

**A second essay on the medicinal virtues of hemlock. In which its efficacy in the cure of many desperate disorders is fully confirmed / Together with corollaries and cautions. Translated from the original Latin, by a physician.**

**Contributors**

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A  
S E C O N D E S S A Y  
O N T H E  
M E D I C I N A L V I R T U E S  
O F  
H E M L O C K , & c .

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SECOND EDITION  
MEDICAL VIRTUES  
HEMLOCK

to which is added a full description of the  
plant, and a full account of its  
SECOND EDITION  
MEDICAL VIRTUES  
HEMLOCK, &c.

With Observations on the  
Treatment of the  
HEMLOCK, &c.



A  
SECOND ESSAY  
ON THE  
MEDICINAL VIRTUES  
OF  
HEMLOCK.

In which its Efficacy in the Cure of many desperate Disorders is fully confirmed by a great Variety of REMARKABLE CASES, where this Remedy has been administered by several eminent Physicians and Surgeons in different Parts of Germany and Flanders, as well as by the AUTHOR,

Dr. ANTONY STÖRCK,

Aulic Councillor and one of the Principal Physicians to Her Most Sacred Majesty the EMPRESS QUEEN, and Physician to the Pazmarian City-Hospital at Vienna.

Together

With COROLLARIES and CAUTIONS.

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Translated from the Original LATIN, by a  
PHYSICIAN.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for T. BECKET, and P. A DE HONDT, at  
Tully's Head, near Surry-Street in the Strand.

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M DCC LXI.



SECOND ESSAY  
MEDICINAL VIRTUES  
OF

THE M.L.O.C.K.  
M.L.O.C.K.

In which his Efficacy in the Cure of many  
degenerate Disorders is fully confirmed by a  
great Variety of Remarkable Cases  
where this Remedy has been administered by  
several eminent Physicians and Surgeons in  
all parts of the World.

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Authentic and one of the Principal Physicians to  
Her Majesty's Sacred Majesty the Emperor of  
and Physician to the Imperial City of Vienna.

With COROLLARIES and CAUTIONS.

Translated from the Original Latin by  
P. H. M. O. C. A. M. D.

L. O. M. D. O. A. M. D.  
Printed for T. Beckwith and T. A. Smith in the Strand.  
1711.



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T O

Her Most Sacred Majesty,

MARIA TERESA,

QUEEN of HUNGARY,

EMPERESS of the ROMANS.

**Y**OUR Majesty's most gracious condescension in accepting the dedication of my first essay on the medicinal virtues of hemlock, has excited all my diligence and attention in the continuance of the same pursuit.

I have made several new trials of this plant, I have diligently observed the history of disorders, I have carefully collected cases from other practitioners; and of all these, this second essay is composed.

It



# DEDICATION.

It contains several useful observations ; and one truth is very clearly demonstrated in it, that most cruel and dangerous distempers are, by the hemlock alone, abated, cured.

Many persons are now alive, who, without this remedy, had been already dead.

As every thing which tends to the public utility, is acceptable to your Majesty, I flatter myself, that this dissertation, which is published with that end, will be favorably received by you.

I have the honor to be, your Majesty's

most faithful subject,

and devoted servant,

Antony Störck.

The



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T H E

P R E F A C E.

**T**H E oftener I have administered the hemlock, the more I have had an opportunity of admiring the virtue and efficacy of this plant.

There are numberless disorders, in which it is of great benefit and use.

But it is needless to make any encomiums here upon this plant, as the cases themselves, most carefully collected, and minutely described, contain sufficient accounts of its service and importance.

I often had reason to rejoice, at seeing patients who were despaired of and abandoned



## The P R E F A C E.

done by other physicians, recovered in consequence of having used this plant, and completely cured of every complaint.

What can be dearer to any man than health?

I shall employ therefore all the leisure, which my practice will allow me, in new experiments, and in discovering remedies, which may be efficacious in obstinate diseases.

Nor are my hopes of success entirely vain.

I shall, however, attempt nothing rashly; but shall always make a previous trial on brute animals, and on my own person, of any remedy which I shall propose to administer afterwards to any of my patients.

In this manner, my conscience will be safe, and my conduct upright.



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A  
P R E F A C E,  
B Y T H E

Translator of the following ESSAY.

**T**O write a preface to a book, is often endeavoring to entertain the reader about that of which he is supposed to have hitherto no knowledge; but as most persons who intend to read this second dissertation of Doctor Störck's, have perused already his first essay, a few reflexions concerning his opinion, may without impropriety, be prefixed to the present publication.

The very grounds of the obligation which mankind will owe to Doctor Störck for this discovery, if confirmed to be true, by the united voice of all candid practitioners in physic, appear at present the greatest obstacle that it meets.

