claim a transitory notice.

THE principal inquiry in the treatment of deformities of this kind, respects the use of irons for the support of the limbs, whenever the distortion happens to be considerable. The propriety of this assistance, has, indeed, been doubted by some practitioners, as well as their unpleasant appearance objected to by parents; who have

therefore been inclined rather to trust only to cold-bathing. Friend, however, as I am to the latter, I may venture to say from experience, that it is likely to be prejudicial at the time it is often had recourse to; for by strengthening the system, it rather serves to confirm the crookedness which the bones have already contracted. It is an advantage, on the other hand, that the bones remain soft and yielding as long as the curvature is considerable, if so be the pressure of the superior parts be at the same time duly counteracted. To support the limbs, therefore, with irons, as long as the softness of the bones disposes them to yield under the weight of the body, is certainly a rational intention, and has been very beneficial in numberless instances. This end obtained, the bones being still lengthening as the child grows up, they naturally
incline

incline to become straight ; and at this time the cold-bath and other strengthening remedies are properly indicated, and will co-operate to the cure of the complaint. The only care required, is, that the irons may be as light as possible, and be properly adapted, and that they be lengthened as often as may be necessary. It is, possibly, for want of due attention to this last particular, that irons have in some instances been really found to do harm ; the reason for which must be obvious to every one.

WHEN a curvature takes place in the back, (without any disease of its joints or cartilages, and therefore not accompanied with debility of the extremities) the like method should be taken. Proper instruments to support the head and upper parts of the body have been contrived by different artists,

tists, but those made by Mr. JONES appear to be the best.

SHOULD the bones of the arm be curved, either by accident or disease, in this soft state, rollers and pasteboard splints properly applied, will be sufficient to support, and restore them to their natural form.

BUT if the injury extend to the hip and contiguous bones, it will not be manifest at the time; and when discovered, can be benefited only by the cold-bath, and other general remedies. If this distortion should be considerable, it may, indeed, become a source of manifold evils in females, as will be noticed in another place.

WHITLOW.

MANY young people are very subject to a mild species of this complaint, which

which being perfectly superficial, is not improperly termed the cutaneous, or skin-whitlow, and will attack the ends of the fingers, several times in a year, without any previous injury of the part. The subject is, therefore, introduced here chiefly with the design of recommending a preventive which I have frequently seen successful. This consists only in bathing the fingers, several times a day, in the following mixture, the moment that a sense of any preternatural heat, or pain, shall be felt.

Take of Camphorated spirit, four ounces,

Water of acetated Litharge, two drams,

Tincture of opium, half an ounce.

Mix them.

It may have its use just to add, that in the malignant, or deep seated whitlow,

low, the best method is to make an early opening down to the bone, which will occasion the patient much less pain, than allowing the matter, gradually, to make its own way to the surface; which is likewise always attended with much mischief to the parts.

I SHALL only add, that in the commencement of the tumour and pain, nothing can be more improper than the recourse so commonly had to a bread and milk poultice; instead of which, where poultices are required, those made with the water of acetated litharge are abundantly preferable, and should be applied only very moderately warm.

BOILS.

THE common Boil only is intended here, and is noticed from its frequency
in

in young people towards the time of puberty, who are sometimes vexed with a succession of them. They are more commonly seated on the thighs, the bottom, and contiguous parts; are usually small, exceedingly painful, and of a deep red colour a little time before they break; but become perfectly easy immediately afterwards. Though oftentimes hurtful in older subjects, they are, however, justly accounted salutary in others, and do harm only when repelled, or hastily dried up. If a poultice of bread and milk, therefore, be applied from the first, (if the boil be in a convenient part, otherwise a gum-plaister) and a bit of yellow, or black basilicon put every day into the hollow, as soon as the boil breaks, it will be properly digested, and the core, as it is called, be brought out. It is sometimes for the want of this, that another boil forms in the neighbouring

neighbouring parts, or the child is teased with fore eyes, or some humour, as it is termed, on the skin.

Two or three doses of purging phyfic may be taken, at proper intervals, after the boil is healed.

CHILBLAINS.

THIS is a complaint so well known, that it can need no description. It is generally owing to the circulation of the blood in the minute vessels of the extremities being checked, by a child having been long exposed to cold or wet, and afterwards running to the fire instead of recovering the natural heat by general exercise, and friction of the parts affected. If the injury be exceedingly great, as it sometimes is when a person has lain for several hours in the snow, the circulation cannot always

ways be restored, and some parts actually mortify. To prevent this, if possible, instead of bringing the person near a fire, he should be immediately stripped, and well rubbed all over, especially the parts most affected, with snow, and afterwards with salt and water, and be then put into bed. If neither snow, nor ice be to be had, cold water should be made use of, or flannel sprinkled with spirit. If the parts be turned black, which they often are, when they are what is called frost-bitten, the patient, especially if a young child, should be confined to the bed, as long as the weather is severe and the parts continue discoloured. But my intention is to treat chiefly of slighter attacks; on the first appearance of which, known by the heat, itching, redness, and swelling of the heels, toes, or fingers, country people apply warm wood-ashes between cloths, or rub the
parts

parts with mustard and brandy, which if done in time will frequently both prevent their breaking into sores, and entirely remove the complaint. For the like purpose, rubbing the parts with a soft brush, or soaking them in warm water in which a hot poker has been two or three times quenched, and afterwards rubbing them with soft soap, or salt and onions, are good remedies; or embrocating them with the soap-liniment, or with camphorated spirit, to two ounces of which may be added a tea-spoonfull of the water of acetated litharge. But I have for some years experienced the good effects of far simpler means than any of these, and which I have hitherto never found equalled by any of the warmer remedies alone. It may, indeed, be used together with them; and is nothing more than the cerate of spermaceti spread on a large piece of thick lint,
or

or the soap-plaister upon cloth, to be applied as soon as the extremities begin to itch, or be painful: or if this should not very soon be of use, both embrocating, and covering the parts with compresses wrung out of the acetated water of ammonia, which should be continually preserved moist.

SOME children are disposed to have chilblains every winter; as a preservative against which, if it be the hands that are liable to be affected, warm leather gloves should be worn, (avoiding woollen, which in these cases is unfriendly to the skin,) and above all, wearing for a few hours in the day or night, and especially when abroad in the cold, oil'd-silk gloves, which is one of the best preventives both of chilblains and of chopped hands, that has been hitherto known. But if the feet are usually the affected parts, the heels only may be covered by a piece
of

of washing-leather, and over this a piece of oil'd-filk, secured round the insteps, and worn day and night during the cold months; and should be taken off only for the purpose of washing them, and rubbing the parts with the brush or liniments, as mentioned above.

WHEN the swellings are broken, it is common to dress the sores only with a little cerate, and to wait for the return of warm weather, when they usually heal of themselves; but by this means, they often remain bad through all the winter, and when large, are sometimes not well till the summer is very far advanced; and I have even seen them remain very bad both in children and grown people, at the end of *September*.

AFTER having attended great numbers in this complaint, I am satisfied that this kind of sore requires applications

cations somewhat more invigorating, being a species of mortification; and though it will not always endure very warm digestives like many other ulcers, yet when the chilblains are pretty large, a portion of some digestive joined with the cerate, is very friendly to them. And I have known some sores, though very small, which had remained in a very obstinate and tedious state long after the breaking up of a hard frost, whilst they had been dressed only with TURNER'S cerate, (the common family remedy) begin to heal immediately upon adding a small portion of some warm digestive, and applying a flannel roller, without any other alteration in the plan. But if they are spread to any considerable size, nothing contributes so much to their healing, as touching the sores every day with bracing and invigorating lotions, particularly, a diluted solution of the tincture

of muriated iron, or a diluted tincture of myrrh; which in a very few days will produce kindly granulations in these, and other cold sores, though of long standing.

WHEN the parts are much swollen, and the sores been long foul, it will be often necessary in severe weather, to make use of poultices, of which those made of rye-meal and the compound water of acetated litharge are more active, and therefore preferable to bread and milk: the latter however, if a little brandy be added to it, answers very well in many cases. If these are applied over the above dressing of cerate and digestive, and changed twice a day, the sores will heal in much less time than by any of the common applications I have seen used; especially if the parts surrounding the sore be well rubbed with camphorated spirit. If children be not very young, purging them

them with a little calomel twice a week, will often expedite the healing of the sores: in the worst cases, a decoction of the bark, as well as cordials, and a generous diet are required.

I HAVE now for many years had strong proofs of the good effects of electricity in chilblains, both as a remedy and a preventive, especially in very old people, many of whom are afflicted with them every winter.

BURNS *and* SCALDS.

BURNS are mentioned by some old writers, and though a misfortune by no means confined to young people, they too often fall to the lot of infants, through the carelessness of their attendants: and for want of being properly treated at the instant, children often suffer exceedingly, when a fit applica-

tion would have rendered the injury trifling.

WHEN such an accident happens, the nearest astringent at hand should be made use of, such as brandy, or other spirit, ink, wine, or even cold water, till something more proper can be procured; into which the injured part should be plunged, or be covered with pieces of cloth dipped in such liquors, which will prevent the blistering of the part; or in the momentary want of any of these, holding the injured part before a moderate fire; carefully avoiding the use of olive-oil, too frequently had recourse to. As soon as it is possible to send to an apothecary, the following should be procured, and used in like manner.

Lime-water, a pint, brandy, two ounces, water of acetated litharge, half an ounce.—Where ice can be conveniently applied, and renewed day and night,

night, it will be found one of the best early remedies in very bad cases.

IF the injury has been too long received to admit of much relief by these means, and deep floughs are actually formed, a very proper dressing may be made of equal parts of TURNER'S cerate, and green ointment of elder; diminishing the proportion of the latter as the floughs shall be thrown off, and the fores become disposed to heal. But should the injured surface be large, or the pain, occasioned by removing the dressings, be very great, it will be sufficient to cover the parts with pieces of linen dipped in cold-drawn linseed-oil, which should be moistened every day, and suffered to adhere till the fores are in a state to admit of being dressed in a common way.

A STRONG solution of soap in water has long been in use with artificers employed in any business exposing

to very bad scalds; and is a very excellent remedy—About three quarters of an ounce of soft soap is a proper quantity for a pint of water. But not only does soap take some time in dissolving, but requiring a certain proportion of boiling water, the lotion cannot be made cool enough for immediate use by the addition of the proper quantity of cold water. A remedy, therefore, more convenient, and perhaps more efficacious, which if not always in the house, may in every large town be speedily procured, may be made of olive-oil, cold water and soap-leys. Twelve table-spoonsfull of oil to ten of water, with two tea-spoonsfull of the ley will make a pint.—This quantity may be sufficient for a burn on the hand or foot, which is to be immersed, and kept about half an hour in the liquor, which will remove the injury if had recourse to immediately; but

but must be repeated, as the pain may require, if the scald or burn be of some standing. Could a person scalded all over, be instantly put up to the chin in a cold-bath of this kind, and the head, at the same time, be frequently immersed, or well washed with the liquor, I believe very little injury would ensue.—Whatever sores may be formed, should be treated afterwards according to the foregoing directions.

LUXATIONS *and* FRACTURES.

INFANTS are not only liable to these misfortunes by a fall from the lap, but the bones, or joints, may sometimes be unavoidably injured in the birth. There is in this case, seldom any luxation, I believe, but of the shoulder; which is not difficult to be reduced,

and requires nothing afterwards, but that the limb be kept perfectly quiet.

