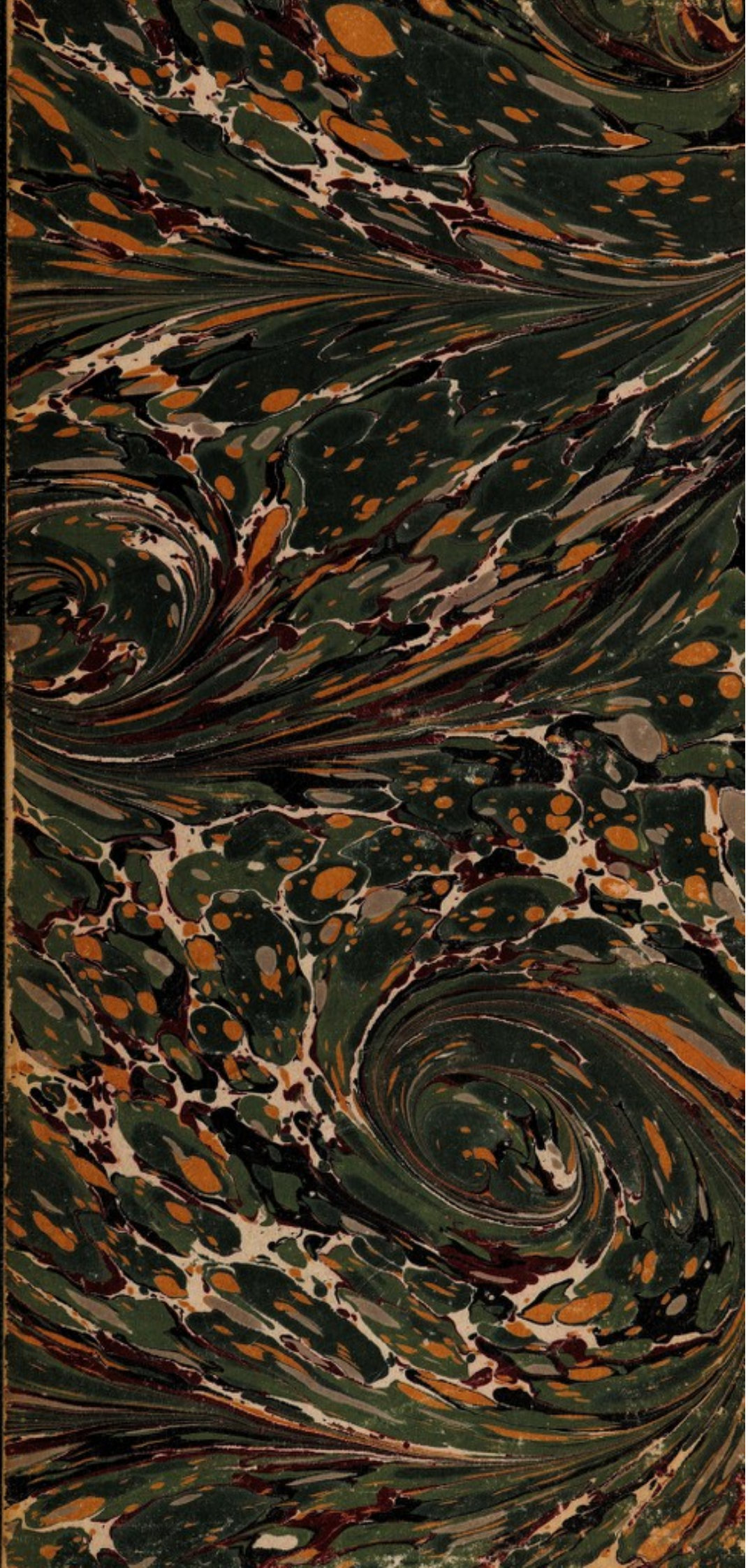

PERFECT, W.
c

[1778]

METHODS OF CURE,

IN SOME PARTICULAR CASES OF

INSANITY:

THE

EPILEPSY,

HYPOCHONDRIACAL AFFECTION,

HYSTERIC PASSION,

AND

NERVOUS DISORDERS.

PREFIXED

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EACH OF THOSE COMPLAINTS.

BY

W. PERFECT, SURGEON,

AT WEST MALLING, IN KENT.

—— *Mentem sanari; Corpus ut ægrum Cernimus; & flecti Medicinâ posse videmus.* LUCRET.

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PREFACE.

IF an anxious care, to improve the moſt important branches of his profeſſion, by the faithful communication of ſome practical truths, ſelected from caſes ſucceſsfully treated; with an earneſt deſire, to diſſeminate, whatever may be in his power to collect for the direction or aſſiſtance of

others,

others, may juſtify the intention of the following pages; at the ſame time, that his Mode of Cure, does not appear irrational, intricate, or repugnant to ſound practice: the AUTHOR has to hope for the applauſe of the unprejudiced, and but little to fear from the reproof of the illiberal.

METHODS

METHODS of CURE

IN SOME PARTICULAR

CASES of INSANITY, &c.

MADNESS

"IS a disorderly inconsistence of ideas. This most terrible calamity, in its *original state*, seems to admit of no other human definition, than that of

"Reason buried in the Body's Grave."

And if hereditary, is not removeable by any method, which the ſcience of phyſic, even at its preſent much improved ſtate, is able to ſuggeſt. In which unhappy and irremediable ſtage, proper management alone ſeems all that can be done; yet, in its *conſequential ſtate*, ariſing from Epilepſy, Child-birth, Fevers, Anxiety, exceſſive Grief, Frights, Intenſeneſs of Study, irregular Living, or ſtrong and ungoverned Paſſions, the aid of medicine cannot too ſoon be called in.—Accordingly, the late learned and celebrated Dr. *William Battie*, in his moſt excellent Treatiſe on Madneſs, ſays, "Laxity, whenever it intervenes between ſpaſm and delirious preſſure, and thereby becomes a remoter cauſe

of

of conſequential Madneſs, admits of cure, if timely and properly applied; and very often the weakened membranes ſpontaneouſly recover their former elaſtic tone, provided the ſpaſmodic impulſe is abated, before their conſtituent fibres are diſtracted beyond that natural tendency to approximation which was originally implanted in them."

MADNESS, conſequential to gradual or chronical congeſtions, occaſioned by gluttony or idleneſs, eaſily yields to medical cure, if ſeaſonably and properly applied. Madneſs, conſequential to, or accompanied with other diſorders, affords no particular prognoſtic but what ariſes from thoſe diſorders, when

conſidered as primary diſtempers, diſtinct and ſeparate from Madneſs itſelf. Anxiety, when it ariſes from ſome fault in the internal frame and conſtitution of the nervous ſubſtance, which is thereby rendered too ſenſible like original Madneſs, and for the ſame reaſon is not radically curable; but when its only cauſe is a laxity or defect of thoſe external integuments which were given to the nervous ſubſtance for its defence; in ſuch caſe, Anxiety, however afflicting, promiſes better ſucceſs. —And here let me be permitted to add this ſenſible writer's annexed obſervation on Inſenſibility or Idiotiſm; which, when ariſing, he ſays, from an internal and conſtitutional defect of the organs deſigned to excite ſenſation;

or

or when it is a ſymptom or conſequence of original Madneſs: like original Madneſs, and for the ſame reaſon, muſt be pronounced incurable by art: but, what is very remarkable, and much to be lamented, when Inſenſibility is the effect of conſequential Madneſs; or when it may be attributed to the preter-natural cloſeneſs and rigidity of the nervous integuments, or to obſtructions in the contiguous veſſels, though it may ſeem as curable as conſequential Anxiety; yet, in fact, (whatever is the reaſon of the difference) it is very ſeldom relieved either by art or nature. The antecedent ſigns of Madneſs are many and various; particularly, a redneſs and ſuffuſion of the eyes with blood, a tre-

mulous

mulous and conſtant vibration of the eye-lids, a change of diſpoſition and behaviour, moſt extravagant, unnatural, and inconſiſtent ideas, ſupercilious looks, haughty carriage, diſdainful or obſcure expreſſions, grinding of the teeth, unaccountable malice to particular perſons, little ſleep, violent head-ach, quickneſs of hearing, incredible ſtrength, inſenſibility of cold, &c."

CASE

CASE I.

