

An essay on the internal use of thorn-apple, henbane, and monkshood; which are shewn to be safe and efficacious remedies, in the cure of many obstinate diseases. Translated from the original Latin, printed at Vienna 1762 / [Anton Störck].

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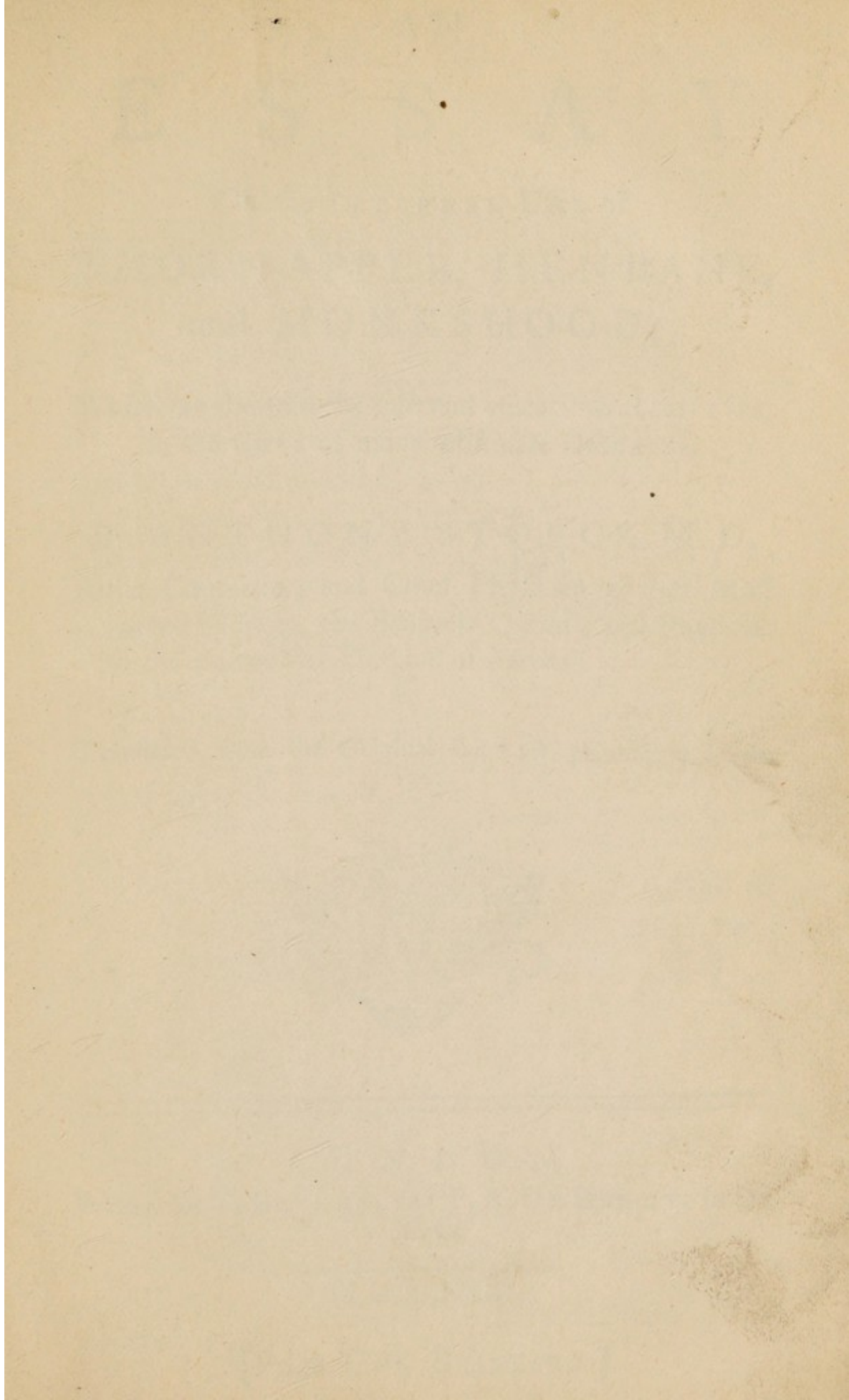
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A N
E S S A Y

On the INTERNAL USE of
THORN-APPLE, HENBANE,
and MONKSHOOD;

Which are shewn to be safe and efficacious REMEDIES,
in the CURE of many obstinate DISEASES.

By ANTHONY STÖRCK, M. D.

Aulic Counsellor, and Chief Physician to her Most
Sacred Majesty, the Empress Queen; and Physician
to the *Pazmarian* Hospital of *Vienna*.

Translated from the Original LATIN, printed at *Vienna*
1762.



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1. **A**NT. Störck Libellus de Ufu interno Stramonii, Hyosciami, Aconiti. Vienna, 1762.
2. Ant. Störck Libellus de Ufu interno Cicutæ. Vienna, 1761.
- * * * Translations of the above are lately published.
3. B. S. Albini de Sceleto Humano, 4to. Leide, 1762.
4. Halleri Elementa Physiologiæ, Tom. IV. 1762.
5. Allioni Rariorum Pedemontii Stirpium Specimen, cum multis Fig. 4to. Turin, 1755.
6. — de Miliarum Origine, Progressu, Natura, et Curatione, 8vo. Turin, 1758.
7. Boerhaave de Morbis Nervorum, 2 Vol. 12mo. 1761.
8. Van Swieten Maladies des Armees, 12mo. 1762.
9. Astruc Maladies des Femmes, 4 Vols. 12mo. 1761.
10. Pharmacop. Parisiensis, Editio altera, 4to. 1758.
11. Levret l'Art des Accouchemens, 8vo. 1761.
- Luzos Traité des Accouchemens, 4to. 1760.
- Jetaud Precis de la Medicine, 8vo. 1762.

P R E F A C E.

IT is a troublesome thing to be afflicted with diseases; but the sick easily bear that trouble, while there is any hope of a cure.

But while they find no relief, after the use of many medicines, but grow rather worse, the disorder often becomes more cruel than death itself.

For the sick, who are afflicted with such continued misery, hourly pray for an end of their lives.

The pains then bestowed upon the cure of such grievous diseases, and on discovering new and efficacious remedies, is highly useful to mankind.

For this purpose the plants called Poisonous promise much.

That is plainly demonstrated by the experiments on THORN-APPLE, HENBANE, and ACONITE, or MONKSHOOD, related in these few pages.

But I would not be supposed to think, that the specific virtue of these plants is certainly determined by these few trials ; for I was still very much employed in learning, first, how they might be given with safety ; and then to point out, in what diseases they are proper.

In the mean time I am well assured, that, whoever follows my method in making the trial, will hurt none, and may benefit many.

C H A P. I.

Of THORN-APPLE.

AS my station at Court, two years ago, required that I should spend the summer at *Hetzendorf*, and take care of the Imperial Family residing at that place, I very often, on a morning or evening, walked out to the neighbouring fields, in search of plants which grow in those places.

I considered not so much their botanical characters, as barely, what use, each plant I knew, might be of; what distemper it might be administered in by Physicians, and what effects it had produced.

I for the most part met with such plants as are extremely well known, and generally used in medicine, and approved of by a long experience, and an immemorial practice.

But in the months of *June, July, and August*, I observed about the Imperial Garden at *Hetzendorf*, and in the neighbourhood of *Schonbrun, Pentzing, and Hietzing*, great plenty of *Thorn-apple* growing, and thriving well.

Stramonium * is the officinal name of this plant; its botanical names are, *Datura pericarpis spinosis, erectis, ovatis*; Linn. Species Plant. p. 179.

Solanum fetidum, pomo spinoso oblongo, flore albo infundibuliformi. C. Bauhin. Pin. p. 168.

I well know, that this plant is altogether disused in Physick, and described by Authors, as highly noxious both to man and beast.

* In German, called *Stech-Appel*.

In French, *Pomme épineuse*.

In English, *Thorn-Apple*.

Datura offic.

Datura fructu spinoso erecto, calyce pentagono.

Solanum maniacum, DIOSC. COLUM.

But at the same time, I am not unacquainted with what was heretofore written concerning the use of Hemlock, as being unanimously pronounced a plant of a highly deleterious quality.

All which was afterwards found, and proved by repeated trials, to be false and groundless.

For, a medicine is procured from it, which is administered with safety to patients, and very often found effectual.

After I had frequently revolved these things in my own mind, I at length determined to gather some *Thorn-apple*, and to bring it to a medical test.

I was in the first place to try, whether what Botanists had written about this plant, could be depended on.

In some of whom we read, that *if it is but smelt to, it intoxicates*.

The experiment was therefore of a dangerous nature: but this did not at all daunt me; I boldly proceeded.

On the twenty-third of *June*, 1760, I went out very early on a morning, fasting, in search of this plant, and I gathered a great deal of it.

I strongly rubbed the leaves and stalk between my fingers, and often smelled to them: I indeed perceived a rank, disagreeable, nauseous smell, but observed nothing intoxicating, or inebriating.

This gave me great pleasure, and emboldened me to go on with the experiment.

On the third day after, I caused a large quantity of this plant to be brought to me.