It is very common for nurses, especially during the month, to support the lower-jaw of an infant whenever it happens to yawn, in the apprehension that the jaw might, otherwise, be dislocated. This practice is, at least, an evidence of the nurse's attention, and can do no harm; though I have, indeed, never known the accident happen. Should it, however, take place, either at this age, or in older children through some violence, it will occasion a very awkward appearance, and prove very distressing to the child, who will be disabled from taking any nourishment till the luxation be reduced. Nothing more, however, is required to this end, than to place the thumb of each hand in the back of the mouth, and the fingers on the outside, under
the

the jaw, so as to depress, and at the same time bring it a little forward, to disengage the head, or back part of the bone, and then force the jaw suddenly back. Should any intelligent parent or midwife be inclined to make this attempt and not presently succeed, it may be better to wait the coming of a surgeon, though from a distance, than to risk breaking the jaw by forcibly repeating the experiment, in the hope of reducing it.

FRACTURES, indeed, are not quite so easily managed as luxations, and perhaps happen more frequently. The bones are yet but little more than gristle, and if strained beyond a certain degree, are easily bent, or even broken. The former is very readily restored, but I shall be more particular on the latter, that parents at a distance from the best helps, may be able to form some just idea of the merits of such as they

they can procure. It is with this view, it has been observed*, (and it is hoped no one will feel himself offended by it,) that I have said more in many parts of the work, on some matters above the reach of many of my readers, than I should otherwise have done.

FRACTURES in the birth are usually of the collar-bone, the arm, or the thigh; the treatment of the two former of which, will include all that is necessary to be observed of such as may happen in other parts.

THE first, however, requires very little attention, as it will be necessary only to draw the shoulders back, confining them in that posture, by two or three pins in the clothes, and to apply a piece of the adhesive, or the soap-plaister, spread on leather, upon the rising end of the bone, and a larger

* *Introduction* to this volume.

piece over the first, so as to cover both points of the bone.

A FRACTURE of the arm demands a little more attention, but will always end perfectly well. The difficulty consists in keeping the fractured ends of the bones apposed to each other, without rolling up the arm so tight as to occasion pain, or much swelling of the hand, which in a new-born infant, a very small pressure will effect. I have found no method so well adapted as the following, which allowing of a little tumour about the fractured part, without the necessity of loosening the roller, preserves the ends of the bones in due contact, without drawing the roller so tight as to prevent the free return of blood from the inferior parts of the limb.

To this end, three little splints, about half an inch in width, and an inch and half long, may be made of fine linen cloth,

cloth, five or six times folded together, to the thickness of common pasteboard; and being soaked in a mixture of flour and white of egg, should be placed in the usual manner, along the fractured ends of the bone. Being applied wet, they will accommodate themselves exactly to the figure of the limb, and when become dry, will be sufficiently strong to support the bones. They should be applied immediately on the skin, without the intervention of a roller, by which means, when the parts swell, which they should always do a little, there will be space enough between them to allow for it, notwithstanding the pressure from the roller; which should be applied over them. This ought to be of very fine flannel, and should not be drawn near so tight as for adults, nor will there be occasion for it, as the chief dependance ought to be on fastening the arm down
close

close to the side, by strong pins fixed into the little gown, in the manner the surgeon may best contrive at the time. The gown, therefore, ought not to be changed, nor the arm moved, but in his presence: and if the hand be not inflamed, nor very much swelled, and the child continues easy, the part will not need to be opened under eight or ten days. Till this time, the same gown should be worn, and be preserved clean by such coverings as may easily be removed. The speedy union of the bones will depend upon a strict attention to keeping the limb as still as possible; and if it be so preserved, the accident will afford very little trouble after the first ten or twelve days, and at the month's end, the child will move that arm nearly as well as the other.

On CUTTING the TONGUE.

THE directions on this head, as well as the notice taken of many of the following little disorders, proceed rather from a desire that nothing on the subject of children's complaints should be omitted, than from their real importance. Some of them, indeed, have been entirely overlooked by preceding writers, and though they may seldom require much attention, it may sometimes be of advantage to know what has been serviceable in similar cases.—The instance under consideration, however, is too trifling a matter to dwell upon. And, indeed, the little operation, performed in order to lengthen the tongue, is very frequently called for where there is no absolute occasion for it, the confinement being seldom
 so

so considerable as to make it really necessary to divide the bridle, or string, that adheres to the under part of the tongue. The child will suffer so very little, however, in the operation, that when it is carefully done, it will be attended with no inconvenience; and if it can afford the mother any satisfaction, it will be very proper to comply with her request. It seems therefore only necessary to add, that some little care and steadiness are required, or the veins under the tongue may be wounded, and in consequence an infant may lose its life. To avoid this danger, the bridle may be divided by a small curved bistoury, instead of scissars; the back part of which will sufficiently press down the veins, so as to be entirely out of the way of being injured. These cautions have been judged by some people to be very trifling; but besides that infants have actually bled
to

to death, the following equally fatal accident has arisen from cutting too deep, which I shall therefore notice in this place, as well as describe an instrument contrived for suppressing the bleeding.

SUFFOCATION *from* SWALLOWING *the*
POINT *of the* TONGUE; *and*
BLEEDING.

THE occasion of this accident, it has been said, is cutting too deep in dividing the bridle: I have here to notice its symptoms and remedy. The former are those usually attending strangulation, and come on suddenly, and without any probable cause but that of the tongue having been cut; but to which they are seldom attributed by those who are strangers to the complaint. The infant appears greatly

greatly agitated; the face turns black; and unless these symptoms soon disappear, the child goes off in a convulsion. But if they are presently removed, the infant is as suddenly well; but they generally return again, and have in several instances proved fatal.

THE remedy consists in nothing more than bringing the tongue into its proper place, and if the infant be suckled, putting it immediately to the breast, which will give the tongue a natural direction. Should the child be brought up by hand, the tongue should be watched for some time, at least till the bleeding shall be stopped; the complaint taking place only in consequence of that being considerable, so as to become an inducement to the infant to continue sucking at the part.

WHEN these veins are actually wounded, the danger, it has been said, is considerable; but the means of cure are very simple. They consist only of a piece of ivory, in the form of a short fork; the prongs of which should be so placed as to press against the apertures in the veins, and the other end against the inside of the lower jaw, and should therefore be broad and somewhat convex, that it may keep its place.

BLEEDING *of the* NOSE.

THIS complaint was hinted in the chapter on Sneezing, and is likewise met with amongst old writers; I shall therefore bestow a few words upon it, though it is not often of much consequence, I believe, before the age of puberty.

IF a child be feverish, or otherwise unwell, the bleeding is often a mere symptom arising from the complaint under which it labours, and will disappear upon that being properly treated. But a bleeding at the nose sometimes takes place in the healthiest children, the vessels of this part being weaker than those which are covered by the true skin, and often afford a salutary outlet, in case of fulness of blood, and therefore usually contract when the intention of nature is answered; after which, a dose or two of cooling physic should be given. But it may be sometimes necessary to draw a little cold water up the nose, to which some vinegar may be added, and to compress the nostril from which the blood flows; also to apply some thing cold to the upper part of the back, and confine the patient as much as may be to an upright posture. Should these

little remedies fail, the head and hands may be bathed with cold vinegar and water, and the nostrils be stopped up with doffils of lint, which upon urgent occasions must be dipped in warmed oil of turpentine, or other styptic liquor, and must extend to the posterior parts opening into the throat. The last means will almost always succeed; but if otherwise, some blood should be taken from the arm, if the pulse does not forbid; the feet be immersed in warm water, or the hands in cold; and the body kept open by manna, and cream of tartar; and the patient should live for a long time pretty much upon whey, vegetables and milk, at least, should not dine wholly upon animal food.—In the intermediate days of purging, the testaceous powders, and tincture of catechu may be taken; and in some instances the bark will be proper.

BLEEDING

BLEEDING *from the* NAVEL.

THE navel of new-born infants is liable to several disorders, some of which are of considerable importance; but I speak in this chapter only of the slighter ones. Of these, one is an oozing of blood from the part, after an unkindly separation of the cord, and is owing to the shooting up of a soft fungus, which prevents the skin from covering the divided vessels in the manner it otherwise does. This rawness, however, is not always attended with bleeding, as will be noticed in the next chapter, but when it is so, it has sometimes continued for several months, and in some instances, in such quantity as to prove alarming to the friends of the child, lest it should in the end be injurious

to its health. The little vessel from whence the blood issues, lies always so deep that it cannot be secured by ligature. Nothing further, however, is necessary, than to adapt a proper compress, and secure it by a sticking plaister and bandage; which should be continued for two or three weeks; or it may be restrained merely by a small dossil of lint, and cross strips of sticking plaister applied in the manner directed for ruptures at this part.

THERE is, indeed, another kind of bleeding of more importance, but this seems to be sympathetic, and is attendant upon infants who are in an ill state of health during the month, and is, perhaps, a bad sign. It takes place where the navel-string has been apparently well healed; but the skin afterwards gives way, and the bleeding is much more considerable than
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in the former. It requires, however, nothing more than the application of a little warmed oil of turpentine, or other common styptic, with proper compress and bandage. The bleeding not appearing, in the least, to be critical, ought to be suppressed as soon as may be, and whatever complaint the infant may labour under, be treated according to its kind.

SORENESS, or ULCERATION of the NAVEL.

THE care of this part has been so uniformly submitted to nurses, that unless some very unusual complaint has appeared, medical men were not formerly consulted. On this account, its disorders have rarely been mentioned by writers, nor probably have all the affections to which it is liable been known to them.

THE separation of the cord is the work of nature, whose operations are usually performed in the best manner, and time. It may be here remarked, however, that in regard to the time there is considerable variety; a complete separation in some instances taking place in five days, and even earlier; and in others, not till the fifteenth, or sixteenth. When so late, the cord is usually found to hang for some time only by a very small filament, or thread; which having no life remaining, ought to be divided. For want of this, a source of irritation and discharge is kept up, which I have suspected being the cause of some of the little disorders of this part now to be noticed. In the last instance that I met with of a long discharge from the navel, I afterwards learned that the cord had been in the above state for
several

several days, and had not dropped off till the fifteenth.

THE separation of this part, however, is not often followed by much soreness or pain, though there is frequently a true ulcer of the part. The common applications of a bit of singed linen cloth, a toasted raisin, and dusting the part with hair-powder, or the powder of ceruse, are usually sufficient for the common soreness consequent upon the separation of the cord. In some instances, however, the discharge is very great, and the part continues to appear raw, and indisposed to heal, or dry up. In such cases, I have often found three or four small pieces of a soft cabbage leaf one of the best applications. They should be laid one over another, that they may be preserved moist and cool, and should be continued as long as the discharge shall be considerable.

A MORE troublesome case is that of the part becoming sore, often some weeks after it has appeared to be healed; and as far as I have seen, (unless in some very bad cases presently to be noticed,) has taken place only where the skin of the belly has extended an unusual way on the cord, occasioning, as will be noticed in a subsequent chapter, a disposition to a rupture at the navel. This soreness is likewise attended with much thin discharge, which disappears and returns irregularly, together with a raw appearance of the part; which is not many days in the same state. The bowels are in this case usually affected, and should therefore be carefully attended to, and proper remedies administered according to the nature and number of the stools; the part being at the same time covered with cabbage leaves, or with a poultice of bread and milk, or of the
compound

compound water of acetated litharge, or a decoction of the bark, according as it may be healed, or otherwise; and the raw part touched, now and then, with the nitrated silver, blue vitriol, or powder of calamine-stone, as its appearance, and the quantity of discharge may suggest.

By one or other of these means, I have always found it get well, but sometimes not in less than five or six weeks, and then has usually dried up suddenly; until which time the infant has seldom thriven properly. In several recent instances, however, I have enclosed the raw part in a ligature; and this method has usually removed the complaint in a couple of days; and seems therefore to be always preferable where it can be effected.

BUT there is a much more alarming ulceration, which like the former, takes place some time after the part has been properly

properly healed, and is, probably, always the consequence of some other illness, or general debility of the infant. In such cases, the sore has been found to spread over a great part of the belly, and even to mortify. Here very little can be done, I believe; all the instances but one, that I have known any thing of, having proved fatal, not so much from the local affection, or tender age of the subject, as from the original cause of the gangrene.