A GENTLEMAN, aged fifty-eight, was in January 1770, put under my care as an insane patient. The cause of his disorder was attributed to a sudden transition in his circumstances, from easy and comfortable, to doubtful and precarious; his complaints were great pain in the head, continual noise in his ears, at intervals a depression or exaltation of spirits, his water was very high-coloured, he passed whole nights without sleep, sometimes raved, and was convulsed, and his attention was invariably fixed on one object;

namely,

namely, that he was ruined and undone! which was his inceſſant exclamation by night and day. He had taken ſtrong purges, antimoniacal vomits, ammoniac draughts, ſagapenum and ſteel had been exhibited in continued doſes, iſſues, venæſection, a ſeton, and bliſters, had been tried for a ſeries of time; bathing: and, in ſhort, almoſt every thing ſeemed to have been done without any viſible alteration for the better. He had, however, never been fixed in a proper place of retirement, nor had the relations ever ſufficiently excluded him from company and the converſation of *curious impertinence*. When I undertook the care of this perſon, he appeared very impatient of contradiction, and even talking to him,

in

in the gentleſt manner, would ruffle him to miſconſtruction of all that was ſaid; I therefore prohibited all intercourſe with his friends and relations for a fixt ſpace of time; for, as the ingenious Dr. *Battie* truly obſerves, "The viſits of affecting friends as well "as enemies ought ſtrictly to be for-"bidden." And this injunction was on their ſide punctually obſerved, otherwiſe I might have met with inſurmountable obſtacles in the execution of my curative plan; which was begun by applying a bliſter to the back, and confining the patient to a ſtill and almoſt totally darkened room; I never ſuffered him to be ſpoke to by interrogation or reply, nor permitted any one to viſit him but ſuch whoſe buſi-

neſs it was to ſupply him with his aliment, which was light, cooling, and eaſy of digeſtion; at the ſame time that his conſtant drink was weak and diluting; this was abſolutely neceſſary, as his regimen, although frequently directed to be cool and light, had never been properly attended to; a circumſtance exceedingly blameable, and to be only imputed to the miſtaken indulgence of his friends. For twelve nights ſucceſſively he uſed the warm pediluvium, which reſting him ſomething better than he had long before done, I was induced to go a ſtep farther, and try the effects of opium, which I began in the evening of the thirteenth day after he came to me, in the quantity of fifteen drops of the Elixir Paregoricum,

regoricum, which ſlept him an hour at a time; and through the day following he appeared much eaſier, and leſs anxious than uſual; the elixir was now repeatedly increaſed till his nights were thoroughly compoſed, and his days rendered ſo free from perturbation of ſpirits, hurry and confuſion of thoughts, that he talked rational and juſt, and ſeldom broke out into paſſionate expreſſions. In this courſe I perſevered for nearly four months, every ſecond, third, or fourth night, as occaſion required, adminiſtring a ſufficient doſe of lenitive electuary, to prevent too great a conſtipation of the bowels from the repeated uſe of the paregorics; his reaſon now returned, his imagination grew ſtronger and leſs

confuſed, he ſpoke of things as they really were, and of the cauſe of his unhappineſs with diſpaſſionate coolneſs and reſigned moderation. The opiate and pediluvium were gradually decreaſed, and entirely left off on the ſecond of June following, after being with me fifteen weeks and three days; when I reſtored him to his relations in a ſtate of Sanity, which he has happily preſerved to the preſent time.

CASE

CASE II.

ON December the 29th, 1770, I was consulted by letter in the case of a Gentleman, in Carey-street, *London*; he was about the age of two-and-twenty, and, till within twelve months before, had enjoyed a rational mind and good state of health; but, in consequence of a disappointment in a treaty of marriage, from a chearful disposition he at once became sad, dull, and pensive, destitute of his wonted resolution, with almost a total loss of appetite, sleep, and spirits, and fond of

of ſolitude; for ſome weeks together he ſcarcely ſpoke a word, and from a florid complexion became pale and wan. In about three months after this melancholy dejection took place, he was ſeized with a drivelling, which continued four or five days; during which time his ſpeech was facilitated, his appetite mended, and he enjoyed a partial return of his wonted vivacity; but no ſooner did this diſcharge leave him than he reverted to his former gloomy and dejected ſtate. A phyſician of eminence had in vain been conſulted, and the ptyaliſm periodically returned with every full moon, brought with it its exhilerating and left its diſtreſſing effects. In this ſtate he continued for the ſpace of eight

months

months, when he was entrusted to my management and care on the 15th day of January 1771; and finding, upon the strictest enquiry, that many probable methods of cure had ineffectually been referred to, and supposing, by this periodical discharge of the salival glands, that Nature had shewn an effort of self-assistance; and as the patient was not altogether in such a state of laxity as to prohibit the experiment, and particularly desirous to try it, I resolved to prolong the next monthly sputation by the assistance of calomel, exhibited at proper distances in quantities proportionate to the strength of the patient: accordingly, about a week before the expected return of the flux, I every night, at bed-time, gave him

two

two grains of calomel, made into a ſmall pill with conſerve of roſes; about the fifth day he complained of ſoreneſs in his gums, and on the ſixth the ſalival diſcharge commenced, which I encouraged moderately, ſupporting the patient with a diet adapted to his ſituation; he was chearful, and, except the ſoreneſs of his mouth and gums, made no complaint at all. I continued the flux, in a ſmall degree, till he had paſſed the following new moon, (at which time I perceived no increaſe of the ptyaliſm) when I began gradually to carry off the mercury by lenient purges, but the ſputation did not entirely ceaſe till the end of the ſeventh week from the firſt day of giving the calomel. I opened him an

iſſue

iſſue in his arm, and adviſed him to a purging draught at the change of every full moon. The ptyaliſm never once returned; the cortex was, for ſome time, exhibited to brace up and ſtrengthen the habit, and he was ſo thoroughly recovered, that I am well-informed he has not endured one day's illneſs, ſince he left my houſe on the ſecond day of May 1771.

illness in his arm, and advised him to a purging draught at the change of every full moon. The physician never once returned; the cortex was, for some time, exhibited to brace up and strengthen the habit, and he was so thoroughly recovered, that I am well informed he has not endured one day's illness, since he left my house on the second day of May 1771.

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CASE III.

A GENTLEMAN, aged forty-five, after having been ſubject for ſome years to acute rheumatic pains, without any apparent cauſe, became at once dull and melancholy; inſomuch, that he could not follow his buſineſs, was frequently watchful, timorous, and deſpondent, and more than once made an attempt on his own life; he was firſt attacked in the beginning of September 1773, and had then only tried the advice of an apothecary in the

town where he lived. In November I was defired to vifit him, and found him feated in his cuftomary attitude, of his head reclining upon his arm, and his eyes fixed to the ground, as if loft in profound thought; I afked him feveral queftions, but received no reply. I was informed he had taken vomits and purges, and had then by him a volatile mixture; he paffed but little water, his belly was bound, and his ftomach and bowels were much inflated with wind; the pulfe was flow and hard, and he had been fubject to the bleeding piles, which were now ftopt; and the day before I faw him, he had ejected, by vomit, a great quantity of dark-coloured bile.—Little or no regard had ever been paid to his

regimen,

regimen, and as his appetite was but very ſmall at the beſt, he had been ſuffered to indulge it with high-ſauced meats, and other things, directly oppoſite to the ſtate of his caſe; wine, malt liquor, and ſometimes rum or brandy, had not been denied him; and his unwillingneſs to move had prevented him to take exerciſe in the open air in a proper manner. At the time I took him to my houſe he had the moſt *incurious aſpect* I ever beheld, and inſenſible to a near degree of idiotiſm; inſomuch, that a ſervant was always obliged to dreſs, undreſs, and feed him. In a few days I bled him, to the quantity of ſix ounces; the complexion of the blood proved the veſſels to be loaded with a ſuperabundant quan-

tity

tity of humours, which clogg'd the circulation. I prohibited his wonted freedom of diet, and confined him to a ſlender and cooling one; he was frequently carried into the air, and, had daily given him in broth, two drachms of ſoluble tartar, with one ounce of compound cinnamon water, to a pint. The pulſe was greatly ſoftened by the firſt bleeding; by the ſecond, (at the diſtance of three weeks,) more; and, by the third, at the diſtance of ten weeks from the firſt, with a ſtrict perſeverance in the above antiphlogiſtic plan, and proper exerciſe, the patient was recovered to his right ſenſes and underſtanding. Bleeding was now uſed at diſcretion, the diet enlarged, and he left me hearty and

well

well in the March following as he came to me in November; ſince this cure, I have had three melancholics much relieved by phlebotomy. In a low ſtate of melancholy, where the pulſe is oppreſſed and hard, and the ſolids not too much relaxed, it is often juſtifiable, to increaſe the circulation of the fluids; and, a few months ſince, I had a caſe of the kind from MARDEN, in this county, where venæſection had univerſally been prohibited by every gentleman of the faculty who had ſeen her; and yet this patient recovered by repeated bleedings only.

CASE

well in the March following as he came to me in November; since this cure, I have had three melancholics much relieved by phlebotomy. In a low state of melancholy, where the pulse is oppressed and hard, and the solids not too much relaxed, it is often justifiable, to increase the circulation of the fluids; and, a few months since, I had a case of the kind from MARDEN, in this county, where venæsection had universally been prohibited by every gentleman of the faculty who had seen her; and yet this patient recovered by repeated bleedings only.

CASE IV.