To prove, in opposition to a most ancient and learned prejudice, that hemlock can, not only, be safely taken inwardly, but that also, in every method of application, it is of considerable efficacy in various very difficult disorders, and deserves, even in some, to be accounted a specific; is taking so huge a stride beyond the beaten path of medicinal doctrines, is forcing, with  
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such violence, opinions from the mind, to which deep-rooted custom had rendered them pleasing and familiar; that no ridicule, however unjust, but will be thrown upon it; that no objection, however weak, but will be enforced against it.

Weak or interested men have often so falsely attributed eminent virtues to various plants and preparations, that not only universal medicines, which are as contrary to experience as to reason, are now unanimously decried; but even every effort made to prove the efficacy of any new remedy, in several different complaints, is generally supposed to be the effect of credulity or deceit; and in order to acquire a reputation in the world, after having cured the disorders for which it has been applied, it must likewise overcome the ridicule of being compared, by the affecters of wit, and the lovers of suspicion, to former attempts of the like kind, that began with success, and ended in disappointment.

What has happened to men of the most sense and candor, has also been the lot of Doctor Störck.

Some few persons have, at the same time, accused him of asserting more than he observed, and of meaning more than he asserted. They who could scarce give credit to the small number of cases he relates, in which, some of the complaints were cured, and some relieved by the hemlock plant, chose, however, to attribute to him a design of extending its use to much greater lengths, and of passing it for an infallible specific in many distempers, differing essentially



essentially from each other, and in every complicated combination of circumstances and symptoms that could possibly attend them.

But, far from a desire of exaggeration, Doctor Störck seems indeed to start back, and be amazed at the success of his own experiments, and at the extensiveness of his discovery; and what is as remarkable as it is conclusive in his favor, his correspondents have administered this medicine in a greater variety of distempers, and have related more surprising cures than most of those which he communicates to the public from his own experience.

And yet, notwithstanding any multitude of facts, however well supported, or reasons however valid, it will still carry the appearance of falsehood, or of folly, to declare that any one remedy has completely cured diseases so different from each other, as the gout, the scurvy, and the rheumatism, together with schirrous swellings, and ulcerated cancers. The censure would certainly prove just, were it pretended, from these single instances of success, to draw a general conclusion in favor of the efficacy of this medicine, in all other gout, scurvies, rheumatisms, whatsoever, as well as in every cancer.

But here the error lies, which is so favorable to physical pretenders who are willing to deceive, and so plausible in the eyes of those who are ignorant of the true nature of disorders.

The common reader will, perhaps, be exceedingly surprised to hear what every judicious



student of the medical art must be sensible of, that diseases are not so much to be considered from the signs which manifest them outwardly, as from the inward causes which produce them; that to soften a swelling, or mitigate a pain, for the present moment, is to palliate, not to cure; a temporary relief attended frequently by future evil; that he alone possesses the merit, and deserves the reputation of a true physician, who, with a view to the real amendment of his patient's health and constitution, attacks the disorder in its source, endeavoring to rectify that disposition of the solids, and correct those vices of the humors, which have been the causes of its appearance; and preferring to take away the foundation of the ill, rather than to be employed in alleviating, successively, the consequences that might arise from it.

They who are acquainted with the animal oeconomy, when sound and when disturbed, are sufficiently conscious, that according to the temperaments of men, and to external circumstances, which vary to so great a degree, symptoms very distant in their appearance from each other, are produced, however, by the same alteration of the firm, or the same corruption of the fluid parts; as well as that, from causes very separate in themselves, the same disorder may often arise.

Hence it appears not difficult to account, why remedies, whose efficacy consists in destroying the cause of ill, and which have been reckoned most specific, such as mercury, for example, and the bark,



bark, sometimes fail in curing venereal infections or intermitting fevers ; why, in the same disorder, the experienced practitioner must change so often his method and his medicines ; why one remedy is capable of curing different complaints ; and why that remedy, which has proved once successful, may not be always found sufficient against the like complaint.

From this doctrine, perhaps, sometimes not sufficiently considered, tho confirmed and allowed, of different distempers arising from the same origin, and different sources producing the same distemper, by a variation of dispositions and circumstances, the following conclusions may be reasonably deduced : that, of those evils against each of which any one remedy commonly prevails, the predisposing causes are generally the same, subjected to those exceptions only where this remedy is found to fail ; that those diseases, which on various occasions require opposite applications, depend on many principles ; that the several disorders which a single remedy subdues, however distant in their appearances, are connected in their causes ; and that therefore, in these cases where Dr. Störck and his correspondents have found the hemlock efficacious in other distempers as well as in cancerous complaints, in which last it is an almost certain and sovran cure, there existed an analogy between that habit of body of which cancers are commonly the consequence, and that other which, in the instances related by these gentlemen, produced the scurvy, gout, or rheumatism.