WHATEVER is found proper in a similar state of parts on other occasions, should be made trial of, such as fomentations, poultices, and a liberal exhibition of the bark and cordials; under the use of which, however, the infant rarely survives long enough to afford a due trial of their effects. They have, however, succeeded lately in one instance.

UNKINDLY SEPARATION *of the* NAVEL-
STRING.

THE uncommonness of the appearance here intended may be offered as a reason for noticing it, as it can require but little if any medical assistance. I have only once seen such a case; and being at a loss what turn it might take, it is imagined, the reader may not be displeased with this account of the probable result.

THE case is hinted at under the article of *hepartomphalos*; and the subject of it was born in the *British Lying-in* hospital, where the navel-string was tied in the ordinary manner, about three inches from the child's body. But instead of separating close to it as usual, only the part enclosed by the ligature decayed; the
portion

portion below it preserving its former appearance, except that it was a little shrunk or shortened: some unusual vessel, it is probable, keeping up the life of the part. In this state it remained for some days before the nurse made mention of it to any one; and as it afterwards appeared probable it would gradually shrink away, no particular directions were given; but it was purposed in a few days, to tie the cord close to the belly, if that should not be rendered needless by its becoming dry, and dropping off in the usual manner.

WHEN the child was near three weeks old, the cord appeared a little raw and moist, and the ligature was then determined upon; but the mother being called to a place as wet-nurse to a great distance, left the hospital suddenly, the remaining cord being still a living part, but only half
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an inch in length, and the child very healthy.

RUPTURES.

RUPTURES may take place in different parts, but they usually appear at the navel, or the groin. That of the navel is sometimes complicated with the ventral, or belly rupture, near to this part, and is occasioned by the separation of the strait muscles, the strong tendon, called *linea alba*, being there deficient; for want of which the parts are too weak to confine their contents: but this rupture seldom extends far above or below the navel. The simple navel-rupture is a very common complaint, which if immediately attended to, is easily cured, perhaps merely by the use of the cold-bath: but if neglected, may prove trou-

troublesome as the child grows up; especially to females. It will be sooner cured, however, if treated like the bleeding of this part, by adapting a pyramidical comprefs, made of round pieces of good sticking-plaister, spread upon thin leather, with pieces of card placed between them; or what is more easily prepared, and is adapted to poor people, a piece of bees-wax as broad as a shilling, and half an inch thick: the upper part of it may be round, and the other flat, which should be placed on the navel. But if the child be a twelvemonth old, these remedies will then require a pretty tight bandage round the waste; and such a compression, I have frequently observed nurses afraid of, who often loosen the bandage so much as to render it of very little use. On this account, I have for several years recommended the late Mr. SQUIRE's elastic bandage, which

which if this rupture be complicated with the ventral, or belly rupture, becomes the more necessary; and fitting quite hollow on the sides, and making no kind of compression but on the part affected, and the opposite point of the back, perfectly answers the end, without the help of a surgeon, and generally in three or four months. A less expensive method, however, has been lately contrived, of bringing the parts together by means of three or four strips of adhesive plaister, applied star-wise, across the navel, which should be renewed, when they get loose; and has been found to succeed in several instances.—It has been said, that startings of the navel more commonly happen to such infants, in whom the skin of the belly has extended further than is common upon the navel-string; on which account, nurses ought to be particularly

careful in such instances, and keep the part more than ordinarily confined.

RUPTURES at the groin are of more consequence, yet may be safely left without a bandage, especially as the cold-bath alone generally cures them when they happen to children before they go alone. In early infancy, there is likewise some difficulty in retaining the trufs on the part, and it is continually liable to be wetted. If a rupture, however, should be very large, and the infant unusually fretful and crying, recourse may be had to a steel-trufs; to which it will be necessary to pay some attention, lest it slip out of its place, or the rupture fall down, and be bruised by the pad. After two years of age, indeed, when children begin to take more exercise, the use of the trufs seems to be absolutely necessary, of which those made of steel as improved by Mr. SQUIRE, are incom-

comparably the best.—Should the cure of either kind of rupture proceed slowly, cold-bathing will assist it, as well as be proper, for some months, after leaving off the bandage or truss.

LASTLY, it may be prudent to drop a word or two on the strangulated, or confined rupture; which is more apt to take place in the groin than in any other part, though, happily, it is not very common in children. It will be sufficient to repeat here the observation made in the chapter on vomiting, that when any part of the bowel is strangulated, the stomach will frequently eject every thing that is put into it, and should, therefore, furnish a suspicion of such an accident, and lead to an immediate examination of the parts. Should the slightest appearances of tumour and heat be discovered, the assistance of a good surgeon should be immediately sought

for. But if such help be at a great distance, a purging clyster with oil may in the mean time be thrown up; and a proper dose of fenna-tea, or of the purging salt be immediately taken, with a few drops of laudanum, suitable to the age of the child. When stools have been procured, a poultice of bread and milk, or of the acetated water of litharge may be applied to the part, only very moderately warm.

WATERY-RUPTURE.

THIS is a distention of the purse of a nature similar to the watery-rupture of adults, and when it falls to the share of infants, I believe, usually appears at the birth. It is frequently mistaken by midwives and nurses for a common rupture, who therefore advise a linen bandage to be applied in the ordinary manner.

manner. It is, however, easily distinguished from that complaint, by the tumour being transparent; without pain; and from not retiring upon pressure, nor being increased by the crying of the infant.

THOUGH it has been thought always to appear at the birth, and that the tumour does not retire upon pressure, I think I have lately seen some instances where it has been otherwise. In one, I had occasion to examine the parts very attentively at the birth, on account of a little mal-conformation of another kind, and neither then, nor the next morning saw any appearance of water; nor was it discovered by the nurse or mother till six weeks afterwards, though the parts, for the reason above mentioned, were frequently examined. About this time I was sent

ever, by the mother's report, was before I got there greatly diminished. The part, nevertheless, contained, as I imagine, near a table spoonful of water, and was from this time distended in different degrees, as the water happened to retire, more or less, through the muscular ring (as it is called) above, which I apprehend must have been preternaturally open; though no portion of the caul, nor bowel, I believe, ever descended. The complaint, however, disappeared in a few weeks, by only dashing the parts with cold water, three or four times a day.—This infant was a twin; and it is remarkable, that the other had likewise a watery-rupture, which was not discovered for three weeks after the former; but was much smaller, and got well by only the like gentle treatment.

THIS kind of rupture in infants, is a harmless complaint, and would probably

dably always disappear of itself in the course of a few months ; but may much sooner be dispersed by some astringent lotion. The water of acetated ammonia has succeeded with me perfectly well, and I have sometimes made use of compresses wetted in vinegar and water, with the addition of a little spirit, as the skin has been able to bear it. The smoke of burning gum benjamin received upon flannel, and applied to the part, is likewise a good remedy. But the speediest method is to puncture the bottom of the tumour with the point of a lancet ; which, as it may always be done with perfect safety, and with very little, and only a momentary pain to the child, is often preferred by the parent, as it instantly removes a blemish which cannot but be unpleasant, whenever any other person may chance to be witnesses to it. In whatever way the water be gotten

rid of, I never knew it return, nor the child suffer any consequent inconvenience; though the complaint is so common that I have seen it in many score instances, and cured in different ways.

WINDY-RUPTURE.

HAVING never seen the complaint, (though often mentioned by old writers and nurses) and conceiving that the preceding disorder must have been mistaken for it, I should not have noticed it, but in the view that nothing relating to infantile complaints might be overlooked. Should the purse, however, be really distended with wind, a piece of cotton, fumigated with gum mastic may be applied twice a day, and the part embrocated with the compound water of acetated litharge, with
the

the addition of a small portion of camphorated spirit; and be supported with a proper bandage.

RETENTION *of the* TESTICLES.

ONE, or both of the testicles, in some instances, remain in the body of infants at their birth, and then a tumour appears in one, or both groins, forming another affection resembling a rupture, and is noticed on that account. As the application of a steel-truss, or, indeed, any other bandage, might here be attended with bad, if not fatal consequences, it is of importance that parents should consult some medical person, whenever they suspect a rupture.

THIS complaint being generally owing to a preternatural stricture of the muscular ring (before mentioned) through

through which the testicles should pass, or to a want of due action in the cremaster, or guide, which ought to conduct them down, I have nothing to recommend, unless it be in a negative way, to forbid any rude handling of the part, or attempts of the nurse to force them into the purse. If any thing of this kind should be necessary, it ought to be done by another hand. In the course of a few weeks, or months, however, the obstacle, of whatever kind, usually gives way; though sometimes, indeed, the part remains confined through life, and its unnatural position is certainly attended with some inconveniences, and a greater chance of injury to the parts; of which I have seen more than one instance in adults. Should inflammation take place, in consequence of any accident, during infancy, every proper means of counteracting it should be immediately had recourse

recourse to, such as gentle laxative medicines, and embrocations and cooling poultices, made of the compound water of acetated litharge.

TUMEFACATION *of the* PREPUCE.

THIS little complaint, like the watery-rupture, arises from extravasated water, and is a partial dropfy of the skin, and if it be not attended with inflammation, nor owing to a stone sticking in the passage, as it sometimes is, it never proves of any consequence, and is mentioned chiefly because it is always alarming to parents. It is sometimes preceded by a copious discharge from the part, of a thick but soft consistence, resembling a strong lather of soap, or the froth of milk, which disappears as soon as the tumefaction subsides.

THE part may be washed frequently with the compound water of acetated litharge, or be wrapped up in a poultice of that kind, and the body be kept open, which usually removes the complaint in two or three days; but if it should not, the part might be lightly scarified, and afterwards fomented. Should it arise from inflammation, as in the infantile erysipelas, the inflammatory cause must be properly treated. If from a stone in the passage, the stone must be extracted, if within reach, or if otherwise, it should be forced back into the bladder.

FALLING-DOWN *of the GUT.*

THIS is a descent of the internal coat of the lower bowels, (this coat being much longer than the others, and full of folds) and is either owing to its laxity,

ity, or to irritation. It is no uncommon complaint, nor usually difficult of cure, being generally a symptom of some other, such as worms, or other foulness of the bowels, or has been induced by rough purges, a looseness, long costiveness, a stone in the bladder, or other irritating cause, and is usually preceded by a needing; to each of which the proper remedy must be applied, or the cure of the descent will be attempted in vain.

BUT if the complaint should remain, after the irritating cause has been removed, it will then depend merely upon a relaxation of the part, arising from the long habit of descending every time the child has gone to stool, and is, in general, easily cured by an astringent lotion. To this end, a compress of cotton, or soft tow, wrung out of the dregs of red wine, to which may be added a few drops of the water
of

of acetated litharge, should be often applied, and secured by a linen bandage, so as to make a firm compression on the part; or a compress may be sprinkled with fine powder of myrrh, frankincense, and dragon's blood, or impregnated with the smoke of turpentine cast on burning coals. Should these means fail, suppositories may be made of powder of balauftines, red rose leaves, and oak-bark, in honey, and introduced into the bowels, after going to stool.—It may be found expedient to have the part supported at such times, by a servant placing a finger on each side the gut: but this caution will not be necessary unless the complaint have been of long standing, or the descent be considerable.

WHEN this is the case, astringent fomentations and injections will also become necessary. These may be made of a decoction of oak-bark, which
must

must sometimes be rendered more powerful, by the addition of a little alum; the quantity of which should be increased as the part may be able to bear it.

CHILDREN affected with this complaint should always sit on a hard, flat-bottomed stool, or a chair without arms, and of such a height that their feet may not touch the ground.—For children of eight or ten years old, who take much exercise, recourse may be had to Mr. GOOCH's suspensory as improved by Mr. SAVIGNY, instead of the linen bandage above recommended.