And I shred it small myself (throwing away only the root,) then beat it in a marble mortar, and expressed the juice.

I was sensible of no disorder from it; as little was my servant, who assisted me, tho' I often and earnestly asked him.

After I had done, I made a hearty supper, slept sound all that night, in the same room in which all this was done, with the windows shut.

On waking in the morning, I perceived an uncommon, dull, heavy pain in my head: in other respects I was brisk, calm, and fit for business.

After breakfast, this dull, heavy pain in my head, went also off.

From the shred plant I expressed eight pounds of juice, which I evaporated to the consistence of an extract, on a slow fire, in a glazed earthen vessel, often stirring with a wooden spatula, to prevent its burning.

A very disagreeable vapour arose from it, but without causing any disorder in my head, or my servant's, who was employed with me in the operation.

The extract coagulated in a cool place, to a black, friable mass, which sparkled with innumerable oblong, saline spiculæ.

I laid a grain and a half of this mass on my tongue, and on perceiving no disorder by it, I strongly pressed it against the roof of my mouth, and by often rolling it about with my tongue, at last dissolved it.

I then perceived so disagreeable and nauseous a taste, that I should have directly thrown it out, had not my fondness to go on with the experiment, restrained me.

When dissolved, I at length swallowed it down.

For a quarter of an hour after, a disagreeable rank taste remained in my mouth, which gradually went off, of itself.

After taking it down, I neither ate, nor drank, for three whole hours, in order to observe the issue.

But notwithstanding all my attention, I felt nothing extraordinary; I was as well that day as ever; without either my memory or judgment being in the least disordered, or affected.

This circumstance gave me very great pleasure.

I own, indeed, at first I was apprehensive, lest what Authors have remarked concerning this plant, should happen to be my own case.

For, loss of judgment appears a more grievous calamity to me than death itself.

But after making the first experiment on myself, and perceiving no manner of disorder, either on that day, or on the following days, I concluded, that extract of *Thorn-apple* might be safely administered to patients in a small dose.

We happened at that time to have to do with a disorder, or case, wherein it might be supposed to answer; and patients, to whom it might prove of service.

I then again consulted both ancient and modern Writers; but to no purpose. For all of them unanimously write, that *Thorn-apple* disorders the mind, causes madness, destroys our ideas and memory, and occasions convulsions.

These are all very bad effects, and which dissuaded me from the internal use of *Thorn-apple*.

However, I thence formed the following query: *If Thorn-apple, by disordering the mind, causes madness in sound persons; may we not try, whether by disturbing and changing the ideas and common sensory, it might not bring the insane, and persons bereft of their reason, to sanity or soundness of mind; and by a contrary motion remove convulsions in the convulsed?*

This notion was, indeed, far-fetched, yet it was not without some good success.

The experiments, or cases, are as follow:

C A S E I.

A Girl, of twelve years old, was disordered in her mind for two months; answered confusedly when asked any question, and what words she uttered she could not perfectly articulate.

She was sullen and refractory, and neither by fair nor by foul means could be brought to her duty.

The medicines that were tried proved ineffectual; half a grain, therefore, of extract of *Thorn-apple* was administered in the morning (in the form of a pill,) and repeated at night in the same dose, drinking upon it each time a small cup-full of veal-broth, or an infusion of tea.

For fourteen days no alteration was observed in the patient by the use of this extract.

But after the third week she began to be less fullen, returned more pertinent answers, and spoke distinctly enough.

In two months time, always continuing the use of the same medicine, but increasing its dose (as she took for the second month the pill of half a grain thrice a day,) she began to reason extremely well, and said her morning and evening prayers (which before she could not) with a clear and distinct voice, gained a good memory, and gradually recovered her understanding.

From these circumstances I came to be convinced, that extract of *Thorn-apple* may with safety be administered, and for a long time with good effect.

C A S E II.

A Woman of about forty, having for two years been afflicted with a *vertigo*, could find no relief by any medicines.

She came gradually to be disordered in her mind, and a degree of madness accompanied her vertigo.

She was then carried to our hospital.

The medicines that were prescribed gave her no manner of relief.

She began to be raving and furious, rose up out of bed in the night, and by her bawling disturbed and frightened the other patients, some of whom she would forcibly pull out of bed.

In this condition I administered to her, morning and evening, half a grain of extract of *Thorn-apple*.

The first day she directly became more composed, but in the night turned as furious as ever.

The third day I gave her one grain of the extract in the morning, and another at night.

All the symptoms became thereby milder.

The patient bawled out, indeed, in the night, but did not rise out of bed, and soon after fell asleep again.

On

On the fourth she began to give more pertinent answers, but soon fell again into her old raving fits.

Her days and nights were then calm and quiet enough.

On the eighth I gave her, thrice a day, one grain of extract of *Thorn-apple*.

This dose was continued till the fourth week; at this time all her fury was laid, her madness went off, her sound mind, speech, and judgment returned, and she slept the whole night as sound as her fellow patients.

She gave very pertinent answers, ate heartily, and even to a degree of voracity; her strength was good, and she walked about the room and abroad in the open air.

Yet the vertigo frequently and suddenly returned upon her, as it had done before she used this medicine, and at times with such violence as to make her fall down as in an apoplectic fit: she, however, always retained presence of mind.

It was enough for my purpose that extract of *Thorn-apple* cured madness; and upon observing that the vertigo was not thereby removed, I forbore its farther use.

I again tried several things in order to remove the vertigo, but to no purpose.

She lived five months in all in the hospital; all her functions of mind were good and sound, but the vertigo turned gradually stronger, and the fits of it became more frequent.

If the patient sat upright in bed she was free of her disorder; but if she lay with her head a little lower, or moved her body, directly a dimness, vertigo, and anxiety, came upon her.

Her strength gradually diminished, and at length a true apoplexy and sudden death succeeded.

After dissecting her, we found all the veins of the brain varicose; the *sinus falciformis*, in its anterior part, for an inch and a half in length, turned bony; the two anterior ventricles of the brain preternaturally distended, and replete with many *hydatides* of different sizes and shapes.

All the viscera in the rest of the body were in a very sound state.

From these discoveries, made after her death, it appears, that the vertigo of this patient was an incurable disease.

For what Physician, did he ever so well know the true cause of this disorder, could pretend to remove the *hydatides*, or restore the bony sinus to its natural softness?

It sufficeth, that by the use of *Thorn-apple* her rage was laid, and her madness cured, and that it produced no bad symptom.

C A S E III.

A Peasant, of thirty-two years, was from a child so violently afflicted with frightful convulsions, and a true epilepsy, every third or fourth week, that after every fit he remained weak, out of his mind, and mad for several days together.

He happened to be seized with an acute putrid fever, and then he was brought to our hospital.

After being fourteen days in the hospital, he began to grow better.

At the end of the third week, as he wanted to quit the hospital, he was seized with a convulsion, and a violent fit of an epilepsy, which held him for three hours.

After the fit was over, he had a delirium with a fever, and his strength was quite gone.

I administred the following emulsion:

Take camphire fifteen grains, melon-seeds and sweet almonds an ounce and a half of each; make an emulsion with a decoction of barley; to two pounds of which, after straining, add syrup of diacodium and syrup of mint, of each one ounce: mix, and let the patient take every other hour two spoonfuls.

In twenty-four hours he recovered his strength, and sat upright in bed, and had no longer any tremor in his hands; but yet the delirium was not gone off.

On the third day he turned voracious, and would
violently

violently snatch the food from the other patients, and very greedily devour what was given him.

A degree of rage alternately accompanied the delirium.

On the fourth, in the morning, I began to give him a pill (of one grain) of extract of *Thorn-apple*, which I repeated at night.

He had a quiet night.

On the fifth no rage was observable, but yet he was still quite out of his senses, nor did he give any pertinent answers.

However, he was tractable in every respect, neither did he so greedily devour what was offered him, nor were his looks any longer so wild and frantick.

On the 6th, I continued the same dose, and the symptoms in like manner were the same.

The same thing was observable on the seventh day.

Neither was there any alteration on the eighth day.

On the ninth I gave, at three different times, one pill of one grain.

This day the patient was very composed, and in the afternoon slept several hours.

His mind was still disordered; yet he slept very well and sound every night.

On the tenth, he often answered pertinently, and complained of being hungry.

On the eleventh, he walked about the room, and talked with the other patients, but continuing to speak for some time, he was again disordered in his mind, and spoke impertinently; but a little after, he owned he was in the wrong, and then he corrected himself, and began to talk rationally.

On the twelfth, scarce any thing amiss was observable.

On the thirteenth, he was extremely well, and said, that his head was never so free, and his mind never so calm and clear; that almost all his life long he was in a languishing state, but now there was an universal change wrought in him, and he was vigorous and active.

I kept him still in the hospital, that I might see, whether the fit would return at the due time.

In the mean time I prescribed three pills a day, and the diet of a person in health.

He had every day a natural stool, but discharged a copious, pale urine.

All the functions of his mind were free and sound, his strength entire and good, and all his muscles brawny.

About the beginning of the fourth week, all of a sudden, he was unexpectedly seized with an epileptic fit.

But it was slight, and lasted not above a quarter of an hour.

