

An essay on scrophula; in which an account of the carbonas ammoniae, as a remedy ... is submitted / [Charles Armstrong].

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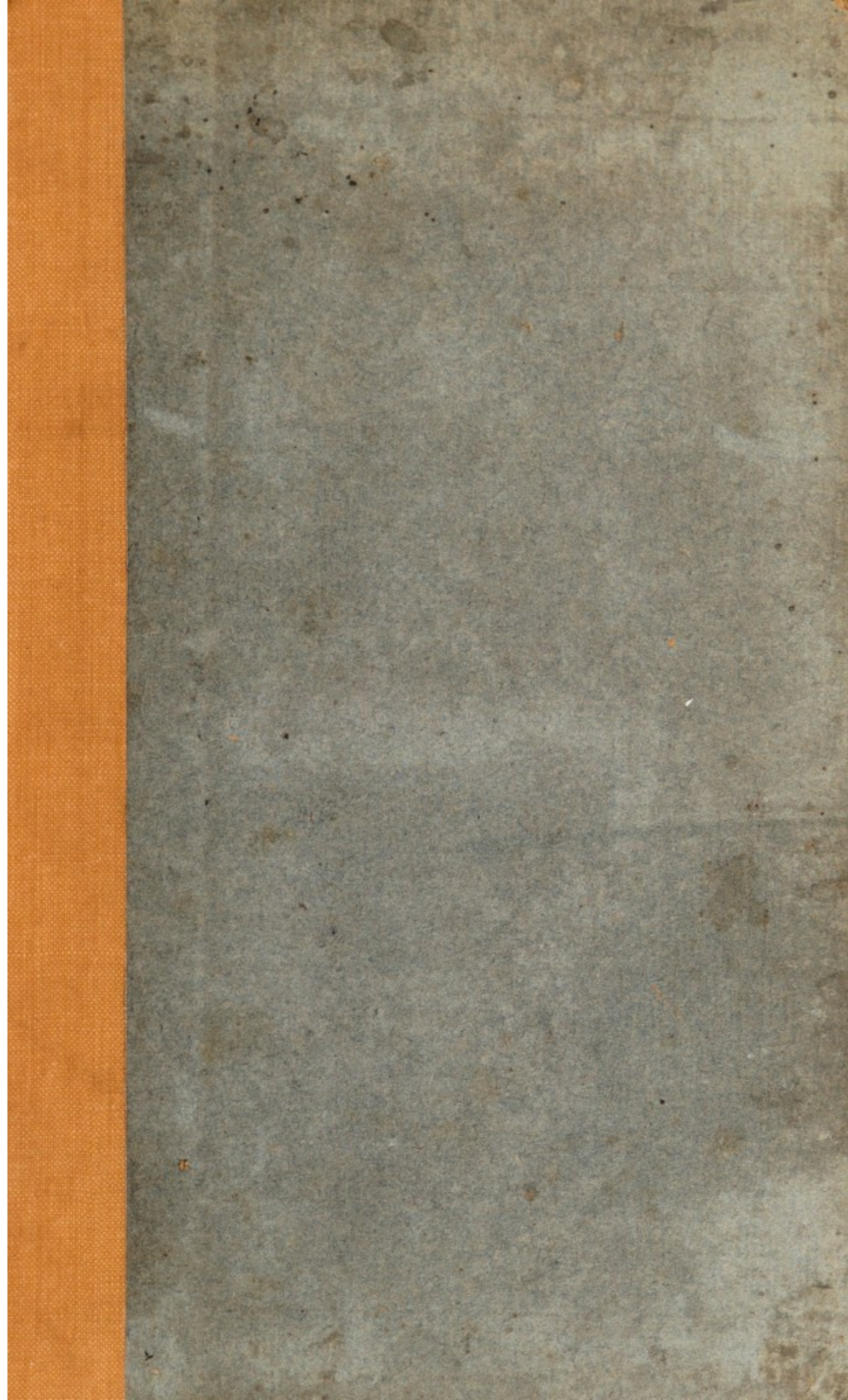
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AN ESSAY
ON
SCROPHULA;
IN WHICH
AN ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECT
OF THE
CARBONAS AMMONIÆ,
AS A
REMEDY IN THAT DISEASE,
IS SUBMITTED TO THE
Medical Profession.

BY
CHARLES ARMSTRONG, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
IN LONDON.

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1812.

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CONSIDERATION OF THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEDICAL



G. WOODFALL, PRINTER, PATERNOSTER-RROW, LONDON.

PREFACE.

IT was the intention of the author of the following work, to have communicated the result of his experience of the salutary effect of the carbonate of ammonia in scrophula, to the profession, through the medium of some of the periodical medical journals; but, when he undertook the arrangement of such matter, as appeared to be necessary to convey his thoughts on the subject, with as much regard to brevity, as was consistent with being clearly understood, it soon attained a size, that precluded all hope of admission into any of those useful publications, except by a division of the work into separate portions, to be inserted in different numbers. It has, however, been judged preferable to submit it to the public entire, that, by preserving a proper connection of the whole sub-

ject, it may be better known ; and, probably by a more general circulation, become more extensively useful. Indeed, to be useful, by contributing to the health and comfort of his fellow-creatures, is the first wish of the author. This wish, he indulges a hope will be gratified, if, as he firmly believes it will be found, he has assisted in extending relief to a very numerous class of sufferers. His next desire, is to be understood ; in order to which, he has endeavoured to arrange his ideas with some little regard to perspicuity and method ; and has aimed at clearness and simplicity of expression, as more becoming a candid relation of facts, than studied or elaborate language.

*Upper Charlotte Street,
Fitzroy Square.*

January, 1812.

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INTRODUCTION.

Medical practitioners to communicate useful discoveries. Carbonas ammonia not recommended by others. Diseases combined in endless variety. Ingenious men, not medical, liable to gross errors in practice. The work, practical.

IT is the duty of every man engaged in the practice of medicine, to communicate freely, whatever his experience may have led him to think beneficial to society, or any way useful in promoting the health, or alleviating the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. In conformity with this principle, the author of the following work desires to recommend to the profession the carbonas ammonia, or ammonia præparata, as a remedy possessing considerable power for the relief of scrophula.

Having been many years fully occupied in the constant exercise of a laborious profes-

sion, both time and opportunity have been wanting, to enable him to possess himself, to any great extent, of the sentiments of others, who may have written on the same subject. As far, however, as his reading or inquiry has gone, he has no recollection of either written, or oral testimony, in favour of the volatile alkali in scrophula. Highly as he is disposed to estimate it as a remedy in that common and obstinate disease, from experience of the advantages that have followed its administration, he has no bigotted attachment; nor has he any faith in specifics; and, therefore, does not presume to extol it to the exclusion of other remedies; some of which, he has found eminently useful alone, as well as joined with the carbonas ammoniæ; and others, absolutely necessary to the successful treatment of many varieties of scrophula.

Diseases are rarely seen in practice, in the pure simple forms in which they are described by systematic writers, but are infinitely varied and combined; many of the leading symptoms not unfrequently demanding separate

and distinct treatment and attention. Experience has long sanctioned the adoption of this variety of management, since it is found that a disease, apparently the same in two or more persons, or even in the same person at different periods, will oftentimes require a course of remedies considerably diversified; depending on the difference of age, sex, constitution, season of the year, and the innumerable shades arising from temperament and habit; which are too variable to admit of accurate description; and, in practice, call for the discrimination of sound judgment, and mature experience.

Hence, may be conceived the futility, and, what is worse, the danger of remedies in the hands of persons, however well-informed in other respects, who have never made the science of medicine a regular distinct study; and, also, have not by personal observation, and assiduous attendance on the sick, rendered themselves familiar with disease. Des Cartes, who is said by Voltaire, to have removed part of the veil, beneath which nature

lay hid, like many other ingenious men, applied himself a little to the study of medicine; and, like many other ingenious men, who do not make a regular profession of an art so extremely complicated, and so highly useful to mankind, and which depends so much upon experience and observation, occasionally fell into gross errors. Sound judgment, and critical inquiry, though indispensable requisites in the physician, will, of themselves, prove of little avail, unless they are combined with extensive professional knowledge, acquired by individual experience, resulting from long and assiduous attendance on the sick. Health is a possession, in the opinion of all mankind, of the greatest value; and those, to whose cure this important trust is committed, cannot possibly discharge it with too much circumspection and diligence.