DISCHARGES *from the* VAGINA.

THESE are either bloody, mucous, or purulent, resembling matter.—As I speak professedly only of appearances before the age of puberty, I have
merely

merely to remark on the first, that female infants have sometimes such a discharge a few days after birth, which appears to be of no consequence. Should it, however, on any account, be thought necessary to attend to it, a little testaceous powder, or magnesia, according to the state of the bowels, will be sufficient, as it always disappears in a few days.

CHILDREN of five or six years old, are subject to a mucous discharge, resembling the genuine whites of adults, which will in some instances be in an excessive quantity, so as to run through all their clothes; and is sometimes, though rarely, tinged with blood. If it were suffered to continue, it would probably injure the health, but I believe may always be cured, by one or other of the means recommended for the next, which may be called a purulent discharge.

THIS

THIS is also no uncommon complaint in children of three or four years old, and is then, in general, easily removed by a little cooling physic, and keeping the parts perfectly clean. I have sometimes made use of a lotion of the compound water of acetated litharge, which I believe is preferable to most others, if had recourse to in the commencement of the complaint; and if there be any excoriations, they should be covered with the ointment of acetated cerus, spread upon linen, or lint.

WHEN the purulent discharge makes its appearance much later, as it not unfrequently does, and is much discoloured, and fetid, it gives rise to a suspicion which parents or guardians cannot be too cautious of. There are, indeed, instances of little girls, not more than six years old, being *injured*, and it is of consequence to make a

judicious discrimination; but there are on the other hand, instances of a very suspicious appearance, as late as the age of thirteen or fourteen, where no injury could be received without the consent of the party, who is generally perfectly innocent, and where, therefore, the least suspicion would be very distressing to her, and might make a whole family miserable.

DISCHARGES with the worst appearances are frequently carried off in eight or ten days, merely by the treatment above recommended; but I have seen some cases in the youngest subjects, of a bad habit of body, where mercury, as a deobstruent, has proved useful, though I could not have the least suspicion of a venereal taint. In such cases, I have found WARD'S white drop a more convenient medicine than any other preparation of mercury: it may be given in the dose
of

of half a drop, and may by degrees, be increased to two and even three drops, once or twice a day, for two or three weeks. But where this has failed, I have only to add, that I have been always able to succeed by giving a decoction of the bark, with balsam of copaiba dissolved with yelk of egg, according to the rules of the shop; which is also an admirable medicine in the whites of adults.

*On the VENOM of INSECTS, and
of CERTAIN ANIMALS.*

THOUGH the following accidents, like some others before mentioned, are not confined to any age, they are, at least, more formidable when they fall to the lot of little children. On this account, it may not be improper to recommend some suitable antidote

against the bite, or sting of venomous insects, particularly the wasp, gnat, and other flies; especially as they happen frequently to children in the country at a distance from medical help, and often alarm parents exceedingly. Indeed, for the most venomous, such help can rarely be had before considerable inflammation has taken place; after which it will take its course, and will continue, if occasioned by a gnat, three days, and by some other insects, for six; though the tormenting itching may be allayed much sooner by the means of proper applications. If the bite should be on the eye-lid, the inside of the lip, or ear, very troublesome symptoms may follow, and the infant will be vexed by it exceedingly.

In the absence of better remedies, the first application may be, of the strongest spirit at hand, three parts,
two

two of vinegar, and one of sweet-oil; taking care it do not get into the eyes. But as soon as may be, the following should be applied very frequently; which will check the progress of the venom, and allay the pain and itching immediately,

Of camphorated spirit, a table-spoonful,
Of distilled vinegar, and of laudanum,
each a tea-spoonful;

to which, if the injury be not too near the mouth, may be added twenty drops of the water of acetated litharge.

THE bite of the common bug which infests crowded places, not only occasions a tormenting itching in children of a very delicate skin, and in certain grown people newly come from open villages, but will also sometimes raise blisters as large as pigeons eggs, and will inflame the parts for several days. A very good application is vinegar with a small quantity

of olive-oil, and a few drops of laudanum: oil alone would rather increase the size of the blisters. But the best application, I believe, for the sting of any of the above mentioned insects where the inflammation extends far, is ice, which immediately takes off the heat and itching, and should be repeated for half an hour at a time, every three or four hours, as long as may be necessary.—For the highly venomous bite of the viper, the immediate application of olive-oil is the well-known, and certain remedy; as well as the internal exhibition of the volatile alcali. To this end, a teaspoonfull of the compound spirit of ammonia, may be given in two or three table spoonsfull of water, with a bit of loaf-sugar, three or four times a day, to children of eight or ten years of age.

UNDER

UNDER the painful impressions of an awful accident that happened in my own family, some years ago, at the time I was engaged in this part of the work, (though, I thank God, the alarm terminated happily,) I cannot avoid dropping a few words on the envenomed bite of *morbidly* ENRAGED ANIMALS. It is not my intention, however, to advert to the peculiar nature of this most malignant poison, nor to enumerate the many deceitful remedies that have been at different times proposed with an air of infallibility; since dwelling long on this unpleasant subject would ill accord with a tract of this kind. Nor is it my design to propose any new remedy, but rather to lament, that the best preventives should be so ill attended to, particularly amongst the inferiour class of people, to whom this dreadful accident happens oftener than to the

rich. And on this account, as well as the subject being rarely treated of, and seldom falling in the way of any but medical people, (who are often consulted too late) it is hoped, the intention will apologize for obtruding a friendly caution in this place. For, after a good deal of experience, and much inquiry and reading on this subject, I am confident, that nothing ought, in any instance, to be depended upon, but taking out the injured parts, by the knife or caustic, or both; which if duly and timely effected, cannot fail to prevent every evil apprehended. But whenever the situation of the wound may not admit of going deep enough to insure success, or too much time may already have elapsed, the stronger mercurial ointment ought to be rubbed in very freely, so as to raise a salivation; which has not only been thought to have proved an effectual preventive, but

but to have also succeeded even where evident symptoms of infection had taken place.

It may not be superfluous to subjoin the following directions, and especially as the first may not be ill executed by a parent, or other prudent person at hand, and may be of great importance if done as soon as possible after the injury has been received.

LET the wound and the surrounding parts be well washed with lukewarm water, to take off the flaver as much as possible.

LET the wounded flesh be then instantly cut out with a sharp instrument, or cauterised with hot iron, or with spirit of nitre, or vitriol, (commonly known by the name of aqua fortis, and oil of vitriol) or the nitrated silver.

SUPPURATION will be accelerated, and pain alleviated, by filling and covering the wound with a poultice of
bread

bread and milk applied luke-warm, and renewed every four hours.

LET the surrounding parts be then rubbed with the strong mercurial ointment. If the danger be imminent, and the bites deep, or numerous, salivation should be excited as soon as possible. It is also necessary in this extremity, to cut away, burn, or cauterize the flesh around the wound, even although it should appear to be healed up. It is certain, that the wound opens, when the dread of water, makes its appearance.

I HAVE only to add, (what it is, indeed, a great satisfaction to be able to say,) that, dreadful as this accident is where the poison has taken effect, it is evident, that only a very small proportion of those who are bitten by animals actually enraged, become really infected. Fortunately, the clothes sometimes prove a defence, by wiping off
the

the foam from the animal's teeth ; at others, it does not happen to be forced into the wound, or is not yet possessed of a poisonous quality ; or lastly, it is not absorbed, or the system may not be in a state to be infected. These assertions are supported by numberless facts, though much less frequent, perhaps, in *London* than in some other parts, especially in the vicinity of large forests on the Continent, where such animals are very commonly met with, and often wound a great number of people.

It is, doubtless, the uncertainty of the bad consequences of such injuries, that has supported the credit of many fallacious remedies on this melancholy occasion. Encouraging, therefore, as the above circumstances certainly are, it would, indeed, be madness to confide in them, where the proper remedy may be made use of in time ; and
though

though I should wish to conceal rather than spread these acknowledged facts, could I think they would have such an effect, it is on the other hand, no small satisfaction, that such encouragement may be justly held out to those who may be under any alarm for themselves or their friends.

COMPLAINTS *mentioned by* ANTIENT
WRITERS.

I SHOULD here close the account of Diseases, did I not meet with several others recorded under obsolete terms by the antients, which it may therefore be proper briefly to notice and explain. Of some I know nothing but from the authors own account of them, or that they are needless distinctions of diseases (already sufficiently noticed) which the antients were very fond of making, especially in complaints of
the

the skin, but can answer no practical end: of the others, some further account will be given. Such are *Lentes*, *Hispiditas*, *Achores*, *Favus*, *Psforophthalmia*, *Impetigo*, *Ranulæ* or *Batrachos*, *Seriasis*, *Paristhmia*, *Parulis*, *Instatio*, *Crinones*, *Malum Pilare*, *Phthiriasis*, *Hydroa*, *Macies*.

THE six first are affections of the skin, or of the eye-lids. *Achores* and *Favus* are a sort of *Crusta-lactea*, or milk-blotches, so called by some, when of a dark colour, or ulcerated, and extending to the head, and *Impetigo* when it attacks the chin; but by others the term *Achores* is applied only to adults. The Scald-head also, denominated *Tinea* when the scabs have resembled moth-holes in cloth, and *Favus* when like a honey-comb, has been by some termed *Achores*, when the discharge has been unusually acrimonious. But in these verbal distinctions my readers will find themselves very

very little interested, unless they should serve to explain certain terms met with in other writers. *Pforophthalmia* is confined to the eye-lids.

Ranula is an infarction of the glands under the tongue, and I believe, is not very common in infants, and indeed is mostly a complaint confined to particular local situations. I have seen it, however, in this country, in adults, of the size of the largest walnut, and it then becomes very troublesome, both in speaking and swallowing. When large it is usually soft, and contains a fluid, and sometimes sandy concretions. In this case, it needs only to be opened, and to be cleared of these particles; but if it be hard, the whole tumour must be extirpated. *Seriasis* is a depression of the skull; the bones about the mould, or sometimes only the membrane so called, being drawn in. It is described as an inflammation of the brain, which is sometimes said to

to mortify. I have never met with any thing like this disorder accompanied with a depression of the skull, though I have seen the precise depression unaccompanied with any disease, and something very like the disease without the depression. The latter was noticed in an infant of five weeks old, who died of convulsion fits, the brain appearing as if in a state of mortification, and smelling exceedingly fetid. *Paristhmia* is an inflammation of the tonsils, or throat, but is certainly not common in this country. *Parulis*, a complaint described by some as a painful tumour about the gums, and by others, as a blister in the mouth. *Inflatio*, is a distention of the skin from wind or water after a child has been reduced by long illness. *Crinones*, or *Grubbs*, is little known as a disease, I believe, in *Europe*. It is, probably, a secretion from the glands under the skin,

skin, and appears on the arms, legs, and back, of sucking children; and is absurdly enough thought by some to be produced by insects: older children are often found to have some appearances of it, but it seldom affords them further trouble than a little itching; and they amuse themselves by forcing out of the skin what they call worms. In the instance of infants so affected, rubbing the parts with a coarse cloth, by the fire-side, is all that will usually be necessary in northern climates.

THOUGH this kind of affection is generally of little consequence, whether in infants, or young children, I have, nevertheless, sometimes known it prove a very troublesome complaint in older subjects, especially in females about the time of puberty. In such instances, the whole neck, back, and breast, will be covered with little black spots, which gradually inflame till the parts
become

become totally covered with heated pimples. These at first itch intolerably, so as frequently to keep the patient from sleep through the greater part of the night; and in consequence of being continually rubbed, turn to little inflamed and angry boils. When some of these have discharged a suety, or cheese-like matter, and are healed up, others will arise, in succession; and at the end of several months, the superior parts of the body are covered with them.