Nor did the patient lose strength thereby, neither was he discomposed in his mind.

This gave me great satisfaction, and I made him continue the use of the same pills in the same dose.

In a few days, finding himself extremely well, he begged, I might give him a good many of these pills, to take at home; with a promise, directly to return to me, if he found but the least disorder.

But from that time forth I saw him no more.

As he experienced the good effects of these pills, it is probable he would have returned again to the hospital, had his disorder recurred upon him.

C A S E IV.

A Girl of nine years, was for four weeks afflicted several times in a day with a very strong convulsion of her whole body.

The most skilful Physicians exerted all their art to the utmost, to relieve this poor girl.

And yet the disorder by no means abated.

I advised to give, morning and evening, half a grain of extract of *Thorn-apple*.

The convulsions were thereby heightened.

Next day half a grain was again administered in the morning, and as much at night; but the disorder was the more exasperated.

And then the use of the extract was intermitted for some days, and at length resumed again; but the former symptoms recurred.

Wherefore it was necessary to forbear the use of this medicine, and to have recourse to others for this patient.

A Young man, of about twenty, was for several years afflicted with a most dreadful epilepsy.

He knew not the cause of his disorder.

He was usually taken suddenly with a fit, four, five, six, or seven times a day, which always lasted for half an hour and above.

His strength was thereby weakened, his mind stupified, his whole countenance sad and melancholy.

No medicine afforded him hitherto any relief.

I therefore gave him thrice a day half a grain of extract of *Thorn-apple*.

The patient continued the use of this dose for four days, but he observed no alteration by it.

I then gave thrice a day a full grain.

By which the fits came to be less frequent, more mild and short.

His mind came sensibly to be more composed, his countenance more chearful, and his speech more free, which before was attended with difficulty and impediment.

On the twentieth day, I gave four grains.

And then the distemper became so mild, that only a slight fit or two a day were observable.

His strength increased, and all his melancholy gradually disappeared.

On the thirtieth, I gave five grains.

On the thirty-first, only two slight fits were perceivable.

On the thirty-second and thirty-third, the patient was quite free.

On the thirty-fourth, he had three fits, and much more violently than on the thirty-first.

On the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth, the patient found himself well, had an appetite, was chearful.

On the thirty-seventh, he was twice strongly convulsed.

On the thirty-eighth, three slight fits were observable, which lasted only for a moment, without disordering the mind.

But, in the *preceding* fits, the memory and all sensation were abolished.

On

On the thirty-ninth, the patient was free. The same day I gave him six grains of extract of *Thorn-apple*.

This dose I still continued for a whole month longer, and the patient was almost cured; but then the medicine happened to be out, and it was the winter season, in which none could be prepared.

Whence the experiment, which hitherto answered so very well, was necessarily broke off.

I advised his taking in the mean time other medicines: but as I could not supply him with any more of these pills, he refused taking any others.

CHAP. II.

Of HENBANE*.

THIS plant has a thick, rugose, multifidous root; dark-coloured without, and white within; it has soft, large, downy, fetid leaves; its stalks are two cubits high, thick, branchy, and beset with a thick down; its flowers are monopetalous, divided into five obtuse segments of a yellowish colour, with some purple veins intermixed, &c. It grows about villages, and on the high-ways.

But yet most authors forbid the internal use of it.

There are some compositions in the Dispensatory, in which the extract of this herb is an ingredient.

But so small a portion goes to a dose, that it can have no manner of effect.

I therefore resolved to try what the extract alone would produce in the human body.

I inspissated the juice, expressed from the fresh plant (without the root,) to the consistence of an extract, over a gentle fire.

* In German, *Doll kraut*.

In French, *de la Hanebane*.

Hyosciamus Offic.

Hyosciamus foliis amplexicaulibus.

Hyosciamus MATH. omnium.

Hyosciamus niger, S. Apollinaris herba. Altercum Arabum. LOB.

I made the first experiment on a middling dog, by putting down his throat a bolus of ten grains of this extract.

I observed no manner of alteration in the dog; he ran about briskly, and swallowed with a good appetite what was given him.

On the third day I gave the same dog twenty grains with a piece of flesh.

And neither did any symptom appear from it.

On the sixth I forced down the stomach of the same dog two drachms of this extract.

He turned timorous for a few minutes, and then lapped a great deal of water, and swallowed the flesh that was thrown him.

In about half an hour he fell into a languor, kept his eyes open, and his pupil very much dilated; he staggered as he walked, stumbled against every thing in his way, and almost lost his sight.

Then he laid himself to sleep.

He shewed anxiety in his sleep, and the pit of the stomach was very often violently drawn in.

In about two hours he began to cast up all he had swallowed, and when he stood he trembled, and was very weak.

After vomiting three times, he had five stools.

The fæces were liquid, dusky, in great quantity, and very fetid.

His eyes continued immoveable, and the pupil very much dilated, and his sight seemed to be almost gone.

Then the dog began to sleep again, the spasms about the pit of the stomach abated, and gradually ceased altogether.

He slept for four hours, and lay very still, nor did his limbs quiver as they used to do a little before.

After sleeping, his eyes came to their natural state, and he could very well distinguish objects by sight; his strength was good; he was brisk, and swallowed bread and flesh with a good appetite.

I still kept this dog for several weeks longer, in all which time he was healthy, watchful, and brisk.

From

From this I saw, that extract of *Henbane*, given in a small dose, cannot be noxious, but given in a large quantity, may cause disorders and anxieties.

I therefore took every day, in the morning fasting, for a week, one grain.

I found myself as well as ever, and sound, and never observed any alteration in my sight.

For this symptom in the dog raised a suspicion in me.

But in the days on which I took it, I had a more open belly, and a far better appetite.

After making the trial for a week without any detriment, I imagined it might be administered to patients.

But yet only in those cases in which other medicines should prove of no service.

In a short time the following case offered.

C A S E I.

A Woman, of thirty-seven years of age, had for more than a year been almost daily afflicted with fearful convulsions.

But these convulsions were by no means all over her body, but wandering, at one time taking the breast, then the belly, again the feet, and then the arms, &c.

The patient suffered great pain, her strength and appetite were almost quite gone, nor could she ever sleep; at times she threw up a great deal of bile of an eruginous cast.

And while the convulsions seized the lower belly, the sphincter of the anus was so strongly contracted, that a clyster-pipe could on no account be introduced; and then she had a strangury, attended with a continual and highly painful tenesmus.

Medicines, recommended both by ancients and moderns, and proved by numerous experiments to be good in convulsions, were without any efficacy on this patient.

Opium alone, and that in a large dose, abated the paroxysms, lulled the pains, and at length stilled the convulsive motions of the nerves, but yet prevented not a speedy return; besides, it brought on costiveness, and that to a degree that clysters could bring nothing away.

The

The known medicines being therefore employed in vain on this patient, I administered extract of *Henbane*.

The patient took one grain in the morning, a second an hour before dinner, and a third at night.

In four days time she observed her appetite to return, her belly more open, and the paroxysms no longer to rage with that violence.

I therefore increased the dose, and exhibited thrice a day two grains of extract of *Henbane*.

After which she was free for seven days from any convulsion, had an appetite, and plentiful stools, of a proper consistence, with quiet and refreshing sleep.

On the 8th day she had slight twitchings in her belly and feet, but they were soon suppressed by opium.

I then gave nine grains a day of this extract, by which the belly was quite open, and the appetite in a tolerable good state.

I continued this dose for two months, and as no sign of convulsion appeared, I forbore its further use.

C A S E II.

A Young woman of twenty-four had for five weeks a convulsive tremor in her right foot, and therefore could neither lie still, nor sit, much less walk.

After trying several remedies, I at length gave, morning and evening, one grain of extract of *Henbane*.

On the fifth day, I began to give thrice a day one grain.

And in a few days the tremor abated, and in three weeks time the disorder went quite off.

The patient, by using the pills, had daily copious stools; but before, only once in two or three days, stools of a hard consistence, which she discharged with much straining.

There was also observed a change of colour in her urine, which had always before been limpid, watry, and inodorous; but by using the pills, turned of its natural colour; or sometimes from red to dusky, and then a thick, sily cloud settled to the bottom of the pot.

But what deserves attention, is, that this patient al-
ways

ways in half an hour after taking the pill, began to feel a chilliness and shuddering all over her body, with anxieties, a cold sweat, weakness of sight, and a sense of a beginning fainting-fit.

But these symptoms lasted not above two or three minutes, and then the patient was well again, without loss of strength, and with an abatement of the disorder in her foot; I therefore continued the use of this remedy, yet without encreasing the dose.

By this means she was entirely cured.

C A S E III.

In like manner administered extract of *Henbane*, gradually encreasing the dose, till at length it came to twelve grains a day, to a man upwards of sixty, who for half a year was afflicted with involuntary twitchings of the tendons of both feet, and who hitherto found no relief from any medicine.

He observed himself to be more chearful by the use of it; but the disease remained in the same condition, though the remedy was continued for a long time.

But it is to be noted, that this disorder was owing to a contusion of the vertebræ of the loins.