A LADY, in the 37th year of her age, of a delicate conſtitution, in lying-in of her ſecond child, and about a month after her delivery, was ſeized with a ſhivering fit, ſucceeded by a fever, delirium, inflammation of the eyes, and watching. She was attended by Gentlemen, eminent in the medical art; by whoſe aſſiſtance, in about the ſpace of three weeks, ſhe was ſo far recovered as to be able to walk acroſs the room; when, on a ſudden, from a miſtaken apprehenſion of her

huſband's conduct, ſhe became anxious, irreſolute, incoherently talkative, turbulent, and ſo miſchievous, that her attendants were obliged to confine her; raving, foaming at the mouth, involuntary laughter, or loud lamentation enſued; from a pleaſing, open, chearful countenance, her face was contracted to a rigidly emaciated and truly maniacal appearance; and, from a decent and delicate choice of words, her expreſſions bordered upon blaſphemy, or vented the rankeſt obſcenity. The general methods had been referred to, under the direction and care of a moſt eminent phyſician, by whoſe advice ſhe had been four times bled, within the ſpace of three months; blifters had been preſcribed for the occiput,

back,

back, and legs; a ſeton had been fixt in her neck; to lenient purges cathartics had ſucceeded; the gums, and fetid anti-hyſterics, had been adminiſtered in abundance; vomits often preſcribed, and cold-bathing not omitted. All painful applications, and every method, hitherto uſed, had rather aggravated than leſſened her complaint; and, in a ſtate of Inſanity, little ſhort of raving, ſhe was committed to my care in May 1773; ſhe had then a bliſter open on her back, and an iſſue in her arm; but as no good effect had ever accrued from muſcular irritation, they were both ſuffered to dry up, and in a few days there was no diſcharge from either. I lodged her in a quiet, retired, darkened room, gave her mag-

neſia, to occaſionally relax the bowels; and, for the heat and quickneſs of pulſe, two ſpoonsful of a neutral mixture every five or ſix hours, with an addition in the evening of a few drops of the paregoric elixir. In ten days the ſpaſms abated, the febrile heats were allayed — the pulſe, from near a hundred, was, at times, reduced to below eighty; when a decoction of the bark, with nitre, was made uſe of. The intervals, from a few hours at firſt, were, in three weeks time, prolonged to a day, and ſometimes to two; from a week to a fortnight, three weeks; and, at length, till the frenzy entirely ſubſided. During the continuance of this courſe, I ſuffered no one to viſit or converſe with

her

her but myſelf and one female attendant, the relations and acquaintance being ſtrictly enjoined from the firſt not to come near her. By means of the above practice, retirement, and a regimen properly adapted to her caſe, in November of the ſame year, I had the happineſs to reſtore this Lady to her worthy partner and family, and the chearful reception of a large circle of genteel acquaintance, who had experienced many anxious feelings on her deplorable ſituation.

CASE

CASE V.

A LADY, about forty years of age, from a violent fanatical affection, which had poſſeſſed her mind for ſome months, at length became indifferent to every enjoyment of life, unable to perform the domeſtic duties of her family, and had given ſeveral evident proofs of Inſanity; her ideas in general, where inadequate, gloomy, and depreſſed; her apprehenſions misfounded, and her life ſuch a burden to herſelf, that more than once ſhe would have put an end to her own exiſtence, had ſhe

not

not been happily prevented. In this wretched ſtate ſhe was conveyed to *London* for advice, received medicines uſually given melancholics; and particularly the *tinctura melampodii*, whoſe efficacy, as well as the ſpecifical antimaniacal qualities, aſcrib'd to the black hellebore in general, is, in my opinion, *highly exceptionable:* a bliſter was alſo opened between the ſhoulders; but, in leſs time, than it could be reaſonably expected ſhe ſhould find relief, her relations, for the conveniency of her being placed nearer to them, removed her, in March 1774, to my houſe. A fixt pallid melancholy ſeemed ſtrongly impreſſed on her features; her eyes look'd wild and ſtaring; her nights were watchful and reſtleſs; and ſhe often

talked

talked of religion in a confuſed, timorous, and miſtaken manner. All books, of religious tendency, I cauſed to be removed from her ſight; forbade her the uſe of a Teſtament, which ſhe had been ſuffered to have continually in her poſſeſſion, and ordered the ſervant not to anſwer any interrogations ſhe might propoſe upon pious matters, or even to ſpeak to her thereon. She had been too cloſely confined, I therefore gave her exerciſe in the open air, every morning and afternoon; and, as the pulſe was hard and tenſe, on the 6th day after ſhe came to me, I took off four ounces of blood, and exhibited a ſmall bolus of nitre and Ruſſia caſtor, every night and morning for three weeks; when an expectoration, which

was habitual to her, and which had ceaſed, from her firſt being taken ill, again returned; and other ſalutary excretions following, the patient every day recovered ſtrength, appetite, and firmneſs of mind; and, at the cloſe of the ſeventh week, from her coming to me, deſiring to return home, ſhe did, to the heart-felt ſatisfaction of a moſt worthy tender huſband, and an affectionate deſerving family; who have chearfully and voluntarily confirmed the above cure, to the advantage of the author, by the grateful relation of it to their general acquaintance.

EPI-

SOME Caſes of Inſanity, wherein CUTANEOUS Eruptions have been particularly advantageous to the Patients under his care, might not improperly have followed here; but, as the Author hopes, in proceſs of time, by ſtrict obſervation, and ſome experimental diſquiſitions, by THOSE means to caſt ſome new lights on the Cure of MANIACS, it might be thought premature and inconcluſive in him, at this time, to treat of the particulars relative to ſuch Caſes.

EPI-

EPILEPSY:

"Called alſo, the FALLING SICKNESS, from the ſudden falling down of the Patient in the FIT."

IT is an obſervation of the celebrated Mead's, that "this diſeaſe owes its origin to ſo many different conſtitutions of the body, that the ſame remedy which ſucceeds in one caſe, often fails in another; and therefore different medicines, are to be tried, and great regard muſt be paid to the times, in which, the paroxyſms uſually return, to effect a cure."

a cure." In ſome patients, this diſorder is hereditary, and gives no notice of its acceſſion; in others, it is conſequential, and previous to the fit, there is a weight in the head, ſtupidity, pain in the joints, loſs of memory, broken and interrupted ſleep, tingling in the ears, frequent yawning, unuſual dread, palpitation of the heart, wind and rumbling in the belly, and involuntary ſtools. The fit is uſually attended with a deprivation of the ſenſes, gnaſhing of the teeth, frothing at the mouth, ſometimes the tongue is bit almoſt aſunder, and there is a violent tremor and agitation of the whole body. The fits are prolongated, and curtailed, according to the various original cauſes. In ſome, they will return upon the

leaſt

leaſt perturbation of mind; in others, periodically, to a fixt hour, day, or month, according to the changes of the moon. Happening to children, about the time of dentition, they generally ceaſe with the cutting of the teeth. It is conſiſtent with the opinion of ſome medical writers, of good authority, " that if theſe fits happen after puberty, they are ſeldom cured." The firſt annexed caſe, however, will ſerve to contradict this aſſertion; but, notwithſtanding, that the cure, in general, will be found much more difficult when the fits, in either ſex, happen after the fifteenth year.

CASE

CASE VI.

A YOUNG MAN, of a cachectical habit, had an iſſue in his arm from his thirteenth to his twenty-third year; at which time he cauſed it ſuddenly to be dried up, and found no ill effects from the deſiccation till about three months afterwards; when, after ſome days complaining, of weight in his head, and pain in his ſtomach, he was attacked with an epileptic fit, attended with violent convulſions. The cauſe was not immediately imputed to a ceſſation of

the

the diſcharge from the arm by the iſſue. A bliſter was applied to his back, he was twice blooded, and ſome medicines of the alterative kind were given him by the gentleman to whom he at firſt applied; notwithſtanding which, the fit returned on that very day fortnight from its firſt attack. He was now adviſed to the cold bath, and an iſſue was re-opened in his arm; but to little or no purpoſe, for the fits returned frequently and irregularly. The leaſt perturbation of mind, hurry or fright, would bring them, and it was not unuſual for him, to have them ſometimes three, four, and even five times, in a day and a night. It was on the 25th of September 1773, that he was recommended to my care. I began the cure by the

Peru-

Peruvian bark and ſteel in an electuary, preceded by a gentle emetic, and drew a ſeton between the ſhoulder blades in the direction of the ſpine. For the firſt week I perceived little or no difference in the fits; but after that time, he had a total remiſſion of them for fourteen days together: an interval of eaſe and hope, which he had not enjoyed from the beginning of his illneſs, except in the firſt ſpace of the fits, as already mentioned. The *ſeton* was very troubleſome and painful at firſt; but in ſome little time the ſoreneſs abated, and (two iſſues being previouſly fixt between the ſcapulæ,) after being open for ten weeks, it was ſuffered to dry up, as was alſo the iſſue in the arm. By the Chriſtmas

 follow-

following, the patient was entirely well of the fits; and ſoon afterwards, the iſſues in the back were reduced to one, which he has kept open to the preſent time, and has not had the leaſt return, of the epileptic paroxyſm, ſince the ſecond day of November 1773. The Peruvian bark and ſteel, in an electuary, he took through the whole courſe, and once a day for twelve months afterwards.