AFTER making trial of common purges and alteratives to no lasting advantage, I have cured the complaint by washing the parts morning and evening, for a few days, with the soap-lotion, and afterwards rubbing in a little of the ointment of nitrated-quicksilver; and when the foreness has gone off, making use of a proper flesh-brush, for two or three months. The

patient may at the same time take from ten to twenty drops of the water of prepared kali two or three times a day, in a cup of saffrafras-tea, or milk and water.

A COMPLAINT sometimes confounded with the former, is that called *Morbum pilare*, or hairy disease; but I have never met with it myself. It is said to be owing to hairs not duly expelled, which stick in the skin, especially in the back of young infants, whom it torments by an incessant itching, and sometimes raises small tumours. The cure is said to consist in fomenting the parts, and then pulling out the hairs with a pair of nippers.

Phthiriasis, or *Morbus pediculofus*, is a complaint I should not have mentioned, were it not sometimes found very troublesome, and the heads even of children who are kept the most cleanly, much pestered with these ugly vermin.

vermin. It is not therefore intended to treat of it as a disease in other parts, (which are sometimes equally occupied by them) and will be quite sufficient to say, that the cure is, in general, very simple, and requires only the hair to be sprinkled for a few days with the powder of staves-acre; a remedy that is kept a secret by some foreign perfumers, who sell it at a great price. Should this be ineffectual, a very small quantity of the white calx of mercury may be joined with it. Some people have strongly recommended an ointment made of parsley-seeds boiled in fresh butter, which is to be well rubbed into the hair for three or four days.

Hydroa, or *Sudamina*, is a trifling eruption from the sudorific glands. *Macies*, or according to some, the consumption of sucking children, is applied to a decay, said to arise either

from worms, (and is then called the worm-consumption) or to the unsuitableness of the breast-milk, which though it may be good in its kind, will not prove alike nourishing to all children. The milk is then properly directed to be changed, upon which it is remarked, the child will often recover, as I shall have occasion to notice more at large, in a *third* volume on the *Management of Children*. This disorder is, however, a true consumption, or wasting, from whatever cause, and into which an infant may fall in consequence of almost any of the complaints treated of in the foregoing pages, when they may happen to prove of very long continuance.

I HAVE now gone through all the disorders that I am acquainted with, that can any wise be ranked among those of infants, or young children, and have taken sufficient notice, as I apprehend

apprehend of every complaint worth mentioning; and may flatter myself this tract will be found to possess the advantage of completeness above every work of the kind. That nothing may be over-looked, it remains to take notice of some *congenite disorders*, or such as appear at the birth, and certain external blemishes; and first of those about the heart.

IMPERFECT CLOSURE *of the* FORAMEN
OVALE, *and* CANALIS ARTERIOSUS;
with other UNNATURAL CONFORMA-
TIONS *of the* HEART.

THESE morbid deviations appearing in different vessels and departments of the heart, have in all of them the same tendency, viz. in a greater or less degree, to obstruct the passage of the blood through the lungs, which in

some instances has continued nearly the same as in the unborn-fetus; which it ought not.

THESE sources of disease, however, are noticed merely with a view of pointing out the symptoms by which they may be known, and affording some temporary relief, but not of attempting a remedy; which is out of our power. The recital, however, may serve to prevent fruitless attempts, and perhaps the aggravation of the symptoms, and consequent distress of the patient, where upon due knowledge of the disease, art has, evidently, nothing to offer. The imperfections are owing entirely to an original mal-formation of parts, or to a deficiency in the powers of the system soon after birth; the only time in which that diversion to the circulation can take place, which nature has intended upon the change made in consequence of respiration.

IN

IN whatever part of the heart the mal-conformity may be, whenever it may prove of any consequence, the constant symptoms attending it are a discolouration of the face and neck, with a sloe-blue, or leaden-colour of the lips, such as is met with in some fits of asthma. These almost always take place very soon after birth, and the discolouration is increased, and attended with difficulty of breathing, as often as the child is any wise agitated, whereby he is generally disposed to throw himself in a horizontal, and supine posture. These symptoms are not at all relieved by procuring stools, by the warm-bath, or any other mean made use of as a remedy for fits, nor can be, but by the child being kept as tranquil as possible, and by a strict attention paid to his food, and the state of the bowels, which should be kept

N 4

open,

open, and nothing be taken that is likely to occasion indigestion or wind.

IN some instances, children sink very soon, of which I have seen one a short time ago; but in others, they may survive for months, or even for years. The patient, however, in most cases, can endure but little motion, the heart becoming thereby surcharged with blood, and respiration rendered more difficult; hence also the blood is detained in the extremities, and the face, neck, and hands become particularly discoloured. Some time, indeed, before the patient sinks under the disease, the symptoms are aggravated, and almost the least motion endangers suffocation.

HERNIA,

HERNIA, *or* RUPTURE *of the* BRAIN.

MANY infants come into the world with various parts imperfectly formed, as well as the heart, and never more commonly than in the upper part of the skull. If the deficiency be very great, and accompanied with a like want of brain, such fetuses fall under the class of Monsters, and being never born alive, are not subjects of this work.

THE Rupture of the brain, on the other hand, is met with in infants otherwise completely formed, and is generally curable. It is a soft circumscribed tumour, usually of a round form, and correspondent in size with the extent of the deficiency of skull; to which the complaint is owing. It is without fluctuation, or discolour-
ation

ation of the skin, but is attended with a perceptible pulsation of the brain, which keeps time with the pulse. The tumour retires and disappears upon pressure, and is always situate either on one of the moulds, or in the course of one of the futures, (or joining of the bones) and is never larger than a pullet's egg. Where the defect of bone is very considerable, a much larger portion of brain is consequently protruded, which strictly speaking, it were less proper to call a disease, than a fatal mal-formation. It will be very necessary, however, carefully to distinguish this incurable evil from other soft tumours of the scalp, presently to be noted, which it very much resembles; the latter having frequently the like precise feel of a bony margin around them. The tumour is also colourless, and often as large as in the fatal mal-formation, but has a considerable

derable fluctuation, and is further distinguishable by the tumour not retiring upon pressure, nor being attended with any pulsation.

THE rupture of the brain is, indeed, easily distinguished from them both, by the brief description above given of it; and fatal as it would be were it left to itself, requires only to be properly understood, in order to adapt a rational and effectual remedy, which consists only in a careful and due compression of the part. This may be effected by the application of a piece of sheet-lead, somewhat larger than the tumour, and pierced with holes, that it may be sewed to the child's cap. The compression should at first be very moderate, and never so great as to give the infant pain, nor disturb any of the natural functions; though it should be gradually increased as the tumour shall retire. This is all that is required

required from art, the cure being the business of nature, which if the child continue healthy, will proceed in the work of producing bone, and in due time will fill up the vacancy in the skull. The protrusion of the brain was before an obstacle to this process; whilst the injury which that tender organ must sustain by the pressure from the sides of the bone, exposed it to all the evils which compression never fails to produce, and which it were needless to enumerate here.

TUMOURS *of the* SCALP.

THERE are other swellings on the head of new-born infants, which it were improper entirely to pass over. One kind is occasioned by long compression in the birth, is of different sizes, and the skin is always discoloured;

loured; but these tumours seldom require much attention, as they frequently disappear in a few hours. If large, it is common to bathe, or foment them with red wine, or with brandy, or vinegar, diluted with water; and in general they gradually subside, though sometimes not perfectly for several days. Some of them, however, are of more consequence, and concerning the treatment of which practitioners have differed; the absolute impropriety of opening any tumours arising from compression having been conceived of by many. On the other hand, I believe, it may in some cases be really necessary, in order to prevent a troublesome fungous sore, and even a caries of the skull. The discrimination, however, is sufficiently obvious, such assistance being required only where the above remedies and compression have had no effect, and the swelling is found sensibly

fenfibly to increafe day after day, which in fome instances has been the cafe to the end of the month. Such growth is always owing to the extremities of the arteries ruptured by long compref-
fion, being ftill open, and pouring out an ichorous fluid into the cellular membrane, and thereby keeping up, and increafing the original tumour.

UPON opening the integuments, a bloody fluid is let out, and the tumour nearly fubfides, which afterwards requires nothing but moderately aftringent applications and preffure, which fhould be continued for a little time after the aperture is clofed.

ANOTHER kind of tumour, of a more unfavourable appearance, though never of bad confequence, was hinted at under the article of hernia of the brain; and of which it may be proper in this place to take a little further notice. Thefe fwellings contain a kind of water,
or

or serum, and are often very large, but without that discolouration of the scalp and bruised appearance, which there constantly is in those last described, nor do they, indeed, seem to arise from compression: I have, at least, seen them extending over a third part of the head, and raised an inch or more from the skull, after the shortest and most easy labours. To the description before given of them it may be added, that this kind of swelling, I believe, will always subside very kindly, though sometimes not completely, until the end of the month. In some instances, it begins to lessen in six or eight days after birth, but in others, not till near the end of the third week, and, then subsides very rapidly; and as it falls, more and more of the skull may be felt, from day to day, in proportion as the absorption of the fluid takes place. To
assist

assist nature, therefore, in this operation, an embrocation formed of six ounces and a half of distilled vinegar, an ounce and a half of camphorated spirit, and two drams of crude sal ammoniac may be made use of, with a gentle compression of the part, as well as keeping the bowels properly open.

LYMPHATIC TUMOURS *on the* HEAD
and BACK.

THERE is another kind of tumour appearing sometimes on the head, and at others, on some part of the backbone, which is not owing to accidents in the birth, but is of a morbid nature. These swellings contain a colourless lymph, and are attended with evident fluctuation, as may be discerned by the touch; and unless they are exceedingly small, ought in no case,

case, I believe, to be punctured, or even removed by ligature, though adhering only by a small pedicle. Those on the joints of the neck, or back, or on the loins, if they do not arise from the dura mater inclosing the spinal marrow, seem to originate at least from the periosteum, or covering of the back-bone; and the issue having a morbid source, will be kept up after the tumours are opened, or even totally extirpated, and preventing the sore from healing, the infant sinks under the discharge, or dies in convulsions.

BUT there are other swellings of a similar appearance, which being, nevertheless, of a different kind, may be sometimes safely extirpated, and will be noticed after the following complaint, to which they bear a considerable resemblance.

SPINA BYFIDA, *or* FORKED-SPINE.

THIS morbid affection has passed under various names, as writers have been severally impressed by the cause, effects, or the appearance of the disease. It has therefore been termed a dropfy, and a hernia, or rupture, of the spinal marrow; its structure being in some instances destroyed, and a spongy substance filling up the cavity of the membrane surrounding it, and protruding through the forked-spine.

It is remarkable, that this disorder, though now every where to be met with, was not described, as I believe, before the year 1641. It is an original mal-formation, and seldom admits even of much temporary relief, though some evils may be prevented by pointing out the most suitable and innocent appli-

applications to the part; for as to internal remedies none can be offered.

THIS disease fixes either upon the superior parts, and is then seated upon the last joint of the neck, and the first of the back; or else is lower down on the last of the loins, or more commonly, on the seat-bone, and is usually upon the centre, and posteriour part.

THE skin is sometimes entire, and sometimes ruptured externally, at the birth; and in the latter case, I believe, the infant is always still-born, at least, it has been so in all the instances that I have met with; though such fetuses are often full-grown. In this case, the edges are prominent, and the centre is, of course, depressed, the ulcer very much resembling the form of the human mouth when the angles of the lips are drawn together, and the middle part is pushed forward.