Nor had I any hopes of relieving this patient by these pills; but as so many medicines employed proved ineffectual, I wanted to exhibit also this, being satisfied that I saw it did him no harm.

C A S E IV.

A Young woman of fifteen was greatly afflicted with a chronical palpitation of the heart, nor could she move her body without the greatest anxiety, or apprehension of suffocation or swooning.

Whatever remedies, though the most celebrated in this distemper, were exhibited, they rather heightened the disorders, and afforded no manner of relief.

I therefore gave one grain of extract of *Henbane* in the morning, and another at night.

The disorder thereby abated in a short time, and the patient could with far greater freedom move her body.

I then

I then gave thrice a day one grain of this medicine, and in eighteen days the disorder went quite off.

The patient, before the use of these pills, was every morning afflicted with an unquenchable thirst; but the thirst went off, after the palpitation of the heart was asswaged.

The too frequent discharge of urine went also off; for the patient, before this, discharged almost every hour a copious and very limpid urine.

Her appetite also was better.

I wanted several times to encrease the dose for this patient, and give each time two grains.

But she could not bear this quantity; for, as often as she took two grains, so often she had colick pains; but which were neither very severe, nor of long continuance.

C A S E V.

A Man of about thirty, from the effect of some passion, fell into a state of melancholy, which gradually encreased, and at last turned to a true madness.

His appetite was quite gone, his nights were restless, he had almost continually a delirium attended with timorousness, his strength abated, and he felt frequent shudderings and rigors in the spine, of which he complained in his lucid intervals.

A vein was several times opened, whenever he came to be plethorick; purgatives and other remedies were exhibited, yet without any alteration for the better.

Nay, the disorder became more obstinate.

Paregoricks and opiates, tho' exhibited in large doses, caused no sleep; his nights were thereby rendered more restless, his mind full of anxiety, and then a fever came on.

I therefore determined to use extract of *Henbane*.

I exhibited directly thrice a day, one grain of this extract.

The first night proved now more calm, and the day following his appetite was good.

On the third day the patient took six grains.

And then his shudderings and rigors ceased, which rose up to his head along the spine, and increased the patient's timorousness.

The delirium was then also milder, and his belly, which before was costive and very hard, became open, the stools of a proper consistence and copious, two or three times a-day.

On the sixth I gave nine grains.

In ten days time the patient seemed to be almost recovered.

And then, without my knowledge, he left off the use of the pills, and soon after the distemper turned worse.

Then he perceived and owned, what great relief he had by these pills, and therefore directly began to take them again.

For upwards of three weeks he continued taking daily fifteen grains of this extract.

Then he got well, and could again go about his business.

C A S E VI.

A Man of thirty-three, for several weeks discharged a spittle, mixed with bloody streaks, and was teased with a very tickling cough, and with anxiety in the night.

I was at great pains to cure this disorder, and one day it seemed to abate, but another day the former scene returned again.

I then exhibited one grain of the extract of *Henbane* in the morning, and another at night.

The nights proved far more quiet, and the patient surmised he had taken opium.

On the second day his streaky spittle was diminished, and the night again was calm.

On the third, I exhibited, at three several times, one grain of this extract.

And then all the blood in the spittle disappeared, and directly a yellowish, well concocted matter was discharged, and his breast became much freer.

I then increased the dose, and on the sixth day I exhibited nine grains; namely, three in the morning, three about noon, and the rest at night.

This dose was continued for four weeks.

Then a well concocted spittle was discharged, his breast became free, his appetite good, with stools of a

proper consistence three or four times a-day, and the patient's strength returned.

And because after this the cough was almost quite gone, and the patient well, I forbore the use of the pills any longer.

C A S E VII.

A Gentlewoman of forty-seven, from a violent fit of passion fell into an *hæmoptoe*, or spitting of blood.

After employing venesection, and several remedies, according to the indication, the discharge was, indeed, lessened, yet the spittle still continued to be tinged with much blood.

Astringents, opiates, incrassating medicines, &c. restrained the spitting, and checked the cough; but produced anxieties in the breast, with a fever and delirium.

Nor did they relieve the disorder; for in a short time after there was again a greater discharge of blood caused by a very violent cough.

I made trial of the extract of *Henbane*, and gave one grain three times a-day.

On the same day I observed the spittle to have less blood, and the patient felt her breast relieved.

But yet in the night the tickling and teasing cough was to be laid with opium.

The day after the same dose of pills was continued; and then the spittle was fizy, yellowish, with only a few streaks or small spots of blood.

On the third day two grains of the extract were exhibited three times.

And thereby she got an appetite, her belly, which before was costive and hard, now became open without any effort or straining, and she discharged much fizy matter.

There was no longer any blood found in the spittle, which was copious and well concocted, and her strength increased.

On the seventh I now exhibited nine grains a-day, the spittle was freely discharged; nor did the patient any longer feel those spasms, which, before the use of the pills,

pills, so often contracted the breast and throat as to give an apprehension of suffocation.

On the eleventh and twelfth the patient observed always, in a quarter of an hour after taking the pills, a slight colic pain to arise, and then she had a stool, with a copious discharge of a fizy matter, very much resembling that which was discharged by spittle.

And hence the patient complained of weakness; on which account I advised to intermit the use of the pills for some days.

But I then observed, that her appetite went off, and that in a few days she felt anxiety or straitness of breast, and that she did not go to stool in the due time.

She therefore begged the pills might be again administered.

She now takes, and has done, for three weeks running, three grains a day; has got an appetite, and sleeps well; her excretions are regular, and her strength restored.

C A S E VIII.

A Man of thirty, became, from a fit of passion and sudden fear, so melancholy and timorous, as to hide himself in every corner, and even to dread and run away from flies.

At the same time he was like a dumb person; for neither by fair promises, nor by severe threatenings of blows, could a word be got out of him.

His appetite was quite gone, he had no sleep, his strength decreased, he seemed as one out of his senses, and altogether unfit for any thing, and to have less reason than a brute.

Phlebotomy, and several other remedies employed, heightened rather the disorder.

Nor were diversions, of which he was formerly very fond, of any use. To threaten him with blows, brought on such a degree of pusillanimity, as to give apprehension of convulsions, or some other disorder.

But upon giving extract of *Henbane*, he immediately,

the second night, began to sleep quiet, and his eyes and countenance were far more calm.

In a week's time, his fear abated much, for he no longer sought to get into corners to hide himself, nor shunned the converse of men, but yet he uttered not a word.

The third week after, he set about his business again, which required great attention, in a proper manner.

In about a month he made proper answers, but yet, by himself alone, would speak to no body.

The second month he began to jest and talk, and now he seems to be quite well.

At first, one grain of extract of *Henbane* was administered thrice a day; on the fourth, six grains, and thus every third or fourth day the dose was increased, till at last he took twenty grains a day.

The very learned Dr. *Colin* has observed the following cases in our hospital, and given in writing the histories of the disease.

C A S E IX.

ANNA Maria Kaltenekerin, of thirty years of age, was in harsh and threatening words, on the second of *September*, accused of theft.

Whence she became so disordered, as to lie in a continual delirium, about objects of a terrifying nature.

Nor did she recover out of this delirium, though she was declared innocent, and the false accuser had begged her pardon.

On the eleventh of *September*, being carried to us, she had not a moment's quiet, continually calling out, that she saw the Devil; denying to have been guilty of theft, or to have any concern with witches: Then she had a tremor all over her body, and struggled with such violence to make her escape, that several keepers could not hold her in bed; and hence we were obliged to tie her down to the bed.

In the mean time her pulse and respiration shifted, according to the various phantoms which offered themselves

selfes to her mind; her tongue was extremely moist, her eyes stern, grim, and wrathful, and she made an involuntary discharge of excrements in bed.

We exerted all the powers of the art till the eighteenth of *September*, in order to relieve this wretched patient, but to no manner of purpose, she continuing still in the same condition; and upon giving two grains of pure opium in one dose, we could scarce procure her a short nap, from which awaking, she tossed and tumbled worse than ever.

I then gave her extract of *Henbane*.

For the first three days she took two pills, by which the patient seemed to be calmer; then she took three pills a-day; namely, one in the morning, another about noon, and the third at night.

By these means her calm of mind gradually returned.

About the end of *October*, being perfectly recovered, she left the hospital.

On the eleventh of *October* she was seen by the Honourable President, and by other persons of distinction.

C A S E X.

THERESIA *Liedmayer*, of eighteen years of age, came to our hospital the sixteenth of *July*, after several fits of an epilepsy.

And as she never had her menses, I employed all my skill to bring them on, and in the beginning of *August* she had a tolerable good flow for the first time, after eight epileptic fits in the hospital.

I was then in hopes, that after this flowing of the menses, she would be freed of the epilepsy: but in a few days the dreadful disorder recurred, seizing the patient almost every day, and baffling every remedy that was administered.

In the beginning of *September*, she had again her menses in a sufficient quantity for three days, during which she was convulsed several times a-day.

At length, about the end of *September*, her body, during the fit, was so distorted every way, that the assistants

sistants expected every moment, that either her joints or back-bone would be broken in pieces by the violence of the convulsions.