CASE

CASE VII.

A GENTLEMAN, aged forty-four, after a habit of excessive drinking, for more than six years, was suddenly seized with an epileptic fit in the month of May 1773. After which he was much troubled with wind in his stomach and bowels, and a great indigestion; his complexion, from florid, was changed to a pale yellow. The fits had now followed him through every mutation of the moon for three months; and, although a consciousness of the ill effects, arising from the per-

nicious indulgence of too much liquor, might have induced him to a forbearance thereof, yet it was ſcarcely poſſible to reſtrain him from the exceſſive uſe of it, as uſual. In Auguſt he was adviſed to go to Bath, which, with ſome reluctance, was complied with; but, neither the journey, the chalybeate quality of the ſprings, nor the excellent advice, to be collected from that celebrated ſpot of genteel reſort, was of any great ſervice to him; and he returned in the beginning of the October following, in much the ſame ſtate as when he ſat out upon his journey; with this advantage, however, that he could now content himſelf, for a whole day together, without ſpirituous liquors. This, indeed, he had found to be the

general

general advice of every phyſician he had conſulted. Wine, rum, brandy, or geneva, made weak with water, were adopted in their ſtead; and his diet was, in general, of the lighteſt, and moſt eaſily digeſtable kind. It was, at this time, he conferred the favour on me, of expreſſing a partiality to my advice, with the reſolution of perſevering in whatever plan of medicine I ſhould lay down to him. The epileptic electuary, preſcribed by Dr. Mead, had never been tried: in the uſe of this medicine he therefore perſiſted for nearly two months; but unſucceſsfully. The caſe was obſtinate, the fits returned periodically to the quadratures of the moon, and with as much force as ever; factitious cinnabar and muſk he had ineffectually

fectually taken in great quantities, both at Bath, and previous to his journey thither: blifters and iffues had been repeatedly made to little or no effect, and, in January 1774, I drew a feton between his fhoulders, in the fame direction as in the preceding cafe; which, with a ftrict conformity to regimen, and by the ufe of a ftrong decoction of the valerian and cortex, in the beginning of the April following, the fits entirely left him; he recovered his ufual health and fpirits, and has not been afflicted with any epileptic fymptoms fince. In this cafe, it may not be improper to obferve, that the patient's changing an irregular to a regular courfe of living, was a great ftep towards his cure; yet, I am firmly of

opinion,

opinion, *that*, alone, unaſſiſted by the ſeton, valerian, and cortex, might not have been found virtually ſufficient to have ſubdued the fits. The two preceding caſes ſerves to furniſh us with means of relief in the *ſymptomatic* epilepſy; but, in *the original diſorder*, little, I believe, is to be expected from medicine. Several caſes of that kind having occurred to me; where, the utmoſt I was able to boaſt of, was a temporary mitigation, and, (that but very ſeldom,) of the ſevereſt ſymptoms.

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC AFFECTION;

"Known alſo by the names of HYP, VAPOURS, and MELANCHOLY,"

IS a diſorder attended with ſuch a multiplicity of ſymptoms, that it is morally impoſſible to deſcribe every one; but, in general, the ſtomach and inteſtines are greatly inflated, and in the progreſs of the diſorder the patient ſuffers much, from windy eructations.

The principal ſigns of this diſagreeable change of the natural ſtate of the mind, are, a loathing of food, want of appetite, and an uncertain one at beſt, indigeſtion, indolence, a heavy pain and preſſure in the ſtomach, and more particularly ſo after eating, groundleſs fears, a ſpaſm of the throat, a frequent ſpitting of limpid, and ſometimes tough phlegm, heart-burn, cardialgia, flushings in the face, gripings, palpitations of the heart, a burning heat in the tongue, terrible apprehenſions, ſtraitneſs of the breaſt, pain and difficulty in making water, liſtleſſneſs, and a fancied inability to move at all, a rumbling noiſe in the bowels, a frequent inclination to ſtool, a ſenſe of fullneſs in the ſtomach and bowels, the piles, dul-

neſs,

neſs, irreſolution, decay of ſtrength, waſting of the body, pains in the head and joints, wild ideas, and moſt extravagant fancies foreboding dreadful events, great ficklenefs of temper, petulance, impatience, inquietude, anxiety, terror, and ſadneſs.—To theſe may be added the concluſion of Dr. Mead, when ſpeaking of the Hypochondriac Affection, he ſays,

" *Non unam ſedet habet ſed morbus totius*
" *corporis eſt.*"

CASE VIII.

A GENTLEMAN, in the eight and fortieth year of his age, after a long-continued courſe of drinking, about the month of Auguſt 1770, complained of a violent head-ach whenever he walked or rode, but was eaſier whenever the body was in an incumbent poſture. He was naturally of a ſenſible, nervous ſyſtem, but had never before been ſubject to a pain in the head; which now, upon every motion, ſeemed to affect the whole part of it; his eyes

were

were dull and heavy, he had a nauſea at his ſtomach, and his head was continually reclined on his arm. An emetic was adminiſtered, ſome blood taken away, and a bliſter applied between the ſhoulders; a partial ceſſation of the pain was the conſequence, and it now became periodical, returning every evening about nine o'clock, and ceaſing ſometimes about four, five, or ſix in the morning. In the intervals the cortex took place, and in a few days with the deſired ſucceſs; yet a giddineſs remained; he became low-ſpirited, ſolitary, and thoughtful; his appetite was impaired, and though unattended with ſweats, his body viſibly declined; he was often ſeized with a ſyncope, tremors, ſinkings, and flatulencies in his

ſtomach

ſtomach and bowels, which frequently occaſioned violent ſpaſms; he had a direct nervous cough, the pulſe in general was too faſt, his days were anxious, and his nights reſtleſs and uneaſy. About the latter end of October in the ſame year he applied to me, relating his caſe with much hurry of ſpirits, while tears trickled down his cheeks as he ſpoke, and he prophefied his approaching exit. I endeavoured to ſoothe his emotion with tender and chearful promiſes of aſſiſting his diſtreſs, and enjoining him to a proper diet with moderate exerciſe. At bed-time I preſcribed the warm pediluvium, and exhibited a ſmall quantity of laudanum in a neutral draught; and in the day-time, when the pulſe was found to be at the

ſloweſt,

ſloweſt, adminiſter'd the cortex in decoction wherein gum arabic was ſoluted. He very exactly conformed to the rules enjoined, and in eight weeks time, with little variation of the medicines, except now and then increaſing the opiate, and adding a few drops of Mynſicht's tincture of ſteel to the decoction, he recovered of his debility; the pulſe ſubſided to a regular and natural vibration, the cough ceaſed, the appetite returned; and, by a plan of living conſiſtently temperate, he, to this day, enjoys an uninterrupted ſtate of health. In the management of this caſe, if we do not altogether extol the ſoothing efficacy of the opiate, or yield the cure to the bracing qualities of the cortex; yet, every one, who is reduced

by

by exceſſive drinking, has here a moſt encouraging example before his eyes, to try the good effects of abſtaining from too much liquor; and giving into a proper regulation of diet before the bounds of Nature are entirely demoliſhed, and the conſtitution ſo far diſabled, as to be in an undone and irremediable ſtate.

CASE IX.