As this work is intended to be strictly practical, all hypothetical reasoning will be carefully avoided, and nothing advanced foreign to the nature and treatment of the disease in question. No tedious discussion, whether the

disorder may arise from an acid or acrimoni-
ous taint in the blood ; a viscosity of the
fluids ; or a relaxed state of the solid fibre,
will be admitted ; for, after all the ingenious
verbosity of the most prurient imagination,
we have still to seek a cause for the acrimony,
the viscosity, or the relaxation ; in pursuit of
which, we are sure at last to be bewildered in
a chaos of doubt and uncertainty. And this
must ever be the case, since there are in na-
ture causes that lay beyond the reach of our
intellectual faculties, and phenomena which
have baffled the inquiries of ages.

AN

ESSAY ON SCROPHULA.

CHAP. I.

Every person born morbid. Some diseases hereditary. Scrophula one of the opprobria medicorum. Amulets and charms. Quack remedies.

IT has been observed by those who have written on the natural history of the human body, and on the various diseases by which it is afflicted, that every person comes into the world morbid ; that there is no constitution so exactly regulated, but that some evil is fatally predominant ; and that we are generally impregnated on our entrance into life, with the seeds of that malady, which, in process of time, shall bring us to the grave.

The constant observance of the hereditary transmission of gout, mania, pulmonary consumption, and scrophula, in all probability,

gave rise to the foregoing remark. These are all diseases of common occurrence, which fall under the observation of every person, and are remarked to prevail in some families, and to pass from generation to generation. But scrophula is by far more general than all the other diseases together, and is, beside, the only one that is clearly developed in infancy. The consideration that severe and formidable diseases descend to the offspring of contaminated parents, with nearly the same degree of frequency as family likeness, is a source of melancholy reflection to many people ; but they may receive some consolation in the knowledge that constitutional disposition to disease, may, by strict attention, be greatly lessened, and oftentimes completely subdued.

Scrophula has long been deemed one of the opprobria medicorum, and, it must be confessed, generally speaking, that no disease ever occasioned so much trouble in the management, or produced so little satisfaction in the result : a great proportion of the unfortunate persons discharged without cure or relief, from

the numerous charitable and beneficent institutions in this kingdom, for the reception of the indigent sick and lame, consisting of patients labouring under incurable maladies resulting from scrophula. But, yet, the strict justice of the censure may fairly be doubted. Admitting a crowded hospital in the polluted atmosphere of a great city, or in a populous manufacturing town, and even the private dwellings of the labouring poor, to be situations unpropitious to the successful treatment of scrophulous diseases; I am still clearly of opinion, that such complaints, in a dry wholesome air, may, by due attention and steady perseverance in the use of proper remedies, in most instances be conducted to a favourable termination; and, even in the worst cases, will commonly be found to admit of considerable mitigation and relief.

The lingering nature of the disease, the uncertainty of cure, and the little benefit observed to be obtained from medicine, induced people formerly to resort to amulets, charms, and the delusions of superstition. Some of

these, the royal touch, and stroking the affected part with the hand of a suspended malefactor, for example, were raised by flattery and credulity, to an extraordinary degree of estimation in the public opinion. Our countrymen John Brown, and Serjeant Wiseman, have recorded at great length, the sovereign power of the *tactus regius* in this kingdom ; and Laurentius, on the continent, published an elaborate treatise, *De mirabili Strumas sanandi*. The efficacy of the dead man's hand, may be found related in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

Though the improving ingenuity of modern times, and a spirit of free inquiry has introduced a moderate and laudable degree of scepticism, which has shaken the belief in charms and spells, credulity is at this time abundantly supplied with remedies, daily recommended in the public prints, in the most positive and extravagant terms as infallible specifics. The sale and consumption of these wonder-working compositions are well known at the Stamp Office, serving equally to in-

crease the revenue, and to swell the bills of mortality. It may here be observed, that in all diseases of an obscure nature, and of difficult management, when reason and regular practice seem to fail, superstition and quackery are ever at hand with a plentiful supply of folly and nostrums.

CHAP. II.

Scrophula hereditary. Remote causes. Warmth necessary in infancy. Consequences of improper exposure to cold.

SCROPHULA is a disease affecting chiefly the lymphatic system, but it is not wholly confined to that series of vessels and glands, it being frequently observed to attack the mucous membranes, the articulations, and the bones. These last appearances, however, are very rarely seen as primary symptoms, but are commonly subsequent to the swelling and ulceration of the cervical glands. The origin and proximate cause of this disease are alike involved in obscurity. It is universally known to be hereditary, and may generally be traced to one or other of the parents, or to the immediate progenitors in the next generation, on the one side or the other ; for, in diseased families, the scrophulous virus is sometimes found to lay dormant through one generation, and re-appear in the next.

Though we are in a state of uncertainty respecting the proximate cause of scrophula, there are several remote or predisposing causes known, all of which have an evident tendency to reduce the general health, and to promote or accelerate the development of the germ of latent disease. These are, bad nursing in the early part of infancy ; confinement in close or crowded apartments, and respiring foul or vitiated air ; residing in situations exposed to damp, or to cold ; spare diet, or food of unwholesome and indigestible quality ; over fatigue ; and exposure to cold inclement weather. To these occasional causes may be added, on the authority of one of the most accurate observers, impure or hard water, containing earthy or metallic salts. Scrophulous swellings are also sometimes produced by contusions, or other external injuries by violence, and have been known to appear in females immediately after laborious parturition. In short, whatever is productive of febrile action in the system, is capable of becoming an exciting cause of scrophula.

Having mentioned exposure to cold as a common and admitted predisposing cause of scrophula, I must take occasion to make a few observations on the present style of dress for children, in the superior ranks of society, because it appears to me, that scrophulous complaints are becoming more general among the children of the higher classes of the inhabitants of this kingdom, than they were heretofore ; which, I am firmly persuaded, are occasioned by the want of sufficient warmth of apparel, to defend the body at that tender and susceptible age, from the sedative and baneful effect of cold, both within and without doors. For several years past, parents have endeavoured by degrees to adopt for their children, the costume chosen by painters for their cupidons, which is mighty pretty on canvas, but will never do in real life.

Of the whole animal creation, man is the most helpless in infancy, the most difficult to rear, and the longest in arriving at maturity. The young of all animals covet and require warmth. Guided by instinct, the bird covers

her nestlings with her breast and wings; and the quadruped enfolds her young in a circle formed by the flexion of her body and extremities. These are the unerring dictates of nature, which we should wisely endeavour to imitate.

The most convincing and satisfactory proof of the utility of warmth in early infancy, may be collected from the following observations, which must be familiar to all who have had much experience in the management of young children, or who have closely watched them in sickness and in health.

Children are never so easy and well-pleased, nor do they ever sleep so sound, as when they are warmly covered; and they are invariably fretful and uneasy when chilled by exposure to cold air. Another argument in favour of warmth, may be drawn from the greater mortality of the children of the poor and indigent, in cities and large towns, than of those of the middle and opulent classes. The cause of this loss beyond the usual proportion, may justly be

attributed to two circumstances incident to the lower order of people. First, the want of a sufficient quantity of proper clothing, to protect their children against the destructive effects of cold and moisture; and next, the absence of warmth and comfort, in the cold and miserable habitations which are occupied by the poor and needy.

The keeping of infants warm during the first months of their existence, is of so much consequence with regard to their future health, that I could wish to impress it on the minds of parents, as an object of the first importance, in as much as a healthy and vigorous constitution, is the most valuable possession that can be secured to a child. But we daily observe life and health sacrificed to the tyranny of fashion, which has stript poor infants to the waist, and deprived young females of all warmth of covering. Children, from one month old, to five or six years of age, may be seen at all seasons of the year, and in all weather, *sub jove frigido*, as well as *sub curru solis*, with their chests exposed, to receive the

full effect of cold and damp on the vital organs; and, that there may be no preservation of warmth in the extremities, to counteract the chill on the thorax, the arms are bared to the shoulders, the legs without stockings, and the apology for a petticoat, scarcely reaching to the knees.