It was therefore resolved to try, what effect the pills of extract of *Henbane*, which proved so salutary to the foregoing patient, might have in this dreadful case.

For the first time she took three pills, but with little or no relief, the paroxysms being equally violent; yet I observed no disorder to arise from the use of the medicine.

And therefore I gave two pills thrice a-day, each weighing a grain, so that on the twentieth of *October* the distemper went off.

The patient continued the use of the pills till the end of *November*, and then being perfectly recovered, she chose to remain no longer in the hospital.

I saw her several times since, and on the twenty-fourth of *March* she was with me here in the hospital in perfect health, returning thanks for her recovery.

During the use of the pills I was obliged to interpose now and then a purgative, on account of her costiveness.

C A S E XI.

ELEONORA *Gallap*, twenty-two years old, came to our hospital the eighteenth of *August*, without having had her menses for four months before, and with a violent head-ach and vertigo of two weeks standing.

The patient seemed very healthful by her looks, had her appetite, and a natural stool every day; her thirst was no ways preternatural, yet her pulse felt full and quicker every morning, and she could not be any time out of bed on account of her vertigo.

I employed bleeding and other medicines, by which her courses came on as early as the latter end of *August*, with some relief to her head.

I therefore was in hopes, that the patient would be soon restored to health; but on the third of *September*, about ten in the morning, she began to be somewhat chilly in her extremities: at length she turned hot, first in her head, and then the heat descended quite to the
extremi-

extremities of the joints; when she began to sing, and as my assistant came to her, bawled out aloud, and covered her eyes with a handkerchief, but stood in no awe of her keeper or nurse, or of the other women.

This scene continued for the space of two hours, and then she slept for three hours, being very hot, with a small and quick respiration, and in her sleep she sweated much.

On waking she was insensible of what had happened before she fell asleep.

On the following day, in the morning, she herself apprized me, that her case was now the same as on the foregoing day when her paroxysm began; I therefore carefully examined every circumstance; she had no pain in any part, not even in her head, her respiration was good, her pulse unequal and somewhat more contracted, her eyes were moist, her countenance tinged of a rosy colour, her tongue moist, but her abdomen was tense without the least pain.

In half an hour after she was hot all over her body, and now she dreaded the sight of a man; yet she seemed chearful, laughed often, and in a little time sung several love-songs: At length, after speaking in a raving manner about several things, she fell asleep. Her pulse was then free, full, quick, sometimes unequal, her respiration difficult, and her abdomen then no ways tense. Awaking an hour after, her pulse was natural, but she knew not what she had done before she fell asleep.

I gave her a very dissolving decoction of grass, which she used for six days; in which time she had every day a fit, sometimes once, sometimes twice.

Her head was much weakened by these fits, and afterwards vertiginous; I therefore prescribed the bark; two ounces and a half of which being taken in four days in substance, produced not the least alteration.

When I found that the bark had no effect, I prescribed a decoction of orange-leaves, which she also used for a week, but without any alteration for the better.

Then I administered largely the usual anti-hysterics
with

with laudanum, and applied an aromatic plaister, mixed up with laudanum and oil of mint, to the abdomen; by which the paroxysms came to be less frequent.

But when they recurred, they lasted the longer, and the patient became much weaker after each fit than after the other preceding ones, which were more frequent.

Yet I continued this method till the second of November, in hopes that the disease would at length yield to the medicines, but all in vain; for the disorder recurred either every day, or at least every other day.

I therefore gave her pills of extract of *Henbane*, one of which she was to take three times a day.

On that day she had no fit, and that which happened on the following was mild, and she remained free till the eighth of November, on which day the fit was very mild and short.

The patient continued to take the same dose for five weeks, and she had no attack of the disorder ever after, yet I kept her still for a long time in the hospital, till she begged to be dismissed, which I readily granted, as she was grown both well and strong.

I still gave her a dose of the pills, to be taken at times.

On the third of *March* she came to the hospital perfectly well, and said, she had not had the least disorder upon her ever since she left the hospital.

C A S E XII.

REGINA *Ebrhardt*, twenty years old, was, on the twenty-seventh of *April*, brought to the hospital; as I came to her, her abdomen was, for half an hour, continually twitched with a strong convulsion; in the same manner also the diaphragm seemed to be affected: For, of a sudden, her breast was strongly dilated, her ribs heaved, and very quickly sunk again; at intervals she was seized with a very violent hiccough, and *Rifus Sardonius*; she lost her voice, and swallowed with very great difficulty the drink offered her; her pulse was full, strong, and quick.

I directly concluded she must be blooded; the blood
was

was of a good colour and consistence; her respiration became somewhat easier.

I prescribed for a medicine a cooling emulsion, with syrup of diacodium, and an emollient clyster; which being retained for an hour, returned with concocted fæces; to the region of the stomach I applied a stomachic defensative of emplastrum *diabot.* in a sufficient quantity, with pure laudanum and camphire, fifteen grains of each.

Towards night all the symptoms gradually remitted, and from midnight till five in the morning the patient slept tolerably well.

In the morning she was very weak, and said, that all the fore part of her breast and the epigastric region felt as if bruised with blows: her pulse was somewhat unequal.

She told me, that for four days, without knowing the reason of it, she had alternately a difficulty of breathing, with anxiety or oppression, but had never such a fit as what we had seen the preceding day. Instead of the emulsion she then took an emollient decoction, and again a clyster was injected; the following day and night she passed tolerably well.

But on the thirtieth of *April*, when I came to her in the morning, I found her in as bad a state as on the twenty-seventh; yet the fever seemed more moderate, and she swallowed with greater ease. I ordered them to give her often a little warm broth; the stomachic defensative was continued on the stomach, and the patient proceeded in the use of the emollient decoction.

Moreover, I prescribed a mixture with one ounce of bark, &c. to be taken, after the fit, in twenty-four hours.

She had a restless night, and on the first of *May*, in the morning, complained of great anxiety or oppression, and said, that her heart and breast were torn in pieces.

I ordered a clyster, and besides the mixture with the bark, she took a decoction of the root *salab* (*saloop.*)

The following night she slept a little, but about four

in the morning was again taken with a fit more violent than the preceding.

About noon the disorder went off; but the patient was very weak, and began to take another dose of bark in extract.

In the night she had again a stronger fit, and therefore, on observing that the symptoms were heightened by the bark, on the third of *May* I gave two pills of extract of *Henbane*, to be taken thrice a-day, and I ordered warm broth to be often given her.

She had a calmer night, and on the following day was taken with a slighter fit: she continued taking the same dose of pills.

Her belly was open, and she slept very well in the night. Each pill weighed one grain.

On the fifth of *May*, towards evening, she had a fit for two hours; but was able to speak, and easily swallowed the broth; the convulsive motion was also less violent.

An irregular and slight fit only recurred now every day, and then every other day, till the fifteenth of *May*; but from that time we observed no return of the disorder.

She still continued taking the pills till the end of *May*.

On the fourth of *June* she was seen, by the Honourable President, to be in perfect health.

During the whole of the distemper, her urine was always well coloured, and with a cloud sinking to the bottom.

C A S E XIII.

JULIANA Gruber, twenty-seven years old, came on the fourteenth of *June* to the hospital.

She said, that for four weeks before, she was afflicted with a contraction of the stomach, and difficulty of breathing, and that for the last fifteen days she swallowed with the utmost difficulty.

The first time I saw her, she was quite emaciated, and so fatigued by swallowing a few spoonfuls of broth with bread, as to be scarce able with much struggling to get down a couple of ounces.

On viewing her throat, no disorder appeared; her pulse, besides its inequality, had nothing preternatural; her abdomen and hypochonders were soft; she had a natural stool every day, or every other day; her urine was watry; she had no thirst, but lay restless day and night, sleeping but little.

Before she was brought to the hospital, she had taken various medicines from different persons, without any relief.

I then directly thought of extract of *Henbane*; yet for three days before, I tried what effect the usual nervous and antihysterical medicines might have, and at the same time wrapped round her neck an emollient cataplasm.

But from these things she had not the least relief.

On the eighteenth of *June*, two pills of extract of *Henbane* were administered thrice a day.

On the nineteenth of *June* she felt relief, and on the twenty-second, her swallowing was free and easy.

Yet at times a slight difficulty of swallowing recurred, and her stomach was convulsed.

From the twenty-third of *June* she purged three or four times a-day, till the second of *July*, and then she enjoyed very good health.

Continuing for several days longer in the hospital, she had no complaint, and therefore was discharged as perfectly cured.

There are many other persons, labouring under various nervous disorders, to whom I administer these pills with good success: but as their cure is not yet completed, I reserve their cases for another opportunity.

C H A P. III.

Of M O N K S H O O D.

THIS *Monkshood*, which is called *Aconitum*, or *Napellus* *, with a blue helmet flower, &c. is the *Aconitum foliorum-laciniis linearibus, superne latioribus, linea exaratis*, Linn. Spec. Plant. p. 532.

This plant has hitherto been reckoned amongst the rankest poisons.

But yet the celebrated *Linnaeus* † saw in the north part of *Sweden* the leaves of this herb, boiled in a little fat, eaten, without any bad consequences, by a woman, her husband, two children, and another old woman.