A GENTLEMAN, aged twenty-nine, of a ſedentary employment, and melancholy temperament, was in May 1774 ſuddenly attacked with ſuch a violent contraction of the bronchial tubes and veſicles, as to be in immediate danger of ſuffocation. By the aſſiſtance of a medical gentleman who was immediately called in, with proper applications this aſthmatical ſtroke was in great meaſure removed; but as I was informed by the ſame gentleman ſtill an unuſual tenſion remained a croſs the

thorax, and the reſpiration was far from being naturally free; which, notwithſtanding many endeavours for relief, was the caſe till the month of October following, when he was taken with pains in one ancle and foot, which terminated in a fit of the gout of eight days; during which time the breathing was unconfined, but the gouty paroxyſm ceaſing, the oppreſſion returned; his memory failed, and he frequently complained of a ſenſation of cold, comparable to cold water being dropped upon his back, with a ſenſe of ſtiffneſs in his arms and legs. The pulſe was in general at ninety-five, a hundred, and ſometimes above; an acceleration, chiefly attributed by the gentleman who attended him, to the heating

qualities

qualities of a nervous medicine he had procured from an advertiſement. He had generally a great depreſſion of ſpirits, attended by ſighing, a nauſea, and a total averſion to food. Under theſe diſtreſſing circumſtances, in the December following, he was adviſed to try me. I found him much emaciated, and ſcarcely able to walk acroſs the room without aſſiſtance. As the alimentary canal was in a moſt debilitated ſtate, my firſt intention was to ſtrengthen the primæ viæ; which I began to effect by evacuations equal to the ſtrength of the patient, that I might make way for a chalybeate, on whoſe efficacy experience had taught me to found much hope of ſucceſs. I adviſed a thick flannel waiſtcoat to be continually worn,

and

and opened a large iſſue between the ſcapulæ: Four drops of BOERHAAVE's *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* were exhibited three times a day in a weak infuſion of bark, as the moſt proper vehicle I could think of; which I continued for a month together, now and then omitting it for a day or two, and adopting in its ſtead a gentle laxative, inceſſantly paying a due regard to his regimen, which, as his appetite ſtrengthened, was rendered proportionably liberal. Through the ſecond month the ſame plan was invariably purſued, except an increaſe of the tincture to ſix drops. On the firſt day of March following he complained of a pain in his foot, which increaſed to a fit of the gout that held him ten days; the reſpiration, (which, pre-

vious

vious to the paroxyſm, was conſiderably relieved, by the diſcharge from the fontinell in the back,) was now not in the leaſt oppreſſed, and, upon the going off of the gout, ſcarcely troubleſome at all. The drops and infuſion were occaſionally continued. The gout has attacked him but one ſince, viz. in the autumn of 1775, and the hypochondriacal ſymptoms have not been troubleſome to him at all.—

BOERHAAVE'S *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* of ſteel is thus prepared:

TAKE of filings of ſteel *one ounce*, of very ſharp diſtilled vinegar *ten ounces*, of ſugar *three ounces*; boil them *twenty-ſix hours* in a tall phial, and when filtrated, preſerve the infuſion in a glaſs veſſel.

As

As the good effects this patient received from the above excellent chalybeate ſerves to evince the great efficacy of ſuch medicines, with a ſuitable regimen, where there is a particular delicacy or debility in the nervous ſyſtem. It may not be deemed heterogeneous to my preſent deſign, to mention a chalybeate ſpring, at TENTERDEN, in this county; which has been lately encloſed by Mrs. LOTT, of that place. Previous to which, I have been informed, upon the moſt reputable teſtimony, that ſeveral people of that town and its vicinity, had happily experienced its virtues in debilities of the nerves of the head and ſtomach; and in caſes of the Scurvy, diarrhœa, and ſome other diſorders. The water of this ſpring, upon

exa-

examination, is found to poſſeſs ſtrong chalybeate powers, entirely exempt from any aluminous or ſulphureous taint. And as many Gentlemen and Ladies, of weak nerves and relaxed habits, have experienced its ſalutary efficacy, it gives me pleaſure to do juſtice to its virtues, by recommending it as a moſt excellent mineral ſpring, whoſe properties deſerve the greateſt commendation; and, whoſe inherent good qualities, might do credit to the medicinal inveſtigation of the moſt finiſhed pen.

examination, is found to possess strong chalybeate powers, entirely exempt from any aluminous or sulphureous taint. And as many Gentlemen and Ladies, of weak nerves and relaxed habits, have experienced its salutary efficacy, it gives me pleasure to do justice to its virtues, by recommending it as a most excellent mineral spring, whose properties deserve the greatest commendation; and, whose inherent good qualities, might do credit to the medicinal investigation of the most finished pen.

CASE X.

IN hypochondriacal, as well as hyſterical, and nervous complaints, there ſeems to be ſcarcely a poſſibility of fixing a true criterion, by which they may be ſeparately claſſed, or diſtinctly marked, from each other, ſhould the following Caſe therefore be thought to fall *mal a propos*, upon the hypochondriacal line of diſorders. The difficulty of diſtinction in ſuch caſes, may, it is preſumed, plead an excuſe for its appearance here; eſpecially,

whilſt the fidelity of its narration will fully exculpate the author, from the leaſt ſhadow of impropriety in placing it under the head of occaſional cauſes, adapted to this publication.

A Gentleman, of thirty years of age, of an exquiſitely ſenſible nervous ſyſtem, ſubject from his childhood to tremors and faintings, was, on the ninth day of January 1775, from a ſudden fright, as it was ſuppoſed, attacked with a violent pain in the occiput, which continued to the twelfth of the ſame month, when my aſſiſtance was aſked; and, upon attending, I found, that he had had ſome intermiſſion of the pain, and, that about ſix weeks before this head-ach began, an abſceſs on the

the parotid glands, (which after dis-charging pretty freely,) had, on a ſud-den, dried up. I was therefore led to believe, the cauſe not immediately re-ſulting from the fright, but more pro-bably from the morbid matter lodged in the blood. The patient had a pale languid countenance, heavineſs in his eyes, a quick pulſe, and hectic heats. I immediately ordered the occiput to be ſhaved, and a bliſter to be applied thereon; at bed-time the warm pedi-luvium was adviſed, and the uſe of a camphorated julep he had by him forbade, as too heating for ſo quick a pulſe. A neutral julep, with ſixty drops of the elixir paregoricum, was given to two ſpoonsful every four or five hours, with a laxative medicine oc-

caſionally.

caſionally. The patient was kept very quiet and free from company, and, till the 19th day of the ſame month, this plan was unremittingly purſued, with little or no alteration or advantage to the patient; therefore, on the 20th, I began to give him a decoction of the bark, nitre, and valerian. The bliſter was kept in an open ſtate, and the pain in the head, by the 27th, was conſiderably abated; when I obſerved a cutaneous eruption to have ſpread over the whole ſurface of his body; and in the evening of the ſame day he complained of a pain, heat, and tenſion, in the left axilla. Cardiacs and ſtomachics now took place, an abſceſs formed in the pained part, which was brought to maturation by

the

the common methods, and diſcharged copiouſly for ſeveral days; but at length abating, an iſſue was opened in the arm, mild alteratives were exhibited, and for his habitual lowneſs of ſpirits, and faintings, a muſk julep was adminiſtered for about a month afterwards; which was found ſo very beneficial to him, that, to this time, whenever he finds the tremblings, depreſſions, or faintings, he has recourſe to this medicine, from which, at leaſt, he is certain to find ſome temporary aſſiſtance. The pain in his head has never been in the leaſt troubleſome ſince the diſcharge from the abſceſs diſappeared, and that of the fontinell began.

CASE

THE

HYSTERIC PASSION;

" A Diſorder peculiar to the FAIR SEX, differing in moſt caſes very eſſentially from the HYPOCHONDRIAC AFFECTION, both in Cauſe and Situation."

THE fits accompanying this complaint are, in general, very uncertain; in ſome, they will return weekly, or monthly; in others, four, five, or ſix times in a year, or oftener,

upon any ſudden commotion of the mind, or diſturbance of the ſpirits; by fear, grief, anger, or diſappointment; wind, and acrid humours, vellicating the nerves of the ſtomach and inteſtines, will frequently produce the fits in women of a delicate habit, whoſe nervous ſyſtem is naturally weak and irritable. The ſymptoms preceding the fits, are different in different perſons; thoſe attending them, are well known, to be a difficult reſpiration, and ſometimes weak and eaſy, as if the patient was aſleep, convulſed agonies of the whole body, involuntary laughter and crying, paleneſs of the face, coldneſs of the extremities, oppreſſion, anxiety, reaching to vomit, a violent riſing in the throat, and often a

ſtrong

ſtrong intermitting pulſe. After the fit is gone off the patient frequently complains of univerſal ſoreneſs, pain in the head, noiſe in the ears, dimneſs of ſight, the pulſe becomes quicker, and more regular, and the patient either relapſes into another fit, or falls aſleep, and, for that time, recovers. Much more might be added, were it not almoſt impoſſible to deſcribe and enumerate the variety of ſymptoms attendant on either this or the Hypochondriac diſorder; for, as the ſagacious Sydenham has very wiſely obſerved: "The "ſhapes of Proteus, or the colours of "the Camelion, are not more nume-"rous and inconſiſtent, than the vari-"ations of the Hypochondriac or Hyſ-"teric diſeaſe."

CASE XI.