WHEN the skin is entire, the disease appears in the form of a tumour, varying in size from that of a pea, or even smaller, to that of an half-crown piece; being also more or less elevated. The highest point is usually very thin, and sometimes transparent, from having no true skin; but the other parts of the tumour are red or livid. The surface is generally very soft to the touch, especially in the centre, from which a fluid retires upon pressure, and round the margin of the swelling the hard edges of the bone may be distinctly felt; a circumstance that ought always to be attended to, as characterizing the disease. In other cases no fluctuation is perceptible, but a flesh-like substance, hard and thick; and such infants cannot endure being laid on the back, but presently become convulsed. In one instance, the disease was situated
between

between the blade-bones of the shoulders, and the skin was not at all discoloured; the deficiency of bone was, therefore, probably, very small, as likewise seems to have been the case from the event; this infant happily recovering.

MANY children born with this complaint do not seem to have suffered by it while in the womb, being healthy, often large, and very strong; but some are otherwise mutilated; it being not uncommon to find one or both the ankles distorted, or to have the lower extremities weak, and sometimes totally paralytic: and there is in others a great deficiency of bone on the upper part of the skull. The higher up the seat of the spina bifida may be, the greater is usually the injury, and the sooner the infant perishes, unless the aperture of the bone be very small, as is sometimes the case.

It is sometimes a mere local disease, confined within the circumference of the tumour, and at others, the water rises a little higher in the cavity of the back-bone, and hence this disease has been considered as a proper dropfy of this part, as water collected in the brain, is of the *head*. In some instances again, the column is open from the hind-head to the seat-bone, and the water is even found to descend from the head; the two diseases being then conjoined. These disorders have also sometimes been found to succeed each other.

THE disease, it has been said, becomes fatal in consequence of the swelling being opened, or the integuments otherwise giving way, which is usually from a little flough, or gangrene, forming upon the thinner parts, which soon spreads wider and deeper, and so opens a way for the escape of the lymph.

lymph. In a few days afterwards, and usually on the third, the infant dies, unless the parts should soon close again, which has but very rarely happened. A remote cause of the child's death then seems to be the escape of the lymph, which is frequently soon followed by a strong convulsion, in which the little sufferer expires. But where the integuments have remained entire for any length of time, their rupture has then gradually brought on hectic fever and decay, in consequence of a profuse drain from the part. But it is more common for the little patient to die either in a few days, or a week or two after birth, and then probably from some morbid change taking place in the spinal marrow, from the admission of air; which is known to be always injurious to internal parts, and more particularly to membranous ones, and therefore must be peculiarly of-

fenfive to the fpinal marrow and its fenfible covering. Thefe parts have, indeed, fuffered from the birth, from the nature of the diforder, and it is not therefore to be wondered at, that fuch infants are more or lefs convulfed, and appear feveral times to be dying, before that event actually takes place, and that they are often otherwife ill; though fome children appear pretty well till the integuments give way. I remember one child who would not take the breaft for twenty-feven days, and was feveral times thought to be dying; but afterwards taking to it properly, was greatly recruited; appearing, except for this difeafe, in a promifing way, and lived four weeks afterwards. The late Mr. HUNTER told me, that he had feen a child living with this difeafe at the age of eighteen months.

THE

THE means of CURE that have hitherto been proposed for this dreadful disease, are, opening the swelling, in order to evacuate the water; or pressure, with a view to retain it, and consolidate the parts: neither of which, that I can with any certainty learn, have ever succeeded, unless it be in one instance mentioned by an old writer, but in this, the disease did not appear at the birth. The means, however, do not always seem to have been employed with proper discrimination; since the very possibility of their succeeding will depend upon the size, and other circumstances of the tumour: for the aperture can never be advisable where the swelling is large, and the consequent internal derangement of parts is considerable; nor pressure where the water is found communicating with the ventricles of the brain.

THE

THE size of the tumour, it has been noted, is various, and agreeably thereto must be the possible chance of recovery, as well as the probable duration of the disease, where it proves ultimately fatal. This, indeed, is more frequently within three days after birth, or if the infant survives much beyond that time, it will be owing to the resistance of the integuments; young children, it has been said, seldom surviving the third day after the water begins to be freely evacuated. This, together with the matter of fact, where the swelling has been opened, furnish a sufficient caution against artificially letting out the water. At the same time, other cases equally forbid the indiscriminate use of pressure; water in the head having been known to follow it: it having been very aptly remarked, that if nature cannot get relief

relief in such cases, by letting out the water at so distant a part from the head, no benefit can be derived from any means that may necessarily occasion an accumulation in the brain itself.

IN such instances as the above, it is probable, that the source of the disease has been in the head, the water having made its way from the fourth ventricle of the brain; nature ever attempting to relieve the oppressed, and especially more noble parts. But in other cases it should seem, that the disease has commenced in the loins, and the secretion being great, and the resistance below considerable, (possibly from the bony process being far advanced) the water has ascended to the head. But it appears, that the water has more commonly been confined to the back-bone, and then has not been in great quantity.

IT

It must be in the latter case only, as well as where the swelling, and deficiency of bone are inconsiderable, that any benefit can be expected from puncture and bandage, as Mr. ABERNETHY has lately ventured to propose. But from several objections which have been noticed above, arising from circumstances which Mr. ABERNETHY does not seem to be aware of, nor can be always previously ascertained, I should not think that parents would readily consent to the experiment, or that surgeons can have much to offer as an inducement to it, especially as the want of success is so likely to hasten the death of the infant.

SINCE the above account, however, was drawn up, I have learned that Mr. ABERNETHY has ventured to make the experiment. The swelling was punctured, he says, every fourth day for six weeks; during which time the child continued

continued unaffected. No contraction, however, of the integuments took place; and at this time one of the punctures did not heal, but permitted the fluid to ooze out. The discharge gradually changed from a limpid to a puriform appearance, and in a few days the child died. This case is interesting, (he adds) though unsuccessful; as it shews that the attempt at a cure may at least be made without hazard.—I should myself observe, however, that the last opening not healing up, and the infant dying a few days afterwards, serves rather to confirm the suspicion I had entertained of the probable inutility of the puncture.

FROM the general report of authors, indeed, as well as the result of my own experience, very little relief can, in general, be expected anywise from art. Some discrimination of cases, however, should be made, and perhaps
this

this will refer principally to the absence of any symptoms indicative of water in the head, and to the size of the swelling, on whatever part of the bone it may be; but the lower down near the seat, the more favourable. As to the first of these, the usual symptoms of compression of the brain do not, indeed, present themselves, and it is probable, owing to the relief which that part receives from the descent of the water to the parts below. The presence of water in the head may, nevertheless, sometimes be discovered, it being reported that upon pressing the swelling, the rising up of water has been felt by a hand placed on the mould; and that from a firm pressure there, the water has again forcibly descended into the tumour on the backbone.

IN the absence, however, of every symptom leading to the suspicion of
water

water in the head, and when the tumour on the back, especially if low down near the seat, is very small, (for it has been met with of the size of a vetch seed;) a firm compress, and sprinkling the part with astringent powders, or the use of similar fomentations may be had recourse to, as recommended by a German writer; and who says he has seen ten cases. This opinion has been formed from some children having lived for several years with this complaint: but the swelling in such instances, I apprehend, has been very small, and the children have died whenever it has acquired the size it has more commonly at the birth. In such cases only, I imagine, can the attempt with any propriety be made, as otherwise, the tumour will, probably, be only ruptured the sooner by the bandage, and in consequence, the life of the infant be shortened.

THERE

THERE is not, however, the like objection to the use of an astringent, or cold embrocation, or more especially to drying powders, such as armenian-bole, japan-earth, alum, and such like ; which may be sprinkled on the part as occasion may require, to prevent the oozing of the lymph, by forming a kind of crust over the pellucid surface. Such applications may also have a tendency to retard the rupture of the integuments, and thereby prolong the life of the child ; which is generally all that art can effect : and, I have myself, indeed, no further experience of their efficacy in the true forked-spine, although I have known such means, as well as excision of the parts, effect a cure in cases very similar in form and appearance to this fatal complaint*, but without any deficiency of bone.

* See *Parenchymatous Tumours* in the next Chapter.

IN regard to bandage, I have been informed, that Dr. HUNTER in his lectures, at one time, used to caution against the attempt, from his own experience of its hastening, as he thought, the rupture of the integuments; but whether the trial had been made in the fittest case as here described, I could get no information.

SHOULD the size or figure of the head, however, be from such management affected, or the infant manifest any increase of pain; or if convulsions, drowsiness, or other bad symptom should supervene, the bandage ought to be taken off, and the mildest application be substituted, in place of the astringents. In this view, a bread and milk, or saturnine poultice may be had recourse to, which is the modern practice whenever the swelling is large from the birth, and is, probably, in such cases, the fittest application that can

be made use of; as it will fit easy on the part, and by forming a soft cushion, as it were, for the tender skin to rest upon, will, in so far, dispose it to be preserved entire as long as possible; the life of the child, in most cases, depending entirely upon that circumstance.

PARENCHYMATOUS, (or SOFT SPONGY)
TUMOURS.

THE resemblance which some of these were said to bear to the last mentioned disorder, renders them worthy of particular notice, being not always easily distinguished from it. They appear on different parts of the back-bone, but more commonly near the neck, or to the seat-bone; are accounted *marks*, and are often of a morbid nature, and it is imagined, would not unfrequently
prove

prove fatal, if left to themselves. As I design, however, treating only of such as will admit of some remedy, I shall mention only two.

THE first is a swelling on some of the joints either of the neck, or the back; and more commonly of the former: it is of a sublivid hue, unequal, internally spongy, and full of vessels. As on this account these tumours are disposed to bleed, astringent applications become proper. I have found the following powder answer very well,

Mix two drams of Armenian bole and japan-earth, with one dram of roch alum.

THE swelling being sprinkled with the above powder, compresses wetted with the compound water of acetated litharge should be applied over it. These will form a kind of paste, and should be renewed as often as any fresh

oozing from the vessels may render it necessary. A further compression may be made by a piece of thin lead.

I HAVE seen other tumours of this kind where extirpation has happily succeeded, and has certainly saved a child's life, though a good deal of blood has been lost in the operation.

HEPARTOMPHALOS, *and* VENTRAL,
or BELLY-HERNIA.

THE rupture of the belly, in which, from a deficiency of muscular integuments and skin, some of the bowels, and not unfrequently the liver, is protruded, is very often met with in abortions in the earlier months; though less commonly in full grown children. I have, indeed, never happened to see it in the live-born infant, unless in that instance

instance of it termed hepartomphalos ; which is the more immediate subject of this chapter.

IN the true hepartomphalos, there is, possibly, no actual deficiency of the muscular or ligamentous integuments, and much less of the skin ; but, as the term strictly implies, some part of the liver forms a rupture of the navel. The liver while very small is somewise drawn down by the vessels of the cord which enter it, (possibly by some action of the child ;) is protruded at the muscular ring, and falls into the navel-string ; which it dilates and distempers. This disease is a very rare one, I believe, in living children, and I have met with only one case upon record. The subject of this, as well as one of the two I have seen, fortunately survived the disease, but some months afterwards dying of another complaint,

and the bodies being carefully examined, the fact was established, and demonstrates the powers of the animal machine, in removing obstacles to its well-doing, that might be thought insurmountable.

SUFFICE it to say, that the liver in such cases, forms a swelling as large as a middling-sized China-orange; is of a dark colour; and in a few days puts on all the appearance of a mortified part. The fittest application, I believe, is a poultice of bread and milk, which at once preserves the part warm and moist, and is a kind of soft cushion for it to rest upon. The bowels should be kept duly open, and the bark and cordials administered as circumstances shall direct.

WHEN an infant recovers from this rare and hazardous disease, the sore begins to heal as the liver is gradually withdrawn

withdrawn into its proper place, and only a small scar remains; but there never is the usual appearance of a navel.