It hath been generally cultivated in gardens, as an ornament.

I had for several years thought of trying the virtues of this plant, but was at a loss for a proper opportunity, my necessary occupations taking up too much of my time.

But these being now, in some measure, better ordered, I found a few moments in which I could apply myself to that trial.

In order duly and without prejudice to carry on the experiments, I disregarded every idea I had formerly learned from the authors of the *Materia Medica*, only retaining this one, that it was a suspected plant.

Nature therefore alone pointing out the way, and simple plain Reason being my guide, I made trials as follow :

I reduced to a powder the leaves and stalk of the plant.

A little of this powder I laid on my tongue, and

* In German, *Eisen-hütlein*.

In Italian, *Napello*.

In French, *Cappe de Moine*.

In Swedish, *Stormbat*.

In English, *Blue Monkshood*, *Helmet Flower*, and *Wolfsbant*.

Aconitum Napellus offic.

Napellus, MATH. CAMM. DOD. vulgaris CLUSII.

† *Flora Lapon*, p. 179.

thereon felt a degree of burning heat, which held me for some time; and momentaneous, vague, and lancinating pains, which often pervaded my tongue, but no ill consequence ensued; the powder, being left on the tongue for two minutes, neither caused inflammation, nor brought on a redness.

As long as the burning heat remained in my tongue, I had a copious flow of spittle; in other respects no disorder of any kind was observable.

I then sprinkled this powder on a cancerous, fungous ulcer, in order to see whether it had a caustic, corroding virtue.

The first day a slight suppuration arose, and the patient complained neither of pain nor burning heat.

On the second, third, fourth and fifth days, I observed the same thing, nor was the fungous flesh thereby consumed.

I therefore could fairly conclude from this, that the caustic and deleterious virtue of this plant was not so violent.

I therefore expressed its juice, and at a gentle fire made an extract in the usual manner.

Which, being laid on the tongue, caused only a very slight titillation.

But as I imagined that my tongue, now become accustomed to such things by a long practice, was not duly affected by them, I then put a grain of this extract within the lower eye-lid of my right eye.

Nor was I thereby affected otherwise than by any other heterogeneous body.

After I had left it there for two minutes, I had, indeed, a copious flow of tears, but no peculiar burning heat was observable.

I then washed it out with pure water, without finding any inconvenience from it.

After making these experiments, I tried what the effect of this extract would be when swallowed, and taken into the body.

For this purpose I prepared the following powder:

Take

Take extract of *Blue Monkshood* two grains, white sugar two drams.

Mix and grind together for a long time, in a marble mortar, to the finest powder.

I took six grains of this powder in a morning, on an empty stomach, carefully observing what would be the effect.

But I observed no alteration; nothing uncommon.

The second day I took eight grains, nor was I then any ways affected.

The case was the same the third day, when I swallowed ten grains.

Being hereby more emboldened, I took the fourth morning twenty grains of this powder.

No bodily function was thereby disordered; I only observed that my whole body, even to the extremities, perspired more than common, and was moist with sweat the whole day.

On the fifth I again took the same dose, and observed the same thing as I did on the fourth.

On the sixth the same.

And the same on the seventh.

On the eighth I forbore the powder, and then I had not that moist sweat which was observable the foregoing days.

On the ninth I again took twenty grains of this powder; and the same day I was in a continual moist sweat.

The case was the same on the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth.

The fourteenth I took none, and then the very same thing happened, as I observed on the eighth and ninth.

From all this I could therefore infer,

First, That this powder promotes perspiration and sweat.

Secondly, That as it caused no disorder in me, it may be safely exhibited to patients, beginning first with a small dose.

Thirdly, That it suits in diseases in which the peccant matter may be expelled by the sudoriferous pores, or emunctories.

At the time that I was taken up with these thoughts, I met with the following case among my patients.

C A S E I.

A Man, of about thirty, was taken in the month of *October* 1761, with a tertian ague.

After being cured of it, he continued in a tolerable state of health.

But in the month of *November* he was taken with an exquisite pain, which settled with such violence in all his right side, that the patient could move neither hand nor foot; his appetite was quite gone, and his nights were restless.

For four months together remedies of all kinds, both the more gentle and strong, internal and external, were applied, but without any good effect, the disease was rather exasperated, and the patient obliged to keep his bed.

The pains were at times so exquisite as to force from him plentiful tears, and set him crying and wailing like a person on the rack.

He, moreover, complained of the most violent pains in the bones and tendinous parts.

As therefore the medicines exhibited were of no benefit, I gave the powder above described, of white sugar and extract of *Blue Monkshood*.

The dose was ten grains in the morning, and as many at night, drinking upon them either broth or any infusion whatever.

The first night the patient sweated plentifully, which had not been the case before.

The following day I exhibited the same dose, and the pains became much milder; the patient sweated again in the night.

His sweat was very fetid, nor was he weakened by it.

On the third day I now gave him thrice ten grains of this powder.

In the night he was again observed to sweat.

The same dose was then continued till the twelfth.

Every night his body was all over wet with sweat, as also in the day-time, if the patient kept a-bed.

On

On the 6th day, he was now free of every pain, and could walk about, had an appetite, slept sound, had a natural stool every day, his urine was more copious than usual, with many flocks and mucous threads.

On the thirteenth, the patient, being extremely well, forbore the use of the powder for three days; but he found that his limbs grew languid, and that his pains recurred again a little.

I therefore advised his taking, without intermission, for three weeks longer, thirty grains of the powder every day.

He then exactly followed my advice, and the disorder was so far amended, that all his functions were restored, and an universal waste of the whole body was removed.

For the two last weeks, in which the patient took the powder, no sweat was observable.

Nor did his pain return, after forbearing the use of the powder; and it is now four months since.

C A S E II.

A Man of twenty-seven was afflicted for six weeks with a most exquisite sciatick pain; at length a most violent pain seized the right arm, to such a degree as to make him cry night and day.

Notwithstanding the use both of externals and internals, though they afforded relief at times, yet the disorder continued the same; the pains, after a short and momentary interval, being directly again heightened, and tormenting the patient to a worse degree than ever.

I therefore exhibited, morning and evening, twenty grains of the above powder.

The very first night, as by a charm, he slept insensible of any pain.

Nor did the pain return next day, but all his body, especially about the privy parts, had a very troublesome itching, and ruddy pustules, full of an acrid humour, broke out all over him.

The patient grew well, had an appetite, his strength increased, with a continual breathing sweat all over; but in the night his sweat was not so copious, as in the preceding patient. After

After giving the powder for a week in the same dose, he took a purge of five ounces of the laxative water of the *Vienna Dispensatory*, and one drachm of sal polychrest.

He had then seven stools; the pustules disappeared; and the itching diminished, with an increase of strength.

He then used for four weeks longer the same powder, without observing any thing uncommon.

Towards the end, he again took the purge described above, and then he was perfectly cured.

It is now five months since, and he has had no relapse, though the inclemency of the air is excessive.

Quere. Whether this powder dissolves the acrimony inherent in the minute vessels about the tendons and bones, which causes obstructions in them, and the most exquisite pains in the joints? And whether, after solution, it drives it out to the surface of the body?

The two last cases seem to shew it does.

C A S E III.

A Young man, of nineteen, laboured under a quartan ague for three years.

This fever was of so obstinate a nature, as to yield to no medicine whatever.

The Bark, given in large and continued doses, mitigated, indeed, the violence of the fits, but could not quite quell them.

And as soon as the patient left off the use of the Bark, his fever was heightened with new exacerbations.

His body turned meagre and cachectic, and during the fever an exquisite racking pain, and burning heat about the extremities, seized all his limbs, joints, and back-bone.

I gave the patient in the morning ten grains of the powder with extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, and as many at night.

The first day he purged thrice, and the second four times.

The fit was far milder the third day, with scarce any pain; but at last he fell into a plentiful sweat.

His strength underwent no diminution thereby.

On the third, fourth, and fifth days he still purged several times without any abatement of strength; nay, he affirmed, he had relief by the purging.

On the sixth a very gentle shivering, and a vague and short heat, were only observable, and directly upon them came on a most profuse sweat.

On the seventh his flux ceased, and he discharged consistent fæces.

The same thing happened on the ninth, and then his appetite returned; his nights grew calm, and his sleep refreshed him.

On the ninth a gentle sweat only, and a flying heat, pervaded all his limbs; in other respects he was well.

After the ninth no apparent evacuation was at all observable, either by urine, stool, or sweat.

The powder was still continued to be given in the same dose for three weeks longer, and in this time the patient was perfectly cured.

And it is now two months since, and the fever has not yet returned.

Blue Wolfsbane has therefore effected what neither the Bark nor any other remedy could.

C A S E IV.

A Young woman, of about twenty, had for five years a tumour, which really felt bony to the touch, and occupied almost the whole left side of her face.

It is quite immoveable, and you would solemnly aver, that it was an excrescence of the bones themselves.

Under the lower jaw many of the glands also were swelled, and scirrhus.

She could move her jaw but little, and that with very great difficulty and pain.