It is familiar to the most cursory observer, that improper exposure to cold in early life, is oftentimes the immediate cause of colds, coughs, and fevers. There are also other consequences, not, indeed, so obvious to general notice, but fully equal in frequency, and certainly more fatal in effect. These are glandular and visceral obstructions; one, the precursor of scrophula; the other, the harbinger of pulmonary consumption. Convinced, by long experience, of the truth of these observations, I have considered it my duty whenever I have seen children too scantily clad, or unnecessarily sent abroad in cold and damp weather, to endeavour to expose to the parents the danger and absurdity of such practices, by setting before them the evils that were

likely to follow. Harris, one of the most acute and experienced physicians of his time, in his treatise, *De Morbis Infantum*, speaking of the effect of cold, makes this forcible observation. “*Quò tenerior enim est alicujus natura, eò magis subjicitur externis aeris impressionibus. Verum tenerrima omnium et mollissima est infantum crasis ; et nisi summa adhibeatur cura in vestimentis adaptandis, non splendidis et sumptuosis, sed calidis, atque ætati idoneis, idque potissimum in pueris honestè natis, morborum insultus vespertino frigori debitos non diu effugere possunt.*”

CHAP. III.

Nosological character of scrophula. Generally appears in infancy. Seldom fatal to children, but sometimes the cause of fatal disorders. Unjustly attributed to the inoculated small-pox and vaccination.

THE nosological description of scrophula by Cullen, is, "Glandularum conglobatarum, præsertim in collo, tumores; labium superius et columna nasi tumida; facies florida; cutis levis; tumidum abdomen." By Sauvages, "Tumor scirrhusus glandularum colli, mesenterique, cum labiis et naso crassioribus." Other nosologists have considered particular symptoms under separate heads, as bronchocele, an enlargement of the thyroid gland; lippitudo, a diseased state of the glands of the eye-lids: hydrarthrus, a morbid swelling of the joints, particularly of the knee. The first of these contains by far the most correct description of the general character of the disease, in its early stage, as it appears in this country.

The usual period of the first appearance of scrophula, is from the third, to the tenth year. It is scarcely seen earlier than the third, but it frequently occurs after the tenth year; not often, however, after the age of puberty, though Dr. Heberden, in his Commentaries, mentions several instances of a later appearance of the disease. It occurred to him in one or two cases, even at the advanced age of threescore. One of these he attributes to drinking hard water; "*Aqua impura, saponis impatiens.*" The symptoms were first discovered after the person had used the water a few years, and continued to increase progressively as long as he drank it. On changing the water for some of a purer kind, the disease was soon observed to be on the decline, and, at length, entirely disappeared.

Children of fair complexion, with full eyes, light hair, soft skin, and flaccid fibre, are more prone to scrophula, than the florid; and the florid, more than the dark skinned or brown. It frequently attacks those who

are subject to chilblains, with whom the circulation goes on languidly through the extreme vessels ; and it often appears in such as have a tendency to rickets, with enlarged joints, and prominent bellies. Parents of either sex of the habit and complexion most liable to this disease, though perfectly healthy in appearance themselves, are often, unfortunately, the authors of a scrophulous offspring. So many melancholy instances of this nature are within my knowledge, that I am inclined to think the probability of consequences so distressing, demands the most serious consideration in every connubial engagement.

It has been already observed, that scrophula, for the most part, begins first to manifest itself in infancy ; but it is not often fatal to children, though it sometimes proves a source of incurable visceral obstruction in more advanced life ; and becomes eventually, the cause of dropsy, scirrhus, tabes mesenterica, and pulmonary consumption. It also occasions obstinate disorders in the articula-

tions, attended with excessive pain, abrasion of the cartilages, enlargement and caries of the bones. In some instances, the disease declines spontaneously after the age of puberty; and at last wholly disappears without the aid of medicine. But these fortunate occurrences, are not sufficiently numerous, to establish any reasonable expectation of the disorder being subdued, in any instance, by leaving it to the natural operation of the constitution.

Prejudice and misrepresentation have long laboured to convict the variolous disease, and particularly the inoculated form of it, of introducing a taint into the system productive of scrophula. The casual occurrence of swelled glands, and cutaneous eruptions, after the inoculated small-pox, gave support to the accusation, and confirmed the objections of the opposers of inoculation near a century ago. At the present time, the same loathsome consequence is laid to the account of the vaccine disease, but with even less semblance of truth or justice, than on the

former occasion. No practitioner of experience, will presume to deny the possibility of latent disease being roused into an active state, by any complaint attended with febrile affection ; and this effect, is commonly found to be in a direct ratio, to the degree of fever, accompanying the exciting disease. The variolous disease, in the natural state, being more frequently followed by scrophula, than inoculation ; and the inoculated small-pox, more generally, than the vaccine disease. This last, producing, beyond all comparison, the mildest febrile action, is least of all liable to have scrophula in its train. Glandular obstruction, of an obstinate and serious kind, is much oftener observed to follow measles and scarlatina, than either variola or vaccina.

CHAP. IV.

Symptoms, and usual course of the disease. Not to be cured by regimen alone. Diet. Exercise.

THE first indication of scrophula, is, generally, a swelling of the upper lip, with fulness and slight distension of the nostrils, often accompanied with running from the ears, or inflammation of the eye-lids. Sometimes strings of indurated glands are felt like knotted cords below the ears, and behind the articulations of the lower jaw, or small tumors, of an oval or spherical shape, are found moveable under the skin, which, at first coming, are unattended with pain, or any alteration of appearance, except what is caused by their size. The tumors increase gradually in number and magnitude, spreading down the neck, and under the chin. Several of these swellings are oftentimes observed to approximate, and ultimately to unite into one or more large unequal masses. In the beginning, the skin has a natural appearance, but when the tumor becomes large and fixed, the cutis on

the prominent parts, changes its colour to a faint purplish red. About this time, some fluctuations may often be perceived in particular parts of the swelling ; commonly where the integuments are most discoloured. At length the skin gives way, several small apertures are progressively formed, and a thin sanious matter is discharged, somewhat resembling pus. The discharge, however, daily assumes less of the purulent form, and after some time, degenerates into a viscid serum, occasionally intermixed with small fragments of white coagulated matter. By degrees, the tumor in a great measure subsides ; but the ulcers generally spread into irregular forms, with thin smooth shining edges. It frequently happens, that, in the course of the summer succeeding this state of the disease, the discharge abates by little and little, and the ulcers dry up. But the ensuing spring, commonly brings back the same series of symptoms, varied, occasionally, by the final healing of some of the ulcers, and the formation of fresh tumors, succeeded by ulceration, either in the vicinity

of the former enlargements, or in other parts of the body.

This is the usual course of the disease in its mildest form; and in this manner it commonly proceeds for several years; sometimes, it has been before noticed, declining gradually, and, at length, ceasing finally. But, in many instances, after the scrophulous contamination has appeared stationary in the system for a few years, it suddenly takes on a more unfavourable action, producing extensive ulcerations, ophthalmia, white-swellings, spina ventosa, caries of the bones, ankylosis of the articulations, hectic fever, dropsy, phthisis pulmonalis, tabes mesenterica, and death.

The belly is frequently greatly enlarged in this disease, first, by infarction and fulness of the mesenteric glands; and next, by obstruction and swelling of the liver, spleen, and pancreas. I once saw in a middle-aged female, the abdomen distended by scrophulous tumors, so as to equal, in size and appearance,

the last month of gestation. This case was mistaken for pregnancy, till within a few weeks of the death of the patient. In another instance, in a man between thirty and forty years of age, the parent of a numerous scrophulous family, whose belly was greatly enlarged, and unequally hard, a sanious discharge took place, spontaneously per anum; after which, the swelling gradually subsided, and the man lived twenty years free from any symptom of the disease.

Some physicians of experience and repute, having observed that scrophulous complaints do now and then cease where no remedies have been applied, have held medicine to be useless in these cases, which they judged might be more safely managed by a sedulous attention to regimen alone. Indeed, it cannot be doubted, that a strict regard to diet, air, and exercise, is as essentially requisite to obtain a successful termination in scrophula, as in any other stubborn disease: but, since diet and regimen, under the most skilful direction, and prosecuted with the utmost

patience and regularity, will not always effect a cure, it is the business of every practitioner who wishes to act conscientiously with his patient, to avail himself of all the aid medicine can afford.

Others have thought that scrophula, though always tedious to remedy, and sometimes absolutely incurable, is rarely attended with immediate danger, and seldom proves fatal. This opinion, at first glance, may not appear altogether incorrect or unfounded; but, when we attentively consider the serious consequences that are known to follow the more aggravated form of the disease, the mortality occasioned by it, may, probably, be deemed to be by no means inconsiderable.