A YOUNG LADY, nineteen years of age, was, in Auguſt 1773, ſuddenly ſeized with a depreſſion of ſpirits, want of appetite, giddineſs, and great pain and uneaſineſs in the back, without any probable reaſon for ſuch an alteration in her mind and health. I was applied to on the twenty-fifth of the ſame month, when the height of the pulſe was up to a hundred and ten, the affection of the mind very great, ſhe ſighed often, looked deſpond-

ent,

ent, ſhed tears, and breathed quick and hard; ſome blood was immediately taken from the arm, and a veſicatory on the ſame evening applied to the back, a neutral mixture with a paregoric was adminiſtered, and ſhe reſted pretty well that night. On the morning following ſhe appeared much relieved, but in the afternoon was ſuddenly attacked with a ſtrong hyſteric fit, which held her, with very little intermiſſion, for five hours, with violent catchings and convulſions; when ſhe came out of the fit ſhe complained of pain in her ears and eyes, ſickneſs at her ſtomach, and riſing in her throat, became liſtleſs, yawned, ſtretched, and ſuddenly relapſed into a ſecond fit. As ſhe was of a delicate conſtitution, and

not-

notwithſtanding theſe complaints, the blood pure, and of a healthy complexion, and phlebotomy had ſo lately been uſed, I did not chooſe to repeat it; but adviſed a continuance of the warm pediluvium, which had not been omitted from the beginning of the fits; at the ſame time, the aſſiſtants were ordered to rub the hands, arms, and belly, with warm cloths. No motion to ſtool having happened for the laſt twelve hours, a laxative clyſter, with aſafœtida, was adminiſtered, and in the ſpace of two hours ſhe again came to herſelf; at firſt ſhe talked extravagant and incoherently, but ſoon became compoſed and rational, took a ſpoonful of camphorated julep, and was put into bed, where ſhe ſoon fell into a doſe, and a

dia-

diaphoreſis following: I found her much better in the morning, the pulſe was below eighty, the ſkin cool and moiſt, ſhe had no complaint in her head, the clyſter had operated, and ſhe was much better than I had ſeen her at all. As the nerves were in a moſt debilitated ſtate, I exhibited a decoction of orange-peel, with a few chalybeate drops, twice a day; recommended her to change of air, moderate exerciſe, and cold-bathing, with a uniform and ſteady perſeverance in the bitter infuſion, and drops; which advice being moſt ſtrictly attended to, ſhe had no return of the fits, but remained entirely well till the month of December following; when ſhe exchanged a ſingle for a marriage ſtate; and is now completely happy in

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an uninterrupted enjoyment of health, heightened by the endearing tenderneſs of a moſt amiable partner, and two children, the blooming pledges of connubial felicity.

CASE XII.

A WOMAN, aged forty-three, of a hale conſtitution, was ſubject to hyſteric fits, which had returned with great violence at ſhort intervals, for the laſt two years; ſhe had had recourſe to every means ſhe could think of, or afford: inſomuch, that from tolerable circumſtances ſhe was reduced to extreme need, and at length became an object of parochial conſideration; by whoſe direction ſhe was put under my care in the beginning of the year 1773. As ſhe always complained of a

load and weight at the ſtomach, I exhibited an emetic, and afterwards preſcribed a pill every night, conſiſting of two grains of aſafœtida, and half a grain of opium, with every third night two ſpoonsful of an infuſion of hiera picra, omitting the pill. The fits returned at intervals, after the commencement of this courſe, for about three months; but in every ſucceſſion became weaker, and the patient recovered her ſtrength and a tolerable ſhare of health; but if at any time ſhe perceived a ſenſe of ſuffocation, an oppreſſion at her ſtomach, or great anxiety of mind, the ſymptoms uſually fore-running the fit, ſhe had immediate recourſe to the above medicines, which infallibly relieved her. Much may be here aſcri-

bed

bed to the antiſpaſmodic quality of the opium; eſpecially, as it is certain, that this patient had often before taken great quantities of the fetid gums, without any manifeſt relief.

CASE XIII.

A WOMAN, about thirty years of age, applied to me in February 1775; ſhe had been ſubject to the higheſt hyſteric ſymptoms for two years paſt; and, during that time, was ſcarcely ever free from them for a fortnight together; had frequent convulſive catchings, and the leaſt noiſe or fright would immediately throw her into hyſteric fits. She had applied to a very worthy and ſenſible Gentleman of the faculty, in the neighbourhood where ſhe lived; who, uninfluenced

fluenced by the leaſt hope of reward (as ſhe was poor, and in very neceſſitous circumſtances) had paid very particular attention to her complaints; but his humane endeavours had hitherto proved unſucceſsful: from him I learned ſhe had taken frequent vomits, been bliſtered, taken caſtor, muſk, and other antiſpaſmodic medicines; but that he had never been able even to ſhorten the paroxyſms. It was now ſix days ſince ſhe had a fit; the pulſe was full, and her appearance rather plethoric; I bled her to eight ounces; the blood was ſizy and inflamed, and ſeparated but little ſerum, which was of a yellowiſh tinge. I gave her in a ſolution of the aſafœtida half a drachm of purified nitre, and twenty drops of the tinctura thebaica,

for

for two nights at bed-time; and, on every third evening, a gentle laxative medicine. Beſides this, the anti-hyſteric plaiſter was applied to the abdomen, and I adminiſtered a nitrous apozem to take twice a day, deſiring to hear from her in three weeks at fartheſt; in which time ſhe came herſelf, and with much chearfulneſs told me, ſhe had had no return of her fits, but, that her legs were much ſwelled and inflamed. The pulſe was very full, and admitted of loſing more blood; which, however, had not the inflammatory appearance of the laſt. I opened an iſſue in her leg, and deſired ſhe would omit the night-draught for a week; which ſhe did, only for two nights, and was ſeized with the Cramp in her left leg

and thigh, ſucceeded by an hyſteric ſpaſm of the whole body, which continued near an hour; the ſhorteſt ſpace the bye-ſtanders had remembered to have ſeen her ſuffer in any fit for twelve months before. I ordered her to repeat the draught occaſionally, to uſe the warm pediluvium, and to loſe a ſmall quantity of blood whenever the pulſe might be found in a condition to bear it; which, the Gentleman, who had before been employed, moſt civilly and condeſcendingly took upon him to obſerve. And the patient, in the May following, having, in the interim, no return of her fits, perſonally aſſured me ſhe was quite recovered. In the December after, ſhe was again attacked with an hyſ-

teric

teric fit, being thrown into it by a violent guſt of paſſion; but the ſame means being again uſed, ſhe recovered, and has had no return of it ſince.

CASE

CASE XIV.

A LADY, about the age of thirty, by long-continued grief and diſtreſs of mind; for which ſhe had in vain ſought relief, from change of place, company, and climate, was, in November 1776, attacked with an hyſteric fit, in which I was called to aſſiſt her. The ſtomach was greatly inflated, ſhe had violent reachings to vomit, the globus hyſtericus in her throat, palpitation of the heart, and convulſive motions of the extremities. The ſyſtem being

being much weakened by anxiety, and the pulſe quick and ſoft, bleeding in the fit was rejected, it was more than an hour before ſhe could ſwallow; when I gave her two ſpoonsful of a cordial julep with caſtor, and as ſoon as recovered from the fits endeavoured to ſoothe her nights with opiates; but ſhe had ſo conſtitutional an antipathy towards them, that they made her more reſtleſs and uneaſy, and were obliged to be declined. She was exceedingly reduced, from a freſh colour and lively preſence, to a pallid, dejected appearance; the alimentary canal was much weakened, and the ſtomach loaded with phlegm, which I endeavoured to remove by an emetic; which, though very mild in its operation,

tion, ſo extremely irritable was the ſyſtem, that a ſecond fit enſued, from which, it was more than three hours before ſhe entirely recovered. A galbanum plaiſter, with a little aſafœtida and camphor, was applied to the umbilical region, and two ſpoonsful of a camphorated julep exhibited at bed-time, with which ſhe reſted pretty well; and I was now encouraged to hope for that aſſiſtance from the camphor, which had been denied me in the opium; and herein was happily not miſtaken, for by giving her three ſpoonsful of the camphorated julep every night at bed-time, it anſwered the ſame end. The narcotic efficacy of the camphor, in ſome few inſtances, I had experienced before; but, in this caſe,

it

it was moſt particularly ſo. A decoction of orange-peels, with BOERHAAVE's *moſt excellent Strengthening Chalybeate*, was preſcribed to her twice a day; and, with much ſolicitation, ſhe was prevailed on to be more liberal in her diet, and chearful in her converſation; which, in a few weeks, removed the ſolicitude of her mind, and braced the habit to its priſtine tone.

CASE XV.

A YOUNG WOMAN, of nineteen, had been ſubject to hyſteric fits for three years, which returned very irregularly; ſometimes, at the diſtance of a week or fortnight; and at others, a month or five weeks. In April 1776, ſhe aſked my advice, complaining of a voracious appetite, fetid breath, tenſion of the ſtomach and abdomen, diſturbed nights, pains in her ſides and bowels, and an habitual dry cough; her complexion was pale and wan; and ſhe was ſubject to nervous tremblings.