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He who considers with attention these consequences which I have drawn from undoubted truths, will become sensible of the injustice with which we are apt to confound with the credulous or deceitful, who boast of secrets infallible in many ills, those other persons who seek remedies against inveterate ailments with sagacity, judgment and experience, as well as with humanity, candor, and disinterestedness, and who content themselves simply with relating those instances in which they or others have found such particular plants or preparations useful.

It well deserves to be remarked, that Doctor Störck, nor any of those who followed his directions, have ever administered the hemlock till the medicines most commended in similar complaints had been found ineffectual. This conduct they have pursued, after multiplied success, even in all the schirrous or cancerous cases which have been entrusted to their care. Much less were they inclined to prescribe it in other disorders, where they had fewer grounds to expect benefit from it. And if any thing can ensure the reputation of this remedy, surely it must be, that many persons, in many places, have received infinite service from it, in various desperate diseases, which had resisted the most powerful remedies, and had been thought incurable by some of the best physicians.

To the examples of its success in Germany, Italy, and Flanders, which are inserted in Doctor Störck's dissertation, I may with confidence subjoin, that in Scotland and in Ireland several  
cures



cures have been performed by it ; and that even in London, where it has met with multiplied obstructions from the eagerness of some who had not patience to wait the effect of its operation, from the interested clamors of others, from the mistake which several have committed in choosing a wrong species of the hemlock, and from the too great nicety of apothecaries in depurating the juice, many persons, however, have received benefit from it.

If I may be allowed the pleasing fancy of supposing this article in medicine carried to perfection, nothing more now seems necessary to complete the discovery of this ingenuous and humane physician, and to render it superior, perhaps, to mercury, opium, or the bark, as far as we are yet acquainted with them, than to possess the method of distinguishing with certainty from the rest, the few cancerous and schirrous cases in which this plant is useless or pernicious; and of finding out, on the contrary, the particular kinds of gout, scurvy, rheumatism, and other disorders, where it may be administered with security and advantage.

After having hitherto considered the conduct of the author of the following dissertation, the translator of it desires to be heard a moment for himself.

An original work, in any language, may be written with latitude and spirit; intended for the learned, technical terms may be frequently employed, allusions may be admitted, many things are supposed to be understood previously by the reader.

If the latin tongue is chosen, it is addressed  
to



to persons of knowlege in every part, precluding, at the same time, the ignorant of all nations.


Translations from a living language, or even from any other of the dead ones, may aspire to a higher class of readers ; but he, who changes latin phrases into english, must seldom expect to be perused but by the young and ignorant ; except, perhaps, when men of letters, from a spirit of criticism and curiosity, condescend to run it over, according to their phrase, in a few minutes.

Let such, therefore, reflect, that this translation is by no means calculated for them ; that consequently, all latin and greek words are generally left out, when more familiar expressions could be recollected ; that the good opinion of the public being sometimes necessary as a sanction to practitioners in the prescribing of new remedies, so care has been taken to adapt to the general perusal the translation of this essay on the virtues of hemlock, by avoiding, as much as possible, technical and appropriated terms, by endeavoring to hide all foreign or uncouth appearance, and by rendering the stile as clear, as concise, and as little awkward, as the nature of the subject and the abilities of the translator would allow.





## CHAPTER I.

 ANY disputes have arisen among physicians and botanists, concerning the particular species of hemlock of which I have prepared the extract.

The description, however, which I gave of it from Morison, in my former dissertation, was sufficiently clear.

I shall therefore only add at present, that the hemlock which I employ is the *large, common, spotted, stinking hemlock*.

Linnæus mentions it under the name of *Conium seminibus striatis*, in his book of the species of plants, page 243, number 1.

It is described by Mathiolus in p. 772.

Caspar Bauhin has it in p. 160. Tabern. in p. 1170.

Clusius calls it *Cicutaria major vulgaris*. See hist. 2. p. 200.

For the purpose of an extract, this plant is best gathered before its flowers are full blown.

Every part of the plant, except the root, may be employed upon this occasion.

The juice, expressed into an earthen glazed vessel, is to be placed over a slow fire, and often stirred, in order to be boiled to the consistence of a thick extract.



Apothecaries seem to have been too careful in depurating this juice; for I rather prefer the extract which is thickest, and almost equal to a pulp.

It may also be prepared from a decoction of the dried plant, when it cannot be procured fresh: but by this means its efficacy is very much diminished.

Some hundreds weight of the extract of hemlock, prepared from the dried plant, have been sent from Vienna into other countries. It was done without my knowledge, and gives me great uneasiness; for the extract thus prepared cannot produce such good nor such quick effects, as if it had been made from the plant when fresh.

This herb was always suspected by the apothecaries to be poisonous; so that at first they were unwilling to prepare as great a quantity as I foresaw would be necessary.