The diet of scrophulous persons should be nutritive and rather generous; but regulated, at the same time, by the existing state of the organs of digestion. Every kind of aliment that is heavy and indigestible in its nature, or heating and stimulating in its quality, must be avoided; such as, salted and smoked

meats; dried or salted fish; made dishes; rich soups; pastry; ardent spirits, alone, or diluted; and wine, beyond a very moderate quantity. A prevailing opinion that scrophula arises from debility, has introduced a custom of giving young children who have any symptoms of the disease port wine, oftentimes twice a day; and of allowing them to take a great quantity of animal food at breakfast, as well as at dinner. This, as a general practice, is wrong, and most particularly so with respect to wine. Oppressing the stomach and bowels with a load of heavy aliment exceeding the powers of digestion and chylication, instead of disposing the body to resist, or to throw off disease, is sure to produce feverish heat and obstruction. It is a nutritive, but not a heating diet is required. There certainly are cases in which wine may be useful, when managed with proper discretion, but these are not numerous.

Scrophulous persons should be strictly enjoined to take regular exercise, in a dry open

air, which should be adjusted as to time and distance, so as not to be productive of languor or fatigue. Walking is proper, where the circumstances of the patient will admit of it ; but when any particular affection of the lower extremities, or general weakness prohibit that species of exercise, riding on horseback, or in a carriage, must be substituted for it. Young children should be carried in arms into the open air, two or three times a day, for half an hour, or an hour each time, if the weather be favourable ; taking care, that every part of the body and limbs, be well covered and defended from cold.

Exercise is as necessary for the restoration and preservation of health as food, and it may justly be deemed impossible to enjoy health for any length of time, where exercise is neglected. In cases of glandular obstruction, which very frequently proceed from inactivity, exercise will always be found a powerful assistant, if it does not prove an absolute cure.

CHAP. V.

No remedy applicable to every state of the disease. Perseverance necessary to eradicate constitutional diseases. Remedies ; some topical, others internal. Sea or salt-water. Salt springs at Lemington Priors. Warm and cold bathing.

THERE is no remedy, however vaunted by interest, or extolled by partiality, with which I am acquainted, that is equal to the general cure of scrophulous affections ; but there are many that will be found eminently useful in particular circumstances. The cure of the disease, therefore, in most cases, can only be accomplished by a judicious selection, and regular application of appropriate remedies. Of these, some seem to possess a power of affording relief to certain symptoms only, whilst others appear to admit of more general application.

The most judicious treatment, it must be confessed, will not at all times, or in every instance, be followed by advantage or improvement sufficient to reach the expectations of the physician, or to satisfy the wishes of

the patient ; but one grand impediment to success in the management of scrophula, will often be found in the want of perseverance on the part of the patient, or of the patient's friends. Whenever the case proves tedious, all become advisers, and the sufferer is frequently made the sport of every contrariety of opinion, and of every absurdity in practice. Few people are to be met with possessed of sufficient confidence and steadiness for the regular prosecution of a medicinal course for months, perhaps, for years ; and yet, that steadiness and confidence are absolutely requisite in all who wish for relief, or are desirous of cure in many constitutional diseases ; which are so deeply ingrafted on the system, that a safe and speedy removal of the evil can never be accomplished, and therefore, ought never to be expected. This consideration should induce every thinking mind, to assent to the fitness, and propriety, of allowing a much more extended trial in these complaints, than in most other disorders, before the remedies are abandoned, and the sufferers left to the uncertainty of time and chance.

Of the remedies commonly employed for the relief of Scrophula, some are applied topically, and others administered internally. The most popular, and unquestionably the most extensively useful topical remedy is sea-water, or water highly impregnated with muriate of soda.

Sea-water was long ago recommended as an important remedy in scrophulous complaints by Russel, and Speed, who appear to have considered it as possessing powers superior to every other medicine ; but, like every medicament whose merits have been overrated, it gradually lost its reputation, and sunk into disuse. The late Mr. Hunter had the merit of restoring this useful remedy to its proper level. He very generally advised the regular application of sea-water to scrophulous sores, and tumors ; and the practice has been sanctioned by almost universal adoption. Warm sea-water may be used as a daily dressing, by covering the ulcerated parts with thick compresses of old linen, wrung out of it ; or the compresses may be laid over any other application,

that may be required to particular parts. Sometimes, the irritability of the sores will not admit of the constant application of salt water. Under such circumstances, it will be proper to have recourse to dressings of a milder kind, using the water once or twice a day as a fomentation only ; assisted by general immersion in the warm salt-water bath, every four or five days. To scrophulous ulcers attended with a profuse sanious discharge, I have often applied, with much success, the salt water in the form of cataplasm made with fine oatmeal. This should be boiled in an earthen pipkin or saucepan, to a firmer consistence than is usual for poultices, and must be free from any mixture of oil, lard, or butter. It should be spread near an inch thick on linen cloths, and renewed twice a day. If this poultice be made sufficiently firm, it will not be materially altered by the discharge from the sores, nor will it be liable to dry about the edges, or give trouble in the removal. To scrophulous tumors salt water may be applied in the form of poultice, made with linseed-meal, or bread crumbs ; or it may be laid to the swellings by means of

thick linen compresses. When used for the purpose of discussing tumors, an additional quantity of salt should be added to the sea water ; in the proportion of an ounce of common salt, to a pint of water. If sea water cannot be obtained, two ounces of common salt may be dissolved in every pint of river, or soft water. This may be used as the sea water, and will commonly be found equally effectual.

Sea water has been many years administered internally, as a remedy for scrophulous complaints, to a great proportion of the persons, so afflicted, who resorted to the sea coast for relief, and could bring themselves to take the water; but I believe the effect to have been much oftener prejudicial than salutary. It is inconceivably nauseous to a weak stomach, and frequently proves violently emetic, as well as roughly purgative. People who take their children to the sea in these cases, are commonly inclined to make, as they think, the best use of their time, and the poor infants, in consequence, are often bathed without discretion, and drenched without mercy. If pur-

gatives are occasionally required, a little calomel, joined with any aperient, may be given with good effect ; but surely no benefit can arise in weak delicate habits, labouring under scrophulous contamination, from a continued course of purging. Keeping up an evacuation of that nature in such subjects, even by the mildest means, long together, cannot fail to be injurious ; but the constant use of so harsh an evacuant as sea water is generally found to be, must inevitably weaken the stomach, impair digestion, and reduce the tone and vigour of the whole system.

Immense masses of muriate of soda are found in various parts of the earth, considerable specimens of which are contained in this kingdom. Salt springs also are not uncommon, many of which hold in solution the sulphates of magnesia, and soda in different proportions, and are chiefly used internally. Others contain a considerable quantity of muriate of soda, and are well adapted for external use. Some of these last springs are found at Lemington Priors, in Warwickshire,

near the centre of the kingdom, and in the vicinity of several populous manufacturing towns ; situations peculiarly favourable to the production and development of scrophula. At this place are constructed several commodious hot and cold baths, with every necessary accommodation, whereby all the benefits of cold and warm salt water bathing, may easily be obtained, by those who reside in the neighbourhood, whose circumstances prohibit a removal to the distant sea coast in search of health, or whose employments render such a measure altogether inconvenient.

The regular use of the warm salt-water bath, constitutes an important part of the treatment of many scrophulous affections ; some of which, I have reason to believe, are not to be cured without its assistance. Much prejudice and timidity has prevailed in this country against the use of the warm bath, from an ill-founded apprehension that it weakened the muscles, and relaxed the organs of digestion ; and, also, rendered persons liable to the attack of colds and fevers. It is not

improbable that such consequences may have followed the immoderate, or imprudent use of warm bathing, but the abuse of an important remedy, should never constitute an objection to the judicious employment of it. In fact, it will be found, that the warm salt-water bath, under proper management and direction, may be taken with perfect safety at all seasons.

The best time of the day for young or middle-aged people to use the warm salt-water bath, during the greatest part of the year, is in the forenoon, at nearly an equal distance between breakfast and dinner. In the depth of winter, and in severe cold weather, it may be more advisable to take it at night. The temperature of the bath must be regulated by the feelings of the patient, for some are liable to syncope, at a degree of heat that is insufficient to warm others. It should produce an agreeable warmth, free from any sensation of oppression. The standard of heat suitable to most people, will commonly be found to be between 90 and 96 degrees of Fahrenheit's

thermometer ; but when warm bathing has been pursued for any length of time, a higher temperature will generally be required. At first beginning a course of bathing, once, in three or four days is sufficient ; but after using it two or three weeks, it may be taken every other day. The patient should be immersed to the chin, and remain in the bath from ten to twenty minutes. I have known people to stay in half an hour without any inconvenience, but I believe about half that time is quite sufficient to answer every good purpose. If the bath is used in the forenoon, it will be necessary to take from half an hour, to an hour's moderate exercise after it, in the manner most suitable to the state of the patient.