On queſtioning her, I found, that about ſix months before, ſhe had brought away from her ſtomach, by vomit, three worms; which, according to her own deſcription, were of the large round kind, diſtinguiſhed by the name of Teres; from this account, and the ſymptoms ſhe complained of, there was the higheſt probability, that her fits were occaſioned by worms. I preſcribed her a courſe of the bitter purgatives; which, after having taken about a fortnight, expelled by ſtool, five large round worms, of the Teres kind. Between the purgations I gave her a ſtrong decoction of chamomile, with the *Chalybeate Tincture*; in which courſe ſhe continued with the moſt exact regularity, from the twenty-firſt of April

till

till the third day of June following; in which time the hyſteric fits had returned but twice, and that within the firſt three weeks, much weaker than uſual, and ſhe remained free from them till the latter end of November; when, after complaining of her head and ſtomach for ſeveral days, ſhe was again attacked with an hyſteric fit, which I had reaſon to ſuſpect was occaſioned by a regeneration of the vermicular animals. Accordingly I again preſcribed the bitter purges; after the ſecond of which, at the end of five days, ſhe voided by ſtool three ſmall round worms; the purges were continued, with proper intermiſſions, for ſix weeks, but without the appearance of any more worms. On the intervening

days I ſtrengthened her ſtomach with ſmall doſes of the Peruvian bark, given in ſubſtance. By which kind of treatment ſhe has had no return of her fits, enjoys a very good ſtate of health; and, at preſent, finds it unneceſſary to uſe any kind of medicinal aſſiſtance.

NERVOUS DISORDERS.

TO expatiate diſtinctly upon every complaint, and enumerate every ſymptom, which carries the name of NERVOUS, would be almoſt an endleſs taſk. I ſhall therefore take the liberty of giving the common, and moſt remarkable ſymptoms, in the words of the ingenious Dr. WHYTT, viz.

" WIND in the ſtomach and inteſ-
" tines, ſour belchings, ſqueamiſhneſs,
" heart-

" heart-burning, and vomiting of a wa-
" try ſtuff, tough phlegm, or a black
" liquor like the grounds of coffee;
" want of appetite, and indigeſtion, or
" an uncommon craving for food and
" quick digeſtion, a debility, faintneſs,
" and ſenſe of great emptineſs about
" the ſtomach, when hungry; a ſtrong
" deſire for rare or uncommon ſorts of
" food, or for things that can afford no
" nouriſhment; a viſible ſwelling or in-
" flation of the ſtomach, eſpecially after
" eating; ſometimes a ſevere pain, with
" cramps in that *viſcus*; an oppreſſion
" about the *præcordia*; an uneaſy,
" though not painful ſenſation, about
" the ſtomach, attended with low ſpi-
" rits, anxiety, and ſometimes great
" timidity; ſtrong pulſations within the
" belly,

" belly, ſpaſms in the bowels, and diſ-
" tenſions of certain portions of them;
" violent cholic pains, a rumbling noiſe
" from wind paſſing through the inteſ-
" tines, the body ſometimes too lax,
" oftener bound; pains in the back and
" belly, reſembling thoſe of the nephri-
" tic kind; a ſenſe of irritation and
" heat in the neck of the bladder and
" *urethra*, with a frequent deſire to
" make water; a great diſcharge of lim-
" pid urine; at other times a frequent
" ſpitting. Sudden fluſhings of heat over
" the whole body, ſhiverings, a ſenſe
" of cold in certain parts, as if water
" was poured on them, at other times
" an unuſual glow; flying pains in the
" arms and limbs; a troubleſome pain
" in the back, and between the ſhoul-
" ders;

" ders; pains, attended with a hot ſen-
" ſation, ſhifting often from the ſides
" or back to the interior parts of the
" abdomen, cramps, or convulſive mo-
" tions of the muſcles, or of a few of
" their fibres; ſudden ſtartings of the
" legs and arms, almoſt conſtant invo-
" luntary motions of the muſcles of the
" neck and head, or arms and legs; a
" general convulſion affecting, at once,
" the ſtomach, bowels, throat, legs,
" arms, and, indeed, almoſt the whole
" members of the body, in which the
" patient ſtruggles as in a violent epilep-
" tic fit; long faintings, in ſome caſes,
" following one another after ſhort in
" tervals. Palpitations or trembling of
" the heart; the pulſe very variable, fre-
" quently natural, ſometimes uncom-
" monly

" monly ſlow, and at other times quick,
" oftener ſmall than full, and, on cer-
" tain occaſions, irregular or intermit-
" ting; a dry cough, with difficulty of
" breathing, or a conſtriction of the
" lungs, ſometimes returning periodi-
" cally; yawning, the hiccup, frequent
" ſighings, and a ſenſe of ſuffocation,
" as from a ball or lump in the throat;
" fits of crying, and convulſive laugh-
" ing. Although in the day-time the
" patients are generally pretty cool, and
" the pulſe ſometimes ſlower than na-
" tural; yet, in the night, eſpecially in
" time of ſleep, hot fluſhings often
" ſpread over almoſt the whole body,
" the pulſe becomes quicker and
" ſtronger, and a faintneſs, or ſome
" degree of ſickneſs at the ſtomach is

" felt; a giddineſs, eſpecially after
" riſing up haſtily; pains in the head,
" ſometimes returning periodically; a
" violent pain in a ſmall part of the
" head, not larger than a ſhilling, as if
" a nail was driven into it; a ſinging in
" the ears; a dimneſs of ſight, and ap-
" pearance of a thick miſt, without any
" viſible fault in the eyes. Objects are
" ſometimes ſeen double, and unſual
" ſmells are perceived; obſtinate watch-
" ings, attended ſometimes with an un-
" eaſineſs which is not to be deſcribed,
" but which is leſſened by getting out
" of bed; diſturbed ſleep, frightful
" dreams, the night-mare; ſometimes a
" drowſineſs, and too great an inclina-
" tion to ſleep; fear, peeviſhneſs, ſad-
" neſs, deſpair; at other times, high
" ſpirits;

" ſpirits; wandering thoughts, impaired
" memory, ridiculous fancies; ſtrange
" perſuaſions of their labouring under
" diſeaſes of which they are quite
" free; and imagining their complaints
" to be as dangerous as they find them
" troubleſome, they are often angry
" with thoſe who would convince them
" of their miſtake."

CASE XVI.

A GENTLEMAN, five and fifty years of age, had, for three years together, been afflicted with a moſt complicated nervous diſorder, attended with great dejection, horrors, flatulencies, tremblings, catchings, unconnected thoughts, wandring ideas, impaired memory, giddineſs, pain in his head, palpitation of the heart, and numbneſs in his hands and fingers. In the beginning of the year 1772, he had been adviſed to try a courſe of nervous medicines immediately under

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the care of a Gentleman in London, celebrated for his peculiar attention to diſorders of this kind; but in the May following, he returned into the country, not at all benefited by the experiment; ſoon after which he was ſeized with the dyſentery, which, after continuing three days, was ſubmitted to my care; when I gave him a gentle emetic, of fifteen grains of ipecacuanha; and afterwards, to eaſe the violent pain he complained of in his inteſtines, and defend their internal coats from the acrid humours which vellicated them, I ordered the ſtarch clyſter, with half an ounce of diacodium in each, to be thrown up three times a day; and milk, impregnated with iron, was frequently given in ſmall quantities, which

proved

proved effectual, and the dyſentery was ſubdued; but, in a few days after, the numbneſs in his hands and fingers, which he had long before complained of, increaſed, and he was attacked with a paralytic ſtroke in his right arm, which felt very cold, and the pulſe was ſenſibly lower and weaker in that than in the other arm. A veſicatory was applied above and below the cubit, and an embrocation uſed of an antiparalytic kind: compoſed of an ounce and a half of cantharides in powder; half an ounce of the ſeeds of biſhop's weed, and a quart of rectified ſpirits of wine; digeſted for a few days, and then ſtrained off for uſe. On the medicinal hours, for many days together, he took two ſcruples, in a doſe, of valerian powdered,

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in a glaſs of white wine; and fifty caſtor drops of a night, going to-bed, in a cup-ful of weak chocolate. In about three weeks, the muſcles of the diſordered arm recovered their natural tone, and he could handle any thing with his natural ſenſe of feeling; and, at the end of three months, he was entirely recovered of the paralyſis; and his nervous ſymptoms were, in general, much alleviated. To brace the ſolids, and accelerate the blood's motion, the cold-bath was adviſed, with the uſe of the *ſtrengthening chalybeate drops*; which, with proper exerciſe, and diet, re-eſtabliſhed his health; ſo, that in the October following, he had ſcarcely any nervous ſymptom; nor have I heard any complaint of that kind ſince.

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CASE XVII.