*On the HARE-LIP, and other EXTERNAL
BLEMISHES, or DISORDERS, supposed
to be MARKS of the MOTHER.*

THOUGH I have avoided treating on the mode of performing surgical *Operations*, in general, as altogether foreign from a work like the present; I shall beg leave to notice a circumstance or two relative to that for the *bare-lip*, because parents feel themselves so peculiarly interested in it, as often to give a bias to the opinion of others. I shall afterwards advert to some other equally common blemishes, if it were only for the sake of adding my testimony to that of former writers, who have in an able manner,

though not with equal success, combated the unhappy prejudices of mothers in relation to *marking* their children. This, unfortunately for themselves, they are always disposed to attribute to a violent impression from the sight of some disagreeable object, or to a disappointment in something they may have longed for, during their pregnancy.—And I have chosen this place for such observations as I have to offer on this head, because the *bare-lip*, and some other blemishes remaining to be noticed, bear that resemblance to objects around us, which is wanting in those before mentioned.

THE repeated experience of every attentive observer, has uniformly militated against the tormenting suspicion alluded to, but still it prevails, though only to the injury of those who ought, for their own sakes, to be persuaded to the contrary. Every man
long

long in business has known many instances of affectionate mothers, (for this needless distress falls only to the lot of such) who have tormented themselves for six or seven months, in the painful apprehension of discovering some sad blemish in the child, (and on this account have trembled to look on it when it has come into the world;) which has afterwards proved to be as perfect as they could have wished, and as the more dispassionate amongst their friends have all along ventured to foretel. On the other hand, where children have been born with some real blemish, it has never been suspected by the mother*, unless now and then in

* Among several instances of such blemishes in children born in the British Lying-in Hospital, we have had some remarkable ones of the *entire ignorance* of any supposed cause. One infant was more marked than almost any I have ever seen; and another

in a most timid person, (who has always bred in fear on account of one dif-

another had the extremities uncommonly ill-formed; but the mothers of these infants had gone on to their full time, without having received any fright they could recollect, or suspecting any thing amiss in their children.

I should not, indeed, have ventured, even in a note, to have alluded to such deformities, but on account of their aptness, and in the hope of preventing rather than creating fears and suspicions, in women of peculiar sensibility. For these children were really so disfigured, that a lively imagination, with a mind strongly impressed, might not only have conceived in them a great resemblance to many objects, but it is more than probable, that the parents must have actually noticed not a few such, during the period of gestation. Where any such deformity therefore may actually have taken place, I only wish ladies to be persuaded, that such sights have not been the true cause of it, nor can such objects, therefore, contribute to the production of the like appearances another time.—In this view, I cannot help observing, that a few years ago, a lady of rank acquainted me, that she had passed almost the whole term of gestation in the apprehension of her infant being

disagreeable object or other she has seen), or else, the blemish has turned out to be something *perfectly irrelative* to it. And here it ought to be noticed, that where a child has really been marked, and the mother has insisted on her having seen, and been frightened by an object which the blemish has resembled, it has (to the best of my knowledge, at least) appeared always to be an after-thought, by which

being born with a *Hare-lip*, on account of her having been daily met by a labourer working in her own grounds, who had such a blemish. In this instance, the imagination seemed to have done its utmost; as the lady conceived she met this man oftener than any other, and that she could not avoid him, walk whichever way she might; and in consequence had his image continually before her, either in reality or in recollection; and being kept under a continual alarm by it, in the end declined walking at all in her garden.—After the opinion I have advanced, it may be needless to add, that the child was born free from the apprehended, or any other blemish.

the

the supposed occasion of it has been discovered; and has not been taken notice of before-hand.—It is, however, the furthest from my thoughts to upbraid the sufferer on this painful occasion, or to tax any with a wilful giving way to suspicions, into which, I am persuaded, their feelings alone insidiously betray them. I wish only to obviate the influence of a sentiment that I take to be without foundation—a sentiment which has originated in ignorance, and to which nothing but length of time, and prescription, could have given a sanction.

THAT there are blemishes which bear a resemblance to various objects around us, daily experience has proved; though the true occasion of them is not, perhaps, understood. The like deviations from the ordinary course is observed, not only in various other animals, and that not unfrequently, but also in the vegetable

vegetable kingdom; in which the supposed influence can have no place. Thus, fruits are often joined together and discoloured, having excrescences, and odd shapes, offering strange representations resembling animals, as well as unmeaning irregularities, similar to those found on the bodies of infants: all, doubtless, proceeding from the established laws of motion, though not well understood by us.

IN regard to various discolourations in the skin of infants, fancied to resemble fruits, and like them becoming of a deeper red in summer, it may be, however, in point to observe, that the false skin (so called) is, in such kind of marks, frequently altogether wanting, and if not, is always thinner than on other parts. The small blood vessels being also more numerous, or nearer the surface, the discolouration of the skin becomes a natural consequence;

quence; nor can it be any wonder, that this discolouration should be greater in summer when these small vessels are more turgid with blood. The like change takes place in every mark on the face, when the person either cries, or is made angry, or when by any other means the blood is made to ascend to, or rest longer than usual in the superior parts. All such appearances are, therefore, very easily accounted for, without supposing them the consequence of the parent having longed for such fruits as ripen, or grow red, in the summer months. We observe also similar changes in adults from long continued severe exercise, or hard-drinking; many people, before of a fair complexion, suddenly acquiring a red face, or have the nose both discoloured and mis-shaped.

THE laws of motion will also equally account for the mutilation, and want
of

of parts, the growth of which is some-
wise interrupted; it being well known
to anatomists, (and the reader ought
in a view to this subject to be apprized
of it,) that the several members and
parts of the body are not all formed or
unfolded at once, but are pushed for-
ward in their turn after some esta-
blished law of nature, and of organized
matter. If therefore a due proportion
of nourishment be with-held from any
part, its proportionate growth is sup-
pressed, or its formation entirely pre-
vented. Hence the hare-lip; the two
sides of the face, which are said to be
formed separately, being hereby pre-
vented from growing together: the
upper lip is at least, one of the last
parts that unite. But whatsoever may
be the weight of these observations,
there is certainly nothing that we know
of in a fright or longing, that can
produce

produce such a change in organized matter, nor can operate in the manner that has been supposed, much less at such different periods; but there is on the other hand, every thing against such an hypothesis; which has accordingly always given way in enlightened ages. And, were a due catalogue drawn up of all the irregularities discovered in new-born infants, that are supposed to proceed from the mother's *Imagination*, they would appear to be the same over and over again, and very capable of being reduced into certain classes.—Does not this intimate that they proceed from the laws of motion, and the structure of the organs? There are besides many considerable deformities, which are never referred to *Imagination*, I mean all the *internal* derangements; and wherefore should this business be so divided between

tween Nature and Imagination, that the one should rule within, and the other govern the outward parts?

THE unborn-infant is a distinct individual, having a circulation, and nervous system of its own; and has its diseases very much independent of the mother, many being born blind, deaf, dead; with watery-head, and various other diseases. For the like reason, very healthy mothers are known to bear small and tender infants, and those of delicate constitutions, very robust children.

THE instance so often adduced from the sacred historian * is, by no means, in point: for without adverting to the very peculiar natural circumstances in that transaction, which are wanting in ordinary instances, it is sufficient to observe, that there was therein an evi-

* *Genesis*, Ch. 30. ver. 37-42.

dent supernatural interposition. Should any one doubt of this, he has only to make a similar experiment, the result of which will, probably, have more weight than ten thousand arguments. As matter of fact therefore, as before observed, does not at all countenance, but directly contradict the hypothesis, there is the strongest reason for married women arguing themselves out of such fears, instead of reasoning themselves into them, and suffering a painful conflict for weeks, and months together. It will give me great pleasure if any thing I have advanced on the subject, should answer so desirable an end; whilst reason, philosophy, experience, and every thing on which we ought to depend, conspire to support such an attempt.

AMONGST the various *Marks* resembling some of the objects around us, that called the *Hare-lip* is the most common;

common; a blemish therefore too well known to require a formal description. It is sufficient to observe, that it is of two kinds; the simple, wherein the upper-lip only is divided, either wholly or in part, with some loss of substance; and the complex, in which the fissure of the lip is double: in some instances, the portion between the fissures is likewise too small to fill up the cavity, and in some it adheres to the very tip of the nose. The upper jaw also, and the palate of the mouth, even to the extremity, are sometimes divided. It would be beside my purpose, in this place, to treat of the manner in which this deformity and defection is to be remedied, especially as that must vary considerably in different cases; I shall confine myself to speaking only of the time in which it ought to be attempted, because in this, it has been said, the

parents feelings are specially concerned, and sometimes mislead them.

VARIOUS considerations, indeed, contribute to make the distressed parent solicitous to have this blemish removed soon after the infant is born, or at furthest before the month shall be expired. On this account, I am convinced, the operation has sometimes been prematurely performed, contrary to the better judgment of the operator, and the child thereby fallen a sacrifice; whilst others have received much less benefit than they would have done, had the operation been postponed for a reasonable time. Where the blemish is very trifling, indeed, and the operation simple, it may, in many cases, be done with safety in the course of the month, or a little after; and if the child be able to suck, which is not always the case, there are even some advantages in performing it sooner.

er. For as the child will not be able to take the breast for two days at least after the operation, it will with difficulty be kept tolerably quiet by the spoon after it has been once put to the breast; but as infants need but very little nourishment for the first days after birth, and generally sleep a good deal; if the operation be done twenty-four hours after the child is born, it will be in a condition to suck by the time it requires much nourishment, and the mother's breast is prepared to furnish it. But in the complex hare-lip the case is exceedingly different, and the longer the operation is postponed, the better it is likely to succeed, and should, at least, be deferred till the child shall be four or five months old; the good effects of which I have sufficiently seen. By this time also, the infant will have got over the period in which it is peculiarly liable

to several painful and dangerous complaints; will be thoroughly weaned from its hankering after the breast, and have learned to feed contentedly with the spoon; by which children with this kind of hare-lip are obliged to be supported, they being generally unable to suck. At this period likewise, the parts will have acquired such a size as will admit of handling them to greater advantage, as well as a degree of firmness necessary to retain the needles; for the want of which, though the operation may appear to have been favourably performed, the needles will sometimes break out, and the deformity be but little removed, or perhaps sometimes increased.

I HAVE seen another blemish of the mouth, requiring a similar operation; the mouth being much wider on one side than on the other, appearing as if it were divided far into the cheek, and
occa-

occasioning a very awkward appearance. But as the defect is less than in the hare-lip, and the parts less exposed to injury after the operation, it may safely be performed sooner, and to more certain good effect.

AMONGST other blemishes that may require surgical assistance, are those which women are wont more especially to call *marks*; being spots, more or less elevated above the surrounding skin, and of various forms and colours. These may fall on any parts of the body, but are very little regarded except when found on some uncovered part, especially the face, where, perhaps, this kind is most commonly met with.

THESE, however, vary so much in shape, size, and in some other more important circumstances, that it were nugatory to attempt to point out the precise operation adapted to many of them.

them. Suffice it to say, that in some, excision of the discoloured and elevated parts, or destroying them by caustic, is the only remedy; in others, compression alone is sufficient; and in a few, compression, together with slight puncture and caustic will be called for. In some parts of the face, as the cheeks, lips, the nose, and near the eyes, the knife or lancet must be had recourse to with caution; though whenever made use of, it will be necessary to carry them full as deep, and far, as the distempered vessels may happen to extend, or the operation will not be completely successful. It is, indeed, sometimes necessary to repeat it; and it will be better to do so, than to destroy any sound parts unnecessarily, by which the scar might be extended. Where great caution has been found expedient, it will sometimes happen, that though the blemish

mish may seem to have been fully removed, the redness and tumour will after some months return; but even here, as a touch with the caustic called nitrated silver, after lightly scarifying the parts; or at most, the carrying the lancet a little deeper than at first, will perfect the cure, it were pity it should be neglected, distressing as the idea of a second operation must be to the parents of the infant. In some instances, however, the recurring elevation as well as discolouration of the part, when slight, have gradually subsided without a second operation; which it may therefore be proper to defer for a few months. From the very great advantages derived from these means, in some very unpromising cases that I have been witness to, I have been led to offer these remarks; and not doubting, that other practitioners have seen the like, I wish to
impress

impress the idea of consulting some skilful surgeon upon every great blemish, persuaded that many parents will, in the event, have occasion to be thankful for the advice.