Cold sea-bathing, and the use of the common cold bath, I consider rather in the light of prophylactics for the prevention of scrophula, than remedies for the cure of the disease when formed. If a predisposition to scrophula is known to exist from hereditary taint, or from the general appearance of the individual, cold sea-bathing may be used

with advantage, as may, also, every other means that can contribute to strengthen the constitution, and, consequently, to place it in the fittest state to resist the advance of disease.

Towards the termination of scrophulous complaints, after a course of warm sea-bathing, or of other necessary remedies, if the season of the year will permit, the cold sea-bath, or the common cold bath, may be used for a month, or six weeks, in most cases, with great advantage.

CHAP. VI.

Internal remedies. Spongia Ustia. Cinchona. Cicuta. Calomel. Muriate of Baryta. Prepared Antimony. Plummer's Pill. Muriate of Lime.

OF the remedies commonly administered internally for the relief of scrophulous symptoms, I shall not notice many; it being my intention to confine myself chiefly to a brief relation of such as have come strongly recommended from eminent authorities; and, to an account of those medicines, that, in my own practice, have proved most efficacious.

Spongia Usta, has been used a considerable time in scrophulous affections, and cutaneous foulnesses. By some it has been thought perfectly inert; but I should suspect those gentlemen either of wanting sufficient experience, to enable them to ascertain the value of the medicine; or, of never having given it a fair trial. It forms the basis of the celebrated Coventy remedy for the bronchocele, which was vended as a nostrum in that city many

years, by the daughter of the physician who first prescribed it in her own case. In swellings of the glands, and in scrophulous ophthalmia, it proves almost invariably beneficial ; but it should be preceded by a dose of calomel, either alone, or combined with other purgatives, so as to stimulate the intestines in a moderate degree. During the exhibition of the burnt sponge, a repetition of the calomel purge every ten days, or thereabout, will generally be found to have a good effect. Of the powdered sponge, from ten grains, to half a dram, proportioned to the age of the patient, may be given twice a day, in a little syrup, treacle, or thin honey.

Sponge was formerly considered to be a vegetable production, but it is now universally admitted by naturalists to be of animal origin. By chemical examination it is found to contain a large proportion of volatile alkali, and a small quantity of muriate of soda, which seem to be the active parts of the remedy. It has been said by some chemists, that calcined sponge is nothing more than charcoal,

united with a little muriate of soda, and phosphate of lime ; and it has been proposed to supersede the use of it, by a composition of these substances, which may be obtained at a much cheaper rate. I have never been tempted to make trial of the imitation, and, therefore, am incompetent to determine the truth of the analysis.

Some practitioners, in order to please their patients, and to remove the disgust that would arise at the appearance of a black powder, have directed an infusion of the burnt sponge in boiling water ; which, being filtered through paper, becomes perfectly limpid, and is, consequently, not unpleasant to the eye. But this is a sacrifice of real utility, to false delicacy ; for the infusion will prove, on trial, to be very inferior in effect to the calcined sponge in substance.

A particular mode of exhibiting burnt sponge, in the form of a lozenge or bolus, to be placed under the tongue, and suffered to dissolve very slowly, has been recommended

with such earnestness and zeal, and supported by arguments so specious and imposing, as to lead the inexperienced to imagine it to be the only way, in which the remedy could possibly be applied to produce any good whatever. This, however, I will venture to assert, is not the fact. In many cases of bronchocele, and scrophulous glands, I have given the burnt sponge successfully in the form of powder, or electuary, which was usually taken in the manner medicines generally are ; that is to say, gulped down as hastily as possible. I have, likewise, some years since, ordered it to be laid under the tongue, and kept there as long as it could be, that it might melt away by very slow degrees ; but could never discover the smallest advantage over the common expeditious method ; for, whether the bolus was retained in the mouth two seconds, or two hours, the effect was precisely the same. I am, therefore, tempted to consider the practice either as nugatory, or as a mere affectation of singularity.

Doctor Erdman, a German physician, who

appears to have formed his opinion, from the result of much experience, mentions the singular efficacy of the *spongia usta*, in his practice, in the cure of bronchocele, and scrophulous tumors. His mode of exhibiting the remedy, is in form of a powder, consisting of one part calcined sponge, and three parts sugar. Of this composition, he gave a proper dose, adapted to the age of the patient, every night and morning.

Cinchona, was first recommended as a remedy for scrophulous disorders, by the late Doctor Fothergill, an authority of great practical eminence, who is warm in its praise, particularly in scrophulous ophthalmia ; but this sagacious and experienced physician did not depend on the *cinchona* alone. He commonly directed it to be given in decoction, to which he frequently added the *tinctura guaiaci ammoniata*. With the bark he also gave Plummer's powder, and occasional doses of calomel. He likewise often advised sea-bathing. Hence it appears, that he very wisely availed himself of a variety of important remedies in

addition to the cinchona. Since the time of Doctor Fothergill, the bark has been generally given in scrophula ; and, where symptoms of debility prevail, it will certainly be found useful. It may also be considered a powerful auxillary in scrophulous opthalmia, and some other varities of the disease.

The same gentleman has written favourably of the cicuta in this disease, which remedy I have often given for a long space of time, and to a great extent in quantity ; but am not conscious of having observed any advantage from it. Sometimes, in cases of scrophulous eruption, when it has been combined with calomel, I have seen good effects produced ; but, even in these instances, I am inclined to allow a very insignificant share of the benefit to the cicuta, which does not appear to merit much estimation as a remedy for scrophula.

Calomel, though not an absolute specific in the disease, may truly be said to rank without competition as a purgative. Whenever there is infarction of the mesenteric glands, visceral

obstruction, or scrophulous induration in any part of the body, no remedy will avail without the occasional aid of this powerful deobstruent, which greatly excites glandular secretion ; and, thereby, tends to promote the absorption of extravasated matter, and remove congestion, wherever it may be forming. There is no state of the disease, in which an occasional dose of calomel may not be useful. With me, it precedes whatever mode of treatment I may think fit to pursue ; and I commonly find it necessary to repeat the dose once in eight or ten days, as long as the patient continues under a medicinal course. I generally direct from one to four grains of calomel, rubbed down with an equal quantity of fine sugar, to be taken at night in a little currant-jelly ; and the following morning, a draught of infusion of senna, with a proper quantity of tartarized soda and manna.

Muriate of baryta obtained some celebrity as a remedy for scrophula, from the strong recommendation of a late physician, who introduced it in every variety of the disease.

Having never witnessed any material advantage from it, in a number of scrophulous complaints, where it was long persisted in, and the dose pushed cautiously and gradually, as far as a prudent regard to the safety of the patient would allow ; that is, until it produced nausea or vertigo ; I cannot bring any testimony in its favour from my own experience.

Prepared sulphuret of antimony has been given in cases of glandular obstruction, attended with cutaneous affection, in doses from five or six grains, to half a dram, twice a day, in the form of pill, bolus, or powder, with some success ; but Plummer's pill will generally be found to be a more active and efficacious medicine. This useful remedy is introduced into the new pharmacopœia of the London College, under the title of *Pilulæ Hydrargyri Submurias*. These preparations, which are very beneficial in many obstinate diseases of the skin, are greatly assisted by the judicious use of the warm salt-water bath.

Muriate of lime, a remedy of modern

date, was first proposed for the cure of scrophula by a French chemist ; and, afterwards, warmly recommended by the late Doctor Beddoes. Of this medicine I have little to say, never having made trial of it in my own practice, from an unwillingness to forego the benefit arising from the administration of an useful remedy, in order to make experiments with another of doubtful efficacy. On this score I have nothing to regret, since the muriate of lime is reported, from undoubted authority, to have completely failed.

CHAP. VII.

Topical treatment. Tumors to be discussed. Treatment of ulcers. Tumors not to be opened. Relaxing applications injurious. Treatment of sinuses.

THE topical treatment of particular symptoms constitutes an important part in the management of scrophulous complaints; so much so, that the future comfort of the patient frequently depends on the manner in which this portion of the curative plan is conducted.