IT is generally allowed difficult to fix a juſt criterion, by which nervous diſorders may be diſtinguiſhed from others; but where there is a univerſal delicacy of the whole frame, with too great a degree of ſenſibility of the nervous ſyſtem; as in the caſe I am about to recite, no impropriety can appear in calling the caſe truly *nervous*. The ſubject, was a YOUNG LADY, of ſo exquiſitely a delicate habit, that the higheſt nervous,

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and hyſteric ſpaſms, were produced, by the application, only, of a bliſter; which, in the courſe of many trials, ſhe, for three years paſt, had unſucceſsfully made, had more, than once, been recommended, and never, without cauſing thoſe ſymptoms. In the autumn of the year 1773, ſhe applied to an eminent phyſician, in London, who had endeavoured to appeaſe the ſpaſms by opiates; but ſhe could not bear them in the quantity at firſt preſcribed, and, though given in ſmaller doſes, the antipathy recurred. Bitters, with the bark, were tried; immerſion in cold water, proper exerciſe, and change of air, were not neglected; a religious obſervation had been paid to the diet; watry and flatulent food was

rejected;

rejected; and every thing that could be thought corruptive of the blood, or enervating to the tone of the ſtomach, cautiouſly abſtained from. Nervous powders and drops had been taken; but her heat, fluſhings, and palpitations, were not leſſened by them: and every exhibition of ſagapenum, galbanum, aſafœtida, penny-royal water, volatile ſpirits, bark, tincture of wood ſoot, and muſk, was found equally unſucceſsful. In April 1775 ſhe applied to me, and related her caſe with great preciſion and exactneſs; complaining of pain in her back, and weakneſs of her ſtomach, very uneaſy and watchful nights, want of appetite, lowneſs of ſpirits, flutterings, fluſhings in her face, heat in the palms

of her hands, loathings, and a ſwimming in her head. I could do no leſs than acquaint her of the little proſpect left to be ſerviceable in this caſe, after the experienced and approved characters ſhe had named, to have conſulted; whoſe confeſſedly ſuperior abilities, perſpicuity, and judgment, having been employed in vain, ſerved to leave but little hope for my beſt endeavours. However, finding her willing to try ſomething, and partial to my directions; in order to ſtrengthen the alimentary canal, and allay the febrile heats, I preſcribed her ten drops of acid elixir of vitriol, every morning, at eleven, and afternoon, at four o'clock, in a cup of roſemary tea; and, at bed-time, exhibited a neutral draught, with one drop of the tinctura thebaica,

increaſing

increaſing the doſe guttatim; till, at length, ſhe could take eighteen or twenty of them, without experiencing the ill effects which had before reſulted from the exhibition of the ſame medicine. By a continuance of theſe means only, in the beginning of June following, I had the ſatisfaction to find the ſpaſms appeaſed, and her nights uninterrupted; the ſtomach was invigorated, the digeſtion amended, the pulſe cooled, and lowered to a natural uniformity of motion; her ſpirits were relieved, the ſwimming in her head was removed; and ſhe has ſince enjoyed as good a ſtate of health as ſhe had ever done before, or probably ever can expect to do, with one, whoſe nervous frame is naturally ſo ſenſible delicate and irritable.

☞ IT is but right to premiſe, that in the FIVE SUBSEQUENT CASES, where the acid elixir of vitriol, in an infuſion of betony, was taken to advantage, that the complaints were of long eſtabliſhment; that acids were not, at any time, diſagreeable to the patients; and, that theſe caſes are ſelected from a great many others of leſs note, and continuance, where the elixir of vitriol has been ſucceſsfully adminiſtered.

CASE XVIII.

A SINGLE LADY, about the age of thirty, had, for years, complained of weakneſs of the head, and whole body;

body; at times been ſubject to ſtartings, twitchings, indigeſtion, thirſt, wind, and hectic heats. She had taken variety of remedies for diſorders of the nerves, which had ſcarcely ever yielded her temporary eaſe, and much impaired her circumſtances. Pains and uneaſineſs in her ſtomach and belly ſhe almoſt inceſſantly complained of, was frequently low-ſpirited, and the pulſe was always too quick. On the 13th day of September 1774, I preſcribed the elixir to be taken in an infuſion of commen Betony, with two ounces of ſtrong cinnamon water to a quart; which, upon many trials, I had found deſerved the preference as its vehicle. She at firſt began with eight drops, in a cup-ful of it once a day, and

and finding it agree with her, was encouraged to take it twice: ſhe found it invigorate her more than any thing ſhe had taken before; and, by the almoſt unremitting uſe of it twice a day, till the February following, ſhe grew ſurprizingly better; and, if at any time, ſhe has occaſion to fear a return of her old ſymptoms, ſhe has immediate recourſe to this medicine, as a certain aſſiſtance and relief.

CASE XIX.

A Poor Man, had been in a very low and dejected ſtate, for upwards of two years, with loſs of memory, pain in his ſtomach, horrors, miſt before his eyes, noiſe in his ears, univerſal weakneſs of the nervous ſyſtem, palpitation of the heart, loſs of appetite, and numbneſs in the extremities. An opulent neighbour of his, had, moſt humanely, procured him ſome of the firſt advice in this kingdom, the Spaw waters, and ſome adver-

tiſed Nervines; but without any effect. By my direction he purſued a courſe of the elixir and infuſion, and, in leſs than ſix month's time, by the entire uſe of them alone, got ſo far the better of his complaints, that he was enabled to gain his own livelihood by hard labour. He began to take theſe medicines about the 29th of June 1775, at firſt, only once a day, in the quantity of ſix or eight drops; and afterwards increaſed them to five and twenty, twice in that time.

CASE XX.

A MAN, about ſix and thirty, who had greatly impaired his health, by exceſs of drinking, applied to me in January 1775, complaining of many nervous ſymptoms; ſuch as a conſtant pain in his head, weakneſs of ſtomach, violent oppreſſion of wind, ſudden tremors, cauſeleſs fears, reachings, loathings, dizzineſs, and want of appetite. He had been more than three years in this ſtate, without finding any relief, from the frequent experiments he had made

made of many medicines, judged to be ſpecifically nervous; his habit of drinking he had curtailed, almoſt to a plan of temperance, with which I wiſhed him rigidly to comply, as the moſt effectual chance of relief from the medicines I ſhould give him; he faithfully promiſed to acquieſce, and as he lived at a great diſtance from me, a quantity of the drops and decoction, ſufficient for three months, was given him; but it was near three weeks, before the expiration of that time, that I received a letter from him, couched in the ſtrongeſt terms, of the moſt reſpectful gratitude, which he entertained for the ſervice I had done him, and deſiring, that his caſe might be made

public;

public; which, I did not then choose to comply with, on account of reserving it for this publication.

CASE XXI.

A MAN, near fifty years of age, applied to me in the month of February 1776, with a letter from a Gentleman of the Faculty, in the village where he lived, deſcribing his caſe to be of two years ſtanding; that it was nervous, and wiſhing, that I would endeavour to aſſiſt him. His ſymptoms, as the letter expreſſed, were a ſoft quick pulſe, the nervous and vaſcular ſyſtem debilitated, a ſlow fever, indigeſtion, cold chills with fluſhing heats, giddineſs, weak ſto-

mach, heat of urine, trembling and weakneſs in the knees, no refreſhment from ſleep, oppreſſion of wind, flying pains over the whole body, pale urine, and ſometimes a ſenſation of cold of ſhort duration. The letter added, that he had taken the common Nervines; bitters had not been omitted; and, that ſea-bathing had been uſed: but all without the wiſh'd-for ſucceſs. The ſea-bathing I deſired might again be tried, and continued for ſome time: adviſed an opiate at bed-time, and recommended the acid drops and betonic infuſion, to be given at the diſcretion of the Gentleman who had favoured me with his caſe, and who very kindly undertook to obſerve my directions; the reſult of which was,

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another letter from him in the June following, acquainting me, that he had punctually, and without variation, adhered to my plan, and, had the pleasure to inform me, the patient was amazingly amended for the better.

CASE XXII.

A YOUNG MAN, of about twenty, in a low and relaxed ſtate, with a conſtitution ſeemingly pre-diſpoſed to nervous ſymptoms, had, for ſixteen months, greatly ſuffered from ſymptoms of the higheſt nervous kind. He had tried bark, ſteel, valerian, aſafœtida, caſtor, muſk, camphor, and change of air; but had received no permanent relief from either. In January laſt, he ſought my aſſiſtance; and, by eleven weeks continuance in a courſe of

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the acid drops and infuſion, with the uſe of the cold bath, the ſolids were braced, the vibrations invigorated, and the body and nerves reſtored to a ſtrength, equal to that which they had poſſeſſed in his beſt ſtate of health.

THIS being the laſt Caſe communicable, at preſent; the AUTHOR, thinks it but an act of juſtice in him, to add: THAT PUBLIC ENCOURAGEMENT having kept pace with his aſſiduity to deſerve it, and more particularly ſo,

ſo, in regard to INSANE PATIENTS; it might ſeem an unpardonable neglect, were he to cloſe this ESSAY, without expreſſing the moſt grateful acknowledgments to his employers in general; for whoſe favours, and good opinion, he ſhall ever remain much more indebted, than to any kind of ſelf-aſſumed merit.

F I N I S.