The most powerful resolvents, and mercurials, used both internally and externally, were so far from mitigating the disorder, that they caused such pain, as deprived the patient of rest.

Hemlock given for several months together, and in large doses, neither heightened nor abated the disorder.

And

And now, since the patient has for three months used the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane* and sugar, the tumor is not only become softer, and moveable every way, but diminished above half its bulk, and the motion of the jaw is much freer.

In the night at times this patient sweats plentifully, and then she feels herself relieved; in other respects no sensible evacuation is observable.

Her appetite is good, her strength entire, and her sleep sound.

She has now a drachm and a half of the powder administered daily; scarce any disorder is observable, and the tumour abates in size.

As she is costive, a purge of twenty grains of sal polychrest, and forty grains of powder of the root of jalap, is given every other week.

C A S E V.

A Woman, of about forty, used *Hemlock* for several months together, for a very hard tumor of the size of a goose-egg, lodged under the right parotid; but finding no relief therefrom, she forbore its use.

She was this winter taken with very violent rheumatic pains, of so obstinate a nature, that the patient could neither sleep, nor at times swallow any food for pain: Nor did the medicines used prove of any service.

She had therefore recourse again to me for my advice. And I directly administered the powder with extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*; the dose ten grains in the morning, and as many at night.

The first day she purged eight times, and her pains directly abated; and on the fourth and fifth days she could move all her limbs without pain, and found herself well.

Then I advised her to continue taking the powder for several weeks longer, to prevent the return of the pains in her limbs.

She followed my advice, and observed that the third

week after, the tumor became unexpectedly smaller, more moveable, and soft.

She now takes every day thirty grains of the powder, without any apparent evacuation; all her pains are gone off, her body has recovered its strength, and the tumor gradually abates.

C A S E VI.

I Experienced the very same effect in a young woman, of about twenty, who, on account of scirrhus tumors in her neck, has for three months past, without any great effect, taken the *Cicuta*; by the use of this powder the tumors are lessened and become moveable.

And now that the second month is drawing to a close, only a few remains of them are left.

Now for five weeks a whole drachm of this powder is administered every day; the patient has a good appetite, sleeps sound, and is strong.

Hence it appears, that this powder is no ways detrimental, but rather is of very great service.

C A S E VII.

TO a young woman, twenty-two years old, I exhibited this powder for a tumor in the right iliac region.

I was willing first to try the *Hemlock*, but the constitution of the patient could not bear it; she was discomposed by it, and made to vomit.

Of this powder she took ten grains morning and evening.

She had a stool twice or thrice a-day.

The patient had for half a year an aversion to flesh, and no sooner perceived the smell thereof than she had a reaching.

After taking this powder for three days, she began to long for flesh, which she ate and digested very well.

On the third week the tumor became much less by the use of this powder, and a glutinous yellowish matter plentifully flowed from the *vagina* of the *uterus*.

After

After the second month, the tumour has almost quite subsided : her appetite continues good, and her strength is increased, but a yellow thick matter continues plentifully to distil from the *uterus*.

C A S E VIII.

A Young woman, of about thirty, for several years past felt in both her breasts tubercles of different sizes, which were moveable, and at times extremely painful ; but the pain went off of itself without any application.

The patient neglected this disorder, as being accustomed to other ailments.

At length the tubercles increased in bulk, and ran together in each breast into one hard lump, bigger than a man's fist, and the pain was so extreme and incessant, that the patient was obliged to keep to her bed.

The skin of each breast was here and there broken, and all over livid ; and then there was a discharge of an acrid, burning matter, corroding the neighbouring parts.

The *Hemlock* being administered not only stopt the disorder, but also healed the ulcers, and dissolved the large tumor into small tubercles, above half of which were made to vanish, and the pains were assuaged.

This so quick and happy a change of the distemper happened in the space of four weeks.

But afterwards the effect was no longer so apparent and quick.

Nay, this medicine, being continued for eight months, left the disorder almost in the same condition.

But yet the patient would not forbear its use, pleased with the happy effect, which ensued for the first weeks, and which rendered the disorder so mild, that she could again go about her work.

Now again towards the Spring, she was seized with a most violent cough, to a degree that it was necessary to open a vein several times, and she was obliged to keep her bed.

But by proper remedies her cough was again stopt ;
but

but the tubercles in both breasts began to be very painful, and small ulcers broke out, which discharged an acrid humour.

After taking, during the cough, several remedies, and now perceiving that she contracted a loathing in swallowing them, I forbore giving any more of the *Hemlock*: I therefore administred the powder of sugar, and extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, which is pleasant, and a small dose of it is sufficient.

It is now two months since she took this powder, all the ulcers are now firmly cicatrized, and the pains entirely gone off; the scirrhus and painful tumors, which even after a long use of the *Hemlock* remained always in the same state, are now lessened to above half their bulk.

She has recovered her strength and her appetite; all her functions are vigorous; she has a stool every day; but no apparent and constant evacuation was observable in the patient, during the use of this powder.

C A S E IX.

A Woman, of forty-three years of age, was so afflicted with a most exquisite pain in the right arm and foot, as to make her cry night and day.

Nor could any opiate procure sleep.

I employed for a couple of weeks different medicines, yet the patient perceived scarce any relief; her strength was quite gone, and her body much extenuated.

Then I tried the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, giving in the morning twenty grains, and as many at night.

She had several stools after it.

Her pains became milder, and the second night the patient slept sound for three hours.

The same powder was continued, exhibiting thrice a-day twenty grains.

On the sixth day, broad, ruddy, itching pustules broke out all over her body, and then almost all her pain ceased.

The same powder was still taken for three days longer, at length a purge was administred, of six ounces of the laxative water of the *Vienna Dispensatory*, and one drachm of sal polychrest.

This

This purge worked twelve times with much ease, and from this time forward the patient was sensible of no pain, and can now freely move her arm and foot, which before the use of the powder she could not do.

C A S E X.

WE had a man in our hospital of about thirty, who was laid up for upwards of nine months with a most severe fit of the gout.

Remedies both internal and external, exhibited in large doses, and for a long time, proved of no service.

All the joints of his body were swelled, and very painful; the patient could move neither hand nor foot, his nights were restless, and without sleep.

Though several remedies, and those the most useful in other respects, were used for this patient, yet the disease underwent no manner of change, nay, some symptoms seemed to be exasperated.

Neither did *Hemlock*, most carefully taken in a large dose for upwards of a month and a half, afford any relief.

In this most melancholy case, when no remedy almost, which could promise relief, remained untried, I begged of Dr. *Colin*, my very learned colleague, to prescribe the powder of the extract of *blue Wolfbane* for this patient.

In a few days after we were astonished at its wonderful effect; not only all the pains were mitigated, but he also seemed to recover some use of his limbs.

In two weeks more the swelling of the joints was much abated, his hands and fingers became more flexible, and he could move them without any pain.

After three weeks the patient, by the help of crutches, could now use his feet.

He slept sound without any pain, had an appetite, his strength was increased, and he complained of no disorder from the use of the powder, though he was often asked about it.

About the beginning of the second month he walked without crutches, could clench his left hand pretty firm, but

but not his right, because the wrist of that hand was still swelled.

At the end of the second month he moved all his limbs pretty freely, was free from all pain, and all the joints almost were of their natural size and flexibility.

Yet a greater sensibility was perceivable in those parts, which were before stretched by the painful tumor, than is usual in a sound state.

After three months this man left the hospital perfectly recovered.

How much pleasure this experiment afforded the very learned Dr. *Colin* and myself, every honest person will easily judge.

For after the uninterrupted efforts of nine months, and after every medicine proved ineffectual, the powder of extract of *blue Wolfsbane* alone happily saved and cured this miserable patient, whom we had already given over for lost.

For the first two weeks the patient took fifteen grains of this powder in a morning, and as many at night.

The third week he took fifteen grains thrice a day; in the beginning of the second month the same dose was exhibited four times; nor was there any occasion to augment it, as the desired effect was obtained by it.

During the use of the powder, a purge was three times administered, which always moved his belly several times with much ease.

C A S E XI.

A Woman of forty years laboured under a violent pain of all her limbs and joints.

The pain was at first wandering, then fixed in one or other joint, at length moved again over all her limbs, and then almost quite disappeared for some days.

Extremely hard nodes and *tophi* were gradually formed in the joints of the hands and fingers.

By which means she was now for a whole year deprived of health.

It is now three months since the pains have fixed and settled in her hands and feet, with such violence, that she

she could neither stand on her feet, nor move her hands, without the greatest pain; to bend her fingers was what she could not possibly do.

For besides, that the most acute pains prevented this, there were formed *tophi* on the joints, like so many real exostoses, surpassing a large walnut in size, and not bearing to be touched, because of the pain; her nights therefore were also restless.

In this condition she was brought to our hospital.

As all this time she had taken various remedies without any effect, the very skilful Dr. *Colin* thought adviseable to give her directly the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*.

In three or four days we, with the highest pleasure, saw the pain go quite off in some parts, and in others to abate so much, that her nights were easy, and her appetite, which was altogether gone, returned.

The second week she moved more freely her feet and hands.