Whenever scrophulous tumors proceed to suppuration, the process is irregular throughout the whole course, and imperfect at the termination. The ulcers that follow, are invariably tedious of cure; and, notwithstanding the utmost care and attention on the part of the medical attendant, are too commonly known to leave disgusting and indelible marks of the disease. Hence, it becomes an object of the most earnest solicitude with parents and relations, as well as with the patient, to

avoid, if possible, consequences as hurtful to parental feeling, as they are humiliating to family pride. These considerations, which are of sufficient importance to claim the serious regard of the profession, have not escaped the notice of experienced practitioners, who are generally agreed, as to the propriety and expediency of discussing scrophulous tumors, whenever it is practicable.

The application of sea-water, or of a solution of common salt in water, to these swellings, has already been noticed. This practice is very generally adopted, and is often found to succeed. I have, however, so frequently experienced the superior benefit of another mode of treatment, that I rarely depart from it, unless the case be particularly circumstanced.

If the integuments immediately covering the tumors exhibit any appearance of inflammation, a sufficient number of leeches, in proportion to the degree and extent of the inflammation, are applied; after which, the

bleeding having ceased, compresses dipped in a solution of superacetate of lead, are laid on, and frequently changed, till all the bites of the leeches are perfectly healed.

The following is the form of the solution.

℞ *Plumbi Superacetatis* ʒss.
Acidi Ascetici ʒij.
Misturæ Camphoræ ʒviij *Misce,*
fiat solutio, pannis linteis duplicatis
subinde applicanda.

When the bites are healed, and the inflammation of the skin removed, the swelled glands and indurated parts are covered with the emplastrum ammoniaci cum hydrargyro spread on leather. If the plasters preserve their shape, and retain their situation, it will not be necessary to renew them oftener than once a week. The ammoniacum will sometimes be found to irritate tender skins, after it has been applied some time. When that happens, the plaster should have an equal proportion of emplastrum hydrargyri mixed with it; and, if it then proves too stimulat-

ing, the emplastrum hydrargyri alone, must be substituted for it. These plasters should be used, as long as any hardness or tumefaction remains.

Neglect at the commencement, or in the early stage of the disease; irregular living, or improper treatment in the course of it; and, oftentimes, the intractable nature of the complaint itself, will occasionally render every attempt to disperse the tumors abortive, and ulcers will in consequence be formed, more or less numerous and extensive. Practitioners are divided in opinion respecting the treatment best calculated to heal these ulcers, and to prevent, as far as can be accomplished, the formation of seams and scars. Some recommend exclusively saturnine applications, in the form of lotions, ointments, and cerates; others advise sea-water on cloths, and in poultices; and others, again, use nothing but linen cloths wetted with common water. All these remedies are serviceable at times, except the greasy applications, which will generally prove more injurious than useful. When inflammation

prevails about the ulcerated parts, a weak saturnine solution, such as has been before mentioned, or Goulard's lotion, may be used with advantage. Warm sea-water is of much service as a dressing under particular circumstances, as has already been stated. It may also be considered as the best wash for sponging and cleansing the ulcers at the time of dressing them. It sometimes happens, that these sores are too tender and irritable to bear the application of salt water, without its causing great pain for hours after it has been used. Whenever this state occurs, more lenient means must be tried. In such instances, linen cloths dipt in pure cold water, will be found the mildest, and perhaps, the most useful dressing.

There is very frequently in scrophulous sores, a want of action that retards the progress to cicatrisation. This torpor is not to be remedied by saturnine and sedative applications; nor will those of a mild and lenient nature succeed better. Such dressings as are moderately warm, or slightly stimulant,

will have a better effect in producing that action, which is necessary to restore the natural exertions of the system, and to dispose the ulcers to heal.

Too free admission of air to scrophulous sores is always injurious, and never fails to produce a painful constriction of the skin at the margin of the ulcers, and to vitiate the secretion from the surface. It is therefore of importance, in order to avoid all unnecessary exposure to air, in the intermediate space between the dressings, to select such applications as will adhere close to the skin, and retain their situation. No application, however, can be so contrived, as to be adapted to all cases. Circumstances not very obvious will often occur, that demand separate attention; and the same patient will frequently require variety of topical management.

The most useful general dressing I have found for scrophulous ulcers, is a plaster composed of equal parts of emplastrum galbani compositum, and emplastrum hydrar-

gyri, spread on linen cloth. After carefully cleansing the sores, with a sponge wetted with warm sea-water, pieces of this plaster, proportioned to the size and shape of the ulcers, are laid on, and covered with compresses of soft linen rag. These compresses should be of sufficient thickness to absorb the discharge; and, when retained by proper bandage, to cause a moderate degree of pressure to be made on the surface of the ulcers, which will tend greatly to expedite the cure. Dry lint, so much in use as a first application to the bottom of ulcers, appears, in these cases, to interrupt, rather than to forward the healing process.

There is often an evident fluctuation in scrophulous tumors, unaccompanied by redness, or inflammation of the skin; and, in this state, they sometimes remain stationary a considerable time. If these collections are seated on the articulations, or in the neighbourhood of any of the large cavities, the contents should be discharged by incision, or by passing a seton through the tumor. But

when suppuration takes place in the cervical glands, or in any part that is exposed to sight, the swelling should be allowed to burst of itself, and the cure completed by plaster and compress, as directed for the scrophulous ulcer. This may be accomplished in most cases, so as to leave scarcely any vestige of the disease behind. It is not sufficiently known, what may be effected by the judicious management of compress and bandage. If the scalpel or lancet are used, the sores are always more tedious, and difficult to cure; and although it is sometimes necessary to have recourse to incision, it may be considered as a general rule, that it is best to suffer the contents of scrophulous tumors to make their own exit.

If poultices and relaxing applications are much used during the increase of these tumors, with the intent to hasten suppuration, such a laxity of skin will be produced, as will dispose it to slough away, and form ulcers of considerable extent, which, when healed, will leave behind them vestiges of nearly

equal magnitude. When scrophulous tumors are found to contain a fluid, they should be covered with the emplastrum galbini compositum, spread on leather, which need not be changed oftener than once a week. After the swellings have burst, the same plaster may be continued until the contents are discharged ; and when that has taken place, the ulcers are to be dressed with the mixed plaster and compress, as before directed.

By avoiding relaxing fomentations and poultices, during the increase of scrophulous tumors ; and carefully guarding against unnecessary exposure to air, through the ulcerated state, the sufferers will, in almost every instance, be spared the mortification of bearing disgusting scars, and unseemly marks of disease, to the end of their days.

When several ulcers are formed in the neighbourhood of each other, or upon the surface of a part that is much swelled and enlarged, as is often the case about the large

joints, sinuses are frequently found running through the cellular membrane, or along the interstices of muscles, from one to the other. It was formerly the common practice to lay open these sinuses throughout their whole extent, but that was a piece of needless severity, since it is certain the case may be accomplished by more gentle means. Compression alone, if skilfully managed, will generally succeed; but, if the sinuses have been of long standing, it will be first of all necessary to stimulate their internal surfaces, by passing a few threads of silk through them, smeared with some digestive ointment. The threads should be suffered to remain a few days, and then gradually withdrawn; one every two or three days. When they are all removed, compression properly regulated, will destroy the vacuity occasioned by the sinuses, and soon bring about an union of the sides of the cavities.

Sinuses of long continuance, sometimes open into the cavities of the joints, and produce erosion of the cartilages, and caries of

the bones. When this happens on the extremities, amputation is perhaps the only means of preserviug the life of the patient. It is not intended in this work to enlarge on the particular treatment of these cases, or to trace scrophula through all its effects. Such an investigation would require more leisure than I can at present command, and is, moreover, unnecessary in this Essay, the object of which is to detail and recommend to the notice of the profession, a mode of treatment infinitely more successful than any other within my knowledge.

CHAP. VIII.

Effect of the carbonas ammoniæ.

CASES.

HAVING briefly enumerated the remedies commonly employed for the relief of scrophula, and endeavoured to establish their relative value and importance; and also detailed what has appeared to me to be the most successful mode of treatment, I proceed to state the effect of the carbonate of ammonia. At the same time, I shall attempt to exemplify the necessity of patient and steady perseverance in the means of relief, and to set forth the benefit and advantage resulting from such conduct, by the relation of a few cases.

CASE I.

A scrophulous tumor on the knee.