A DIFFERENT kind of blemish consists in little tumours and superfluous parts, without any discolouration of the surface. The former lie more or less deep under the skin, and consist of extravasated lymph, hardened fat, or indurated glands. Some of these likewise may be effaced merely by compression, while others can be removed only by caustic or excision. Pendulous parts occur very frequently, sometimes adhering only by a small base, like a thread, and may then be removed by only passing a tight ligature round them, as was directed for the common wart. But should any even adhere more firmly, and be only a small joint, such as a finger or a toe,
it

it were better to have it taken off on the first days; as the vessels will then bleed but little, and the gristle by which such joints are usually connected, are not yet become bony. But should the part be more completely formed, it may be necessary to delay the operation a while longer, that by discovering which of the duplicates may take the lead, the more promising one may be preserved; which is not always to be known with certainty at the birth.

I MENTION one more trifling blemish, which I note with a peculiar satisfaction, from experience that nature alone is able to remedy it in certain instances wherein I had previously conceived, that some considerable recourse to art would be called for. This consists of divers unnatural forms of some parts about the head, particularly of the ears and nose. The latter
of

of these is, certainly, of the more importance, and is sometimes turned greatly on one side, with one of the nostrils open very largely, and the other too small. Suffice it to say, that after trying what could be done by plaister, bandage, and other contrivances, nature alone, by the force of the circulating juices, has brought the parts, in the course of a few weeks, into their proper form.

BESIDE these, there are blemishes of far greater importance, some of which demand an operation as the only chance for preserving the life of the infant. Such are imperforations of the vagina, the anus, and the urethra.

THE VAGINA is sometimes imperforate on the external, at others, only in the more internal parts; and is in different degrees. The latter more commonly relates only to the hymen, which requiring an operation to be
per-

performed about the age of puberty, I shall do no more than barely mention here, especially as it requires only a simple, or crucial incision, and to preserve the orifice open. Where the imperforation is in the substance of the vagina itself, I have never found an operation to be of any use, though I have known it attempted, in the adult, with great address and resolution.

I HAVE never met with the external parts totally imperforate, there being always a small opening near the natural aperture leading to the bladder; but I have found the aperture higher up so very small as to require a little operation, which is very easily done with the fingers, or at most with the mere point of a lancet, there being always a line, directing the extent nature has seemed originally to intend, which being cut through, requires only
to

to be kept apart for a few days, by a bit of fine lint.

It is in this instance peculiarly important that practitioners in midwifery, and others attending at the birth, should examine infants very attentively in regard to this complaint, which may be otherwise overlooked, the defection proving no obstacle to the natural excretions. I have met with several instances of it in children from three to six years old, in whom the complaint was but newly discovered, and it has been, in others, neglected to the time of puberty, and even of marriage, and must then prove of serious consequence, and may even be attended with hazard.

THE RECTUM or lower bowel, likewise is sometimes found opening into the vagina; a case that affords but little prospect of relief. It should, however, be attempted; but the kind of operation

operation must depend so much upon circumstances, that it cannot be here pointed out with any precision.

THE ANUS, or *extremity* of the lower bowel, is sometimes closed only by a thin membrane, so that the day after birth the fecal meconium may be distinctly felt, and in a manner seen shining through it. But more commonly the imperforate anus is a melancholy case, as it seldom allows of an effectual remedy, the gut often terminating in a *cul de sac* so high up as not to be reached; it is not, however, always to be despaired of, though no fluctuation of the contents of the bowels should be felt for two or three days after the infant is born.

THOUGH this sad defection is not very uncommon, I remember only one case of the kind in the *Lying-in* hospital, and in that I happened to succeed, contrary, indeed, to all expectation,
and

and after the child had puked up a great quantity of meconium; and not only the belly, but also the face was become exceedingly tumid, and the eyes had not been opened for some time.

THE manner of doing this operation must, in different cases, depend so much on the discretion of the operator, that it would be needless to say more, than that a trocar as well as a lancet is generally required, and that the operation ought to be postponed as long as it safely can, that the depending part of the bowel may be distended, and pushed as low down as possible; and that a piece of bougie should be occasionally introduced, and sometimes left in the part, for a few hours, for the first fortnight.

THE imperforate PENIS is not quite so common a case; but is not unfrequently suspected, when the aperture
of

of the passage is merely stopped up by a little mucus; and should therefore be examined in good time. In this case washing the part with warm milk and water, or at most, a little assistance with a small probe, or any such blunt pointed instrument, will be sufficient to open the passage. But it is evident, if the canal leading to the bladder be wholly wanting, no operation can be undertaken: it is, however, more commonly found open a certain way, and often as far as the basis of the glans, and sometimes near to its extremity; in which last instance, it is necessary only to make a small aperture with a lancet, or a fine trocar, and to keep the part open by the occasional introduction of a slender bougie. The more common complaint of this part however, is that of the urinary passage terminating by a small aperture at a little distance be-

low the glans, and sometimes on one side of it. In these cases, the precise circumstances must determine the propriety of any operation, which if not judiciously managed, may render the case worse than it was.* In other instances, the part is drawn downwards, or to one side; the peculiar circumstances of which, must point out the nature of the operation most likely to afford relief.

I have likewise known the EARS to be imperforate, a case that admits of no remedy; but the external appearance may sometimes be improved, when the outer circle is turned forwards over the inner one; covering

* It is on this account, (as noticed in the Introduction) that these several hints are dropped in regard to *operations*, that the intelligent reader may form some judgment respecting the propriety of the mode of relief that may be proposed, when at a distance from the best surgical advice.

that part which ought to lead to the internal ear: but in these cases, I have always found the passage totally obliterated.

ANOTHER, and a very common blemish, is that called SQUINTING, which is sometimes contracted by very young infants, and may then frequently be remedied, especially if confined to one eye; but if a child be born with this deformity, or it be consequent to fits, it is not so likely to be removed. The means I have to recommend are, indeed, very simple. A very important one, however, is to apply a piece of sticking-plaister spread on some bright-coloured silk, in such a position, either on the temple, or the nose, agreeable to the side on which the eye is distorted, as may draw it the contrary way. In order to keep up this attraction, the colour of the silk ought to be varied from time to time, as

well as its situation, placing it a little higher, or lower, both for the sake of change, that the skin may not be fretted, as well as to answer any other end, that a due observation on its effects may point out. Besides this, the child ought always to be placed with that side towards the light from which the eye is distorted; and for the like reason, its parents, nurse, playthings, and every other object that can attract its notice, should as constantly as is possible be on the same side, that the child may have every inducement its age and circumstances will allow, to draw the eye the right way, and by early habit, counteract a muscular action that is not yet become permanent.

ANOTHER method more proper for older children, is covering the eyes with ogles, which are glasses fixed in a little case, such as many people wear

wear when they ride on horse-back. They must be so placed, that the child can see no object but by turning the eyes to the sides from which they are distorted. Or, an opaque covering of a similar form may be worn, with only a very small aperture in the centre, by which the child will be obliged to look strait forward. It is scarcely necessary to add, that these contrivances must be worn constantly, till the bad habit shall be overcome.

WHERE the cast is confined to one eye, it has been recommended to cover the other; whereby the infant will in a little time acquire the habit of directing the affected one more properly. After this the sound eye should be gradually uncovered, so as to admit the light by degrees. The child, it is said, will by this means very soon be enabled to direct both eyes properly to the same object.

To

To this end likewise, such children may be made to look at their own eyes in a mirror for a few minutes, several times in a day; but with the precaution that each eye be directed to that which corresponds with it in the glass; contriving, somehow, to render this remedy a kind of amusement. I shall only add on this head, that children who are inclined to squint ought not to be exposed to a very strong light, nor be taught to read while very young.

INFANTS are liable, indeed, to many other blemishes; but as I mean to treat only of such as call for medical attention, and admit of some remedy, I shall mention only two or three more, which are very common, and with them close what I have to say on their Complaints.

VARI *and* VALGI.

THESE are distortions of the feet, and differ only with respect to the side to which the foot is turned; in the former, the soles of the feet being turned inwards, and in the latter, outwards: the curative intention is therefore alike in both. The complaint is sometimes very trifling, and seems to have been owing to some cramped position of the feet in the womb, and in that case, disappears before the end of the month. In other instances, there is evidently a contraction, if not shortning of the tendons, which calls for considerable attention. The remedy, however, is obvious enough, and frequently consists only in the proper application of a roller and pasteboard splints, so as gradually to bring the foot to its natural

tural position, and in proportion as it inclines thereto, increasing the force and tightening the roller, every two or three days.

THERE is also another very common distortion of the feet, in which they are turned upward towards the instep: but the mode of treatment is alike in them all, and the cure will usually be effected in a reasonable time.—The like easy means, therefore, will generally be sufficient to remedy a contraction of the joints of the fingers, and various awkward positions of the toes, with which some infants come into the world.

ALL these complaints may, nevertheless, be sometimes more considerable, and in such case, especially if neglected for many months, or even years, as they sometimes are, require the assistance of some steel instrument, or irons, (as they are called) which
are

are properly contrived for these and other distortions, as of the knees, &c. by *Messrs. Bowley* (late *Squire*), *Sheldrake*, and other truss-makers; who seldom fail of bringing the parts into a more natural form, even in the worst cases, whenever parents may think the complaint worthy of the time and attention that may be required. But a contrivance less troublesome, and suitable to families residing in the country, is, a shoe made of tin, lined with leather, and well adapted to the leg and foot, and properly secured by strings.

THE END OF THE DISEASES.

are properly contrived for these and other distortions, as of the knee, &c. by Mr. Jones. Bony plates, &c. &c. and other such matters; who seldom fail of bringing the parts into a more natural form, even in the worst cases, whatever persons may think the most distant words of the bone and attention that may be required. These contrivances less troublesome, and suitable to families residing in the country, is a piece made of tin, lined with leather, and well adapted to the leg and foot, and properly secured by straps.

It is to be observed, that the bones of the leg and foot, when they are distorted, are not only bent, but also twisted, and the muscles and ligaments are torn and relaxed. The treatment of these cases, therefore, must be directed to the reduction of the bones to their natural position, and the repair of the soft parts.

The first step in the treatment of these cases, is to remove the patient to a quiet and comfortable situation, and to keep the limb elevated, in order to diminish the inflammation and swelling. The next step is to apply a warm fomentation to the part, in order to relax the muscles and ligaments, and to facilitate the reduction of the bones. The third step is to attempt the reduction of the bones, by the use of the hand, or by the use of the screw, or by the use of the lever. If the reduction is not successful, it may be necessary to resort to the use of the knife.

After the reduction of the bones, the patient must be kept in a quiet and comfortable situation, and the limb must be supported by a splint, or by a cast, or by a bandage. The patient must also be kept at rest, and must not be allowed to move the limb, until the bones have healed.

The treatment of these cases, therefore, must be directed to the reduction of the bones to their natural position, and the repair of the soft parts. The first step is to remove the patient to a quiet and comfortable situation, and to keep the limb elevated, in order to diminish the inflammation and swelling. The next step is to apply a warm fomentation to the part, in order to relax the muscles and ligaments, and to facilitate the reduction of the bones. The third step is to attempt the reduction of the bones, by the use of the hand, or by the use of the screw, or by the use of the lever. If the reduction is not successful, it may be necessary to resort to the use of the knife.

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