About the end of the first month almost all the pain in her hands disappeared, the *tophi* were become less, could bear a rougher touch, and now she could bend the fingers of her hands.

The powder caused no manifest evacuation either by stool, by urine, or the emunctories of the skin; the patient, who was before morose and weakly, became now more chearful, sat up in bed, and spoke to those about her.

After the second month she had not the least pain in her hands, some of the *tophi* were now quite vanished, and some again so small and soft as not to retain a third of their former bulk.

The patient could now clench her fists; and her strength increased daily.

And now for the third month that she continues the use of the powder, the *tophi* are almost daily decreasing, and the pains gone off in all her limbs and joints.

After the third month, being cured by the use of this powder alone, she then left the hospital.

CASE XII.

A Maid servant, about twenty, had the venereal distemper to a high degree.

Several *tophi* broke out in her head, exceeding a hen's egg in bigness.

The submaxillary glands and the parotids were swelled and concreted to a huge size, and felt really bony to the touch.

So great a pain seized those swelled and indurated parts, and all the joints and limbs of her body, that she could neither eat, lie still, much less sleep; her swallowing was become difficult, and chewing impossible.

In fine, her life was in the highest danger when she was carried to our hospital.

Upon duly examining the case, and comparing all the symptoms, Dr. *Colin* and I durst not venture upon mercurials; a speedy change for the better was requisite, lest from the too great pain, or want of sleep, nourishment, and strength, the patient should go off.

After having seen the extraordinary effects of the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, and being convinced, from repeated experience, that it might be exhibited to patients without any danger, we directly proceeded to the use of it.

On the second and third days the pains were now become milder; then she slept, and her appetite and swallowing were far better and freer.

The powder opened her body several times a-day, and the perspiration of the whole body was increased.

In a month's time not only all the *tophi* were diminished, but the hard swelling of the submaxillary glands and of the parotids was much softened; about which we had some doubt at first: for these tumors had a bony consistence not only to the touch, but also by their sound when slightly struck upon.

All pain was gone, her strength daily increased, she slept sound, had an appetite, and she could now chew without any impediment.

In the second month, the *tophus* in the middle of the *os frontis* broke, and discharged much ichorous matter, mixed with blood.

Scarce any thing was to be seen of the other *tophi*, nor were they even perceivable to the touch.

About the beginning of the third month, all hardness of the glands was now dissolved, strength returned, and all the functions seemed to be restored to their natural state.

A few remains, which are now still observable about the cheeks, are daily decreasing, so that the patient will now in a short time be entirely relieved from her misery.

The ulcer, arisen from the breaking of the *tophus* in the *os frontis*, which was at first foul, and had parched or shrivelled lips, of a malignant nature, was, upon applying lint-pledgets, dipt in an infusion of the *Cicuta*, filled with a very laudable flesh, and the cicatrix proved good and firm.

C A S E XIII.

A Man, of about forty, who laboured under a true *anchylosis* of the joint of the left elbow, came to our hospital for cure.

The joint was now for several months extraordinarily swelled, and very painful.

A variety both of external and internal remedies, applied for a long time, caused no alteration; nay, some of them gave rise to great pain.

A trial was made of the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, and in a month and a half the tumor disappeared, all pain vanished, and the joint recovered its proper motion.

C A S E XIV.

A Woman, thirty-four years old, had for four months exquisite pains in her right leg and foot.

There was no swelling observable, and the skin was of its natural colour.

Remedies of various kinds, both internal and external, were of no benefit, and the patient was obliged to keep her bed, and unable to sleep for pain.

But the powder of extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, being administered, directly allayed the pain, brought on sleep, and in three weeks perfectly cured the patient.

From the experiments or cases related, it evidently follows, that extract of *Blue Wolfsbane* is an innocent, and very efficacious medicine.

Given in a small dose, it sometimes performs, what the most powerful medicines, exhibited in a larger dose, and for a long time, cannot effect.

The acrimony, which lodges about the joints, tendons, and bones, which irritates the nerves, and causes the most acute pains, is thereby dissolved, put into motion, and carried off either by urine, stool, sweat, or insensible perspiration.

It softens scirrhus tumors, *tophi*, and nodes, and sometimes entirely discusses them.

It allays and removes the most exquisite pains of the joints, and parts that are indurated.

It sometimes cleanses, and firmly cicatrizes ulcers, which yield to no other remedies.

In some cases *Blue Wolfsbane* exceeds the *Hemlock* in virtue and efficacy, and sometimes cures diseases, in which the *Hemlock* does not agree, or has no virtue at all.

Yet however, *Blue Wolfsbane* is also sometimes exhibited without any effect; and in that case the *Hemlock* often relieves and cures the disease.

And hence it ever holds true of *Hemlock*, that it is a highly powerful medicine in distempers that are the most difficult to be cured.

Since I published the Supplement concerning *Hemlock*, many new and fine experiments have been made by us with it.

True, inveterate, painful *schirri* were discussed by it; the worst sort of ulcers cured, which obstinately resist all other medicines. A schirrus of a woman's breast, as big as a man's fist, being eaten away by a cancerous ulcer
of

of the worst kind, which continually spread itself in breadth and depth, was by the use of *Hemlock* turned to a gangrene, which spontaneously separating dropt out of itself, and left a large pit, which by the continued internal use of *Hemlock*, and applying externally a fomentation of a decoction of the Bark, came soon to be filled up with a new and laudable flesh, and at length to be so neatly cicatrized, that the breast entirely recovered its natural size and figure.

Cancers of the worst sort in the tongue and throat have been entirely cured, and the most obstinate, rheumatic, and arthritic pains assuaged by the *Hemlock* alone.

Chronical vomitings, which yield to no other remedy, have been perfectly removed thereby.

The itch, and a malignant leprosy of the face, (after administering many medicines, and those the most powerful) were cured by the *Hemlock*.

Swelled, painful, and rigid joints, were in many patients restored, by a fomentation of *Hemlock*, and by its internal use, to their natural and sound state.

These cases, besides others highly worthy of notice, will be described by the very learned Dr. *Colin*.

These and other experiments made with the *Hemlock*, *Thorn-apple*, *Henbane*, and *Blue Wolfsbane*, were not performed in private, or in a corner, but in a publick hospital, where several very skilful Physicians and Surgeons saw the patients from first to last.

But above all we congratulate ourselves, that the illustrious Baron *Van Swieten*, (a most equitable judge of such cases) often resorts to our hospital, and examines the patients, on whom such experiments are made, and accurately observes the whole course both of the disease and cure; so that no doubt can remain about the truth of the fact, as he has thus with his own eyes seen several of the cures.

We therefore reckon ourselves highly obliged to him, that he has vouchsafed to take this trouble; as his presence never failed to be a new spur and incentive to us, still to go on with, and complete farther experiments.

R E M A R K S.

WHOEVER administers to patients these remedies above described, let them always begin with the smallest dose, and then gradually encrease it.

If the least bad effect should happen from the use of such a remedy, it is directly to be laid aside.

But if nothing unfavourable happens, the dose is to be encreased with a slow and prudent hand, till the desired effect is observed; and then there is no occasion any further to encrease the dose, as long as the same effect continues.

If any one has the practice and experience of any other remedy, which resembles mine in efficacy, or is still more efficacious and safe, I beg he would rather make use of that.

But if no such remedy is extant, it is at every one's option to give, or forbear giving, some one of mine, and thus leave the patient to his fate.

No constraint is put on any one, only let each one look to it, what his conscience may suggest, and what the love he owes to his neighbour may enjoin.

I have shewn in what manner these remedies may be safely exhibited to patients.

From the experiments, or cases, it appears, in what distempers they may seem to be of service.

This is fully sufficient, and farther care and application will furnish more.

The very learned *Max. Locher*, Physician to *St. Mark's* Hospital, has already tried these my remedies on several patients, without ever observing any unlucky accident from them, but rather extraordinary effects; and as he has collected several experiments or cases, he will not fail faithfully to describe them.

The illustrious *Lebmacher* has seen the good effects of
my

my powder of sugar, and extract of *Blue Wolfsbane*, in an intermitting fever, and a most inveterate *Gonorrhœa*, after having for a long time used all other remedies to no purpose.

George Hasenokrl, a very ingenious Physician in the *Spanish* hospital, gave his mad patients extract of *Thorn-Apple*, which given to half a drachm, and even a whole drachm, in the space of twenty-four hours, never proved prejudicial, but was observed to produce great alterations for the better.

But whether they will prove constant, time alone will shew.

I have, however, laid out a field, which we are to labour and cultivate, in order to lessen, alleviate, and cure the distempers, calamities, and racking tortures of patients.

I therefore, in the most courteous manner, beg of all good Physicians, that, with united efforts, they would please to concur with my endeavours, and promote a work, which, it should seem, will prove so salutary to the disorders of mankind.

And though the present age may perhaps, with a supercilious eye, view these our labours, let this on no account discourage us; hereafter will arise those who will pass a more equitable judgement, and return us the thanks we have a right to.

T H E E N D.

...of the ... and ... in ...

... a very ingenious Physician in the ... hospital ... and ...

... but ... which we are to ... and ...

... in the most cautious manner ... with united efforts ...