ABOUT fifteen years ago, I was desired by a particular friend to look at the knee of a poor girl, between sixteen and seventeen years of age, who had been subject to scrophulous complaints from her infancy ; and, in consequence of the pain and swelling of the joint, which had been four or five months gradually increasing, was then rendered incapable of supporting herself by her labour as a servant. The knee appeared considerably enlarged, and was constantly in pain, which was greatly increased when she was in an erect position, and whenever she moved the joint. There was no inflammation on the surface, nor could I discover any fluctuation beneath the integuments. Her complexion was pale ; the skin cold and relaxed ; the upper lip much swelled, and there were several glandular tumors in the neck. Her pulse was small and frequent ; she had little

appetite ; was not constipated, and had regular returns of the catamenia, though the discharge was rather pale, and in small quantity.

She was directed to use moderate friction to the knee night and morning, and to keep it constantly supported by a flannel roller. With the intent to improve her appetite, and give some little tone and energy to the system, the following mixture was ordered :

R. Infusi Gentianæ Compositi ℥xv.

Carbonatis Ammoniacæ ℥j.

Tincturæ Gentianæ Compositæ ℥j.

Misce. Capiat cochlearia tria bis die,
horis medicinalibus.

Ten days after, I saw her again, much altered for the better ; the lip being reduced to the natural size, and the pain and swelling of the knee much abated. The frictions, and mixture, were ordered to be continued. By pursuing this course of treatment two months, every appearance of disease about the knee was removed, the glandular tumors

in the neck dispersed, and the girl restored to her service in perfect health.

Reflecting on this case, in which no change of medicine was made, it occurred to me, that, as volatile alkali, or carbonate of ammonia, was one of the constituent parts of the *spongia usta*, it might probably be that portion of the remedy, to which its utility in scrophulous complaints was principally owing. To ascertain the truth of this conjecture, I determined on giving the carbonate of ammonia a fair trial. Numerous opportunities have since offered, for the administration of it in every variety of scrophula; and, I can now, after the most ample experience, pronounce it to be more generally useful, than any remedy within my knowledge. It has, in many instances, been exhibited with success equal to that of the case just related; and, even under the most unpromising circumstances, I have scarcely ever given it, without manifest advantage to the patient.

This benefit, may possibly, by some prac-

tioners, be attributed to the regularity of life, and attention to regimen, that was constantly enjoined in aid of the medical treatment. But, after conceding to these means a due share of praise, I am no way disposed to detract from the merit of the carbonas ammoniæ, and for this plain reason : Under a parity of circumstances, it has, in my practice, proved more generally useful than any other single remedy ; or than every other remedy, with which I am acquainted, combined.

I do not consider it necessary to adduce any reasoning, in order to account for the *modus operandi* of this medicine. In the exhibition of opium, mercury, bark, and steel, we notice certain effects, but are totally unacquainted with the manner in which those effects are produced ; and yet we have no doubt of opium, mercury, bark, and steel, really possessing the powers, for which they are celebrated.

I seldom vary the manner of prescribing

the ammonia. My usual form for children is, half a drachm of the carbonas ammoniæ, to seven ounces and a half of the infusum gentianæ compositum, and half an ounce of the tinctura gentianæ composita. Of this mixture, from one to four table-spoonfuls, according to the age of the patient, are given two or three times a day. In the foregoing case, it was exhibited only twice a day; but I have since found it a more expeditious, as well as a more efficacious mode, to give the medicine morning, noon, and night. To adults, the proportion of the carbonate is increased to two scruples, or a drachm, in the half pint mixture.

CASE II.

Scrophulous ulcers on the neck.

MASTER P——, a stout healthy boy, five years of age, was observed to have several glandular tumors on the right side of his neck, which becoming progressively of greater magnitude, he was sent, in the summer of 1808, to the sea-coast for relief; where he went through a course of bathing, and salt-water applications, for the space of five months. During this time, the tumor suppurated partially, and burst in four places. A considerable discharge was kept up from these openings, which reduced the boy to a state of extreme debility; in consequence of which, cinchona, in the form of decoction and powder, was administered freely, for several weeks; and the sores were dressed with poultices of linseed-meal, and sea-water.

About the middle of December he was brought to town, and placed under my care.

At that time, a considerable enlargement remained, extending from behind the right ear, to the sternum, which felt unequally hard, but was not very painful, except where the ulcers had formed. The boy had no appetite. His limbs were much emaciated; and there was great tension and swelling of the abdomen, indicating infarction of the mesenteric glands. I first ordered him three grains of calomel at night, and a saline purge with senna in the morning. The following day he began the mixture with the carbonate of ammonia, of which he took two table-spoonfuls every morning, noon, and night. The poultices were laid aside; and the plaster composed of emplastrum galbani composi-
a tum, and emplastrum hydrargyri, applied daily, after washing the ulcers with warm sea-water. The plasters were covered with thick linen compresses.

The mixture was continued between five and six weeks, interposing a purge with calomel, every eight or nine days. By this time, the boy got tired of the medicine, and

could not be prevailed on to take it, without more trouble than those about him thought proper to give themselves. The state of the disease, however, was materially altered; the irregular hardness and swelling, in the neighbourhood of the sores, being much diminished; the discharge greatly abated; the ulcers themselves reduced in magnitude, and exhibiting a more favourable appearance. The abdominal tension and enlargement, though not removed, was much less apparent; and the natural desire for food had returned.

After abstaining from medicine a month, in which interval the dressings and sea-water ablutions were regularly continued, it was evident to the parents, that no progress was making toward amendment; and, therefore, they expressed a desire to have the medicine given again. It was, consequently, pursued a second time, four weeks, without interruption; and then again abandoned. But a still greater change was wrought in the

complaint. Two of the ulcers were now healed ; the other two contracted to a small size ; and hardly any fulness or hardness, to be perceived about the side of the neck. The head also, which had been bent obliquely forward, was now in its natural erect position.

An interval of four months followed, in which no advance was made ; the ulcers remaining in nearly the same state, as when the mixture was last discontinued. It was therefore resumed a third time, and taken regularly till the ulcers were healed, which was completed within a month. The boy has since been as thriving and healthy, as he was before the scrophulous swellings appeared.

This case is given as an instance of the good effect of the carbonas ammoniæ, where a long course of sea-bathing and salt-water applications, assisted by the bark internally, had failed. The stationary dispo-

sition of the disease, in the two intervals that occurred after the administration of the ammonia; and the progress that was made each time, when it was again resorted to, are also circumstances worthy of attention.

CASE III.

Scrophulous tumors on the throat, and behind the ear.

MASTER C——, aged ten years, of a spare delicate form, complained in the autumn of 1807 of some little pain and uneasiness, proceeding from a small tumor, under the lower jaw, which continued to increase between three and four months. At the expiration of that time, I first saw it. The swelling was then of unequal hardness; not very painful; extending over the thyroid cartilage; and about the magnitude of a large swan's egg. Another tumor, about half that size, was situated behind the left articulation of the lower jaw; and strings of indurated glands were to be felt on each side of the neck, from the ear to the shoulder.

On the 24th of January, 1808, a plaster of emplastrum ammoniaci cum hydragyro, spread on leather, was applied to each tumor; and he began the ammonia mixture the same

day, of which he took two table-spoonfuls every morning, noon, and evening. In three weeks the tumor on the fore part of the neck burst, and discharged a quantity of sanies. Some time after, another opening was made, in a more depending situation. The other tumor, behind the articulation of the jaw, increased slowly till near the end of June; after which time, two openings were progressively formed, and a similar sanious fluid discharged.

The only application to the tumors before they burst, was the plaster before-mentioned, which was renewed once a week. After the discharge took place, the ulcers were daily washed with warm sea-water, and dressed with the mixed plaster, and linen compress. This course was regularly pursued till the middle of January, 1809, at which time the sores were healed, and neither swelling or induration remained in any part of the neck. The cicatrization was accomplished with very little contraction, or depression of the cutis, leaving scarcely any vestige of the disease behind.

In this instance, there was an uninterrupted prosecution of the carbonate of ammonia, for the space of a year, within a few days ; and I do not recollect a more striking example of solid constitutional improvement, resulting from constant and punctual attention to every direction that was given respecting the treatment of the patient. From being weak, pale, and delicate ; the boy became stout, fresh-coloured, and healthy.

CASE IV.

A scrophulous swelling of the knee, succeeding external injury.

MR. B——, a gentleman of slender form, twenty years of age, healthy, but of a scrophulous family, in running hastily down a steep descent on the sea-coast near Hastings, received a violent sprain of the left knee; which was immediately productive of great pain, and was followed by swelling and inflammation of the part.

The surgeon who was called in, had recourse to repeated topical bleedings, by leeches; blistered the knee twice, and used a variety of applications. After a confinement of more than four weeks, the patient finding himself unable to walk, or even to stand on the affected limb without excessive pain, determined to remove to town.

When he arrived, after a painful journey of two days, the knee was enlarged to nearly double the size of the other, and a fluctuation of gelatinous fluid was plainly felt on each side the patella. The cutis was free from inflammation, except a little extending over the patella that had remained since the application of the last vesicatory. If he sat with the foot on a stool of moderate height, he felt very little pain; the position was even easier to him than in bed.

Suspecting the continuance of the swelling, and inability of the joint, to be occasioned by an hereditary contamination in the system, operating gradually on the ordinary effects of external injury, by which it had been roused into an active state, and eventually producing scrophulous affection, I ordered the patient two ounces of the ammonia mixture, three times a day; and directed friction to the knee for the space of half an hour every night and morning. After the friction, a flannel roller was applied to

support the joint, and occasion a gentle pressure. A purge with calomel was given once a week for five weeks.

In three months the swelling was wholly dispersed, and the gentleman resumed his usual avocations.

CASE V.

*A scrophulous enlargement of the knee, with
sinuous ulcers.*

MISS S——, twenty-six years of age, descended from scrophulous parents, whose neck and arms were deeply imprinted with scars, from the effect of the disease in the early part of her life, had been suffering the last four years from pain and swelling in the right knee. At first the pain was confined to a small spot, near the outer edge of the patella; but as the swelling increased, the pain became more diffused, extending to the flexor tendons at the posterior part of the joint. She had consulted several practitioners, who had advised topical bleedings by cupping, and leeches; mercurial frictions; blisters, and many other remedies; but the disease continued to gain ground, and at length assumed so serious an appearance, that she was given to understand, it was very probable in a short time, amputation of the thigh might

be the only means left for the preservation of her life.

She was placed under my care the beginning of January, 1809. At that time the knee was greatly enlarged, and unequally hard ; with an appearance, in some places, of partial suppuration. The veins upon the surface were varicous, and the skin exhibited all hues, from dark purple to dead white. Long confinement, continual pain, and restless nights, had sunk her spirits, and impaired her constitution.

After purging her once with calomel, I ordered four table-spoonfuls of the ammonia mixture, containing two scruples of the carbonate in the half pint, to be taken three times a-day. The knee was covered with the emplastrum galbani compositum, and rolled up with flannel.

In the first three months several ulcers formed about the knee, from which issued a profuse quantity of thin sanious fluid, which

was often dark coloured, and sometimes extremely fetid. Some of the ulcers spread to the size of a crown piece ; and sinuses were found, running the length of a common probe, from one ulcer to another. Poultices of salt water and oatmeal were applied night and morning, until the discharge was reduced to a moderate quantity, and the ulcers put on a healthy appearance. When this was accomplished, the sores were daily sponged with warm salt water, and dressed with the mixed plaster. Compress and bandage, by degrees, brought about an union of the sides of the cavities of the sinuses ; after which the ulcers healed progressively, and, by the end of the year, the patient was restored to health with the perfect use of her knee.

To these I might add a number of other cases, in which the carbonate of ammonia has been found of signal service, but enough has been related to shew its efficacy, and to explain the manner of exhibiting it. Whether

it deserves to be recorded as a valuable remedy for scrophula, must depend on the general experience of the profession. What has been already stated, will, perhaps, be judged sufficient authority to justify practitioners in giving it a fair and patient trial; the result of which, I trust, will confirm the opinion I have formed, and prove it to be a more useful and efficacious remedy in scrophulous complaints, than any other yet known.

CASE VI.

Herpetic eruptions, and cutaneous scrophulous ulcers.

THE following case of cutaneous affection, may not be thought altogether scrophulous ; but, as I have often met with similar appearances, in combination with unequivocal symptoms of the disease ; and, can also, in the present instance, trace scrophula through two generations in direct descent from this patient, I shall give it as an example of the manner in which I commonly treat such cases, and as a further instance in proof of the benefit of steady perseverance.

E. P. Esq. aged fifty-eight years, of a spare habit, and regular mode of living, had been many years troubled with an herpetic eruption, extending over the whole cuticular surface, but less thickly spread on the face and hands, than on those parts that were covered by the clothes.

The pruritus and irritation attending the complaint, was a source of constant distress ; and whenever the body was heated by exercise, or by the warmth of a room exceeding a very moderate degree of temperature, the irritation became almost insupportable.

This uninterrupted state of suffering preyed on his health ; and when I was first applied to, his strength and spirits were much reduced, the appetite impaired, the legs œdematous, and the entire surface of the body and extremities, beset with innumerable superficial ulcerations, which had the glossy shining appearance of the superficial scrophulous ulcer. The interstitial spaces between the ulcers, were covered with a dry scurfy eruption. He had not a moment's respite from the most tormenting irritation and distress, which banished sleep night after night, till exhausted nature sunk into broken slumbers, at a late hour in the morning.

In the beginning of January, 1807, I began by giving him two calomel purges, with

an interval of three days between each dose. The day after the purging, he went into the warm bath. He was then directed to rub the body and extremities with the unguentum sulphuris, every night and morning; having, first of all, covered the ulcers with the mixed plaster. A draught, with two ounces of decoctum cinchonæ, two drachms of tincture, and five grains of extractum conii, was given twice a day.

The inunction, and draughts, were continued for a fortnight, during which, he took the warm bath twice a week. By this time, the cuticle was much cleared of the scurfy eruption, and the irritation had so far abated, that he was enabled to get three or four hours sleep every night.

The ointment was rubbed on three weeks longer, at night only; the bath continued twice a week; and the draughts taken as before. At the expiration of this course, the skin was almost free from scurf, but the ulcers remained nearly in the same state.

His sufferings, however, were greatly diminished ; his strength and appetite improved ; and hardly any swelling of the legs remained.

At the latter end of February, he left off the bark and used the warm bath only once a week. From the beginning of March to the middle of April, he took four grains of Plummer's pill every night. In June, he went to Harrogate, where he remained about two months, using the bath regularly the whole time. After this, he passed ten weeks at Brighton, and went into the warm sea bath three times a week. The furfuraceous eruption had disappeared some time ; and the ulcers, which had been gradually reducing in number, were all healed before he left Brighton.

In the spring following, the complaint returned, in the form of numerous small ulcerations on the body and limbs : but it was unattended with the former tormenting irritation. The plasters were again applied,

and he was directed to go into a warm salt-water bath in town three times a week, which kept the disorder in check till the summer. In July, I ordered him to the salt-water baths at Lemington Priors ; where he remained two months, and returned to London perfectly well. This gentleman is now enjoying a better state of health than he has known for many years.

This case, which had for several years resisted every attempt that had been made for the relief of the patient, appears to have been a combination of the cutaneous scrophulous ulcer, with an inveterate herpes ; and, to this view of the disorder, the curative means were directed. At first, I judged it most conducive to the ease and welfare of the patient, to attend to the herpetic eruption, as the source of the incessant pruritus, which must, of necessity, be subdued, before it could be possible to effect any favourable change in the state of the ulcers. To this end, were applied the sulphur inunction, and the warm bath. The bark had also its use,

as a tonic, in the reduced state of the appetite, and general health.

The health being in some measure recruited, a course of Plummer's pill was ordered ; and the journey to Harrowgate afterwards undertaken, for the purpose of following up the intention of clearing the skin of the remains of the herpetic eruptions. This being accomplished, the next object was to bring about a healthy action in the ulcers, in order to dispose them to heal ; which was effected by the use of the warm sea water, as a wash, and bath in the course of the first year.

On the re-appearance of the complaint, the sea water was again tried in town ; but, here, it did little more than arrest the progress of the disease. I therefore advised a course of the warm salt-water baths at Lemington, which completed the cure.

It is probable, that not many persons would have submitted to the long course of

sulphur inunction, or to the repeated bathings during that process, and after: yet it must be admitted, that in this obstinate and long continued disease, the successful termination wholly depended on a firm and resolute prosecution of the *ratio medendi*.

THE END.