But when a demand was made for it from all parts, the fresh plant was no longer to be found.

## CHAPTER II.

### CASE I.

**A** Female servant, twenty-two years old, complained ever since her childhood of schirrous swellings of the glands under the ears, and near the jaw-bone. Five years ago a large swelling arose in her left cheek, which, extending itself down the same side of her neck, to her collar-bone, was



was hard always as a stone, and without pain.

Within these last three years this swelling gradually increased to the size of a man's head; the glands of the arm-pits became also hard; fifteen schirs\*, the smallest of which was equal to a hen's egg, filled also the right side of the neck; and both her breasts were likewise become schirrous.

This woman, disagreeable as such a situation must render her, contracted, however, the venereal disorder.

She came on this occasion to our hospital.

I treated the new infection with antivenereal decoctions, and purges mixed with calomel; the consequence of which was, that some of the pocky symptoms were mitigated.

But, as this method of cure seemed too slow, I changed it in favour of a solution of corrosive sublimate in corn spirits, together with a strong and plentiful decoction of burdock root.

By this means she was perfectly cured of the venereal disorder in the space of five weeks.

But no alteration happened in the schirrous swellings; except, that in the right breast greater pain was felt.

I was now willing to attempt dissolving these several schirs; but the patient would consent to remain no longer in the hospital,

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firmly

\* The translator, who cannot but be offended, as well as most readers are, with the disagreeable hissing of the word *schirusses*, and considering also *schirs* as a sound more natural, and better adapted to the genius of the English language, hesitated not in his preference, nor strove to find an authority in his favour.



firmly persuaded, as she was, that no medicine whatever could have any effect on swellings of so large a size, and so antient a standing.

She was dismissed : But being long accustomed to a loose and abandoned life, she was not sufficiently cautious in her conduct ; so that, being caught in the commission of a crime, she was ordered to be confined in a jail.

There she took a continual fever ; and thus was again brought to our hospital.

Antiphlogistic remedies were applied ; and she recovered from this new disorder in a fortnight.

And now she was better pleased still to continue in the hospital, than to be conducted back to prison.

Thus an excellent opportunity offered of trying how far the power and virtues of the hemlock would extend.

I applied nothing outwardly in the beginning, in order to discover what the inward use alone of hemlock could effect against such obstinate swellings.

I administered, morning and evening, four pills, each of which weighed two grains.

In five days time the several swellings were already more moveable ; and the large swelling on the left side of the neck was much softer to the touch.

This circumstance convinced me that hemlock taken inwardly alone was of great efficacy ; of much greater, indeed, than the strongest preparations of mercury, howsoever applied.

In



In order to hasten the cure, however, I ordered the several swellings to be covered with a hemlock-plaister, and over this a cataplasm also of the same herb; and I increased the dose of the pills.

The tenth day, the schir on the left side of the neck was considerably softer and smaller than before.

The same alteration I perceived in both breasts.

The rest of the swellings, tho less hard, were not diminished in their size, and, towards the surface, were inflamed and painful.

The seventeenth day, the swelling in the left part of the neck was now much smaller; both breasts were soft and moveable; the other schirs began to tend towards suppuration.

The patient now swallowed six pills in the morning, and as many in the evening: each pill contained four grains.

The twenty-fourth day, some of the schirs were already turned into matter; they were not however laid open by the knife, because the skin seemed to threaten rupture.

The swelling of the neck, and those of the breasts, were diminished.

On the following days, some of the swellings burst, and gave issue to a good and plentiful pus; however, the plaster and cataplasm were still applied.

The thirty-sixth day, the swelling in some places disappeared, and in some parts the skin which had burst began to join; the



schirrous swellings of the neck and breasts were diminished two thirds of their former size.

I now began to administer five pills four times a day, every pill weighing four grains; nor did I afterwards encrease that quantity.

And thus, by the continued application of the plaster and the cataplasm of hemlock, and by the use of the extract of the same herb, this woman was perfectly cured in the space of less than three months; her neck and breasts returned to their natural state; and, from being a most dreadful object, she became tolerably handsome and agreeable.

The menses appeared at proper intervals, and in sufficient quantity; nor did their presence interrupt the application of the remedies, which she continued to take without the least inconvenience.

An antiphlogistic purgative was administered to her twice only, during the whole time, when she happened to be costive.

The hemlock produced not the least disorder or disturbance in her health or constitution: her stomach remained good, her strength was not diminished, nor did she complain of any pain.

It gave me great joy to find such a rebellious and obstinate disorder so very easily and perfectly cured by the sole use of hemlock.

And as this patient behaved with great decency and piety while she was treated in the hospital, and as she promised to remain honest



nest for the future, I obtained her pardon and her liberty.

## C A S E II.

**A** Woman, six and thirty years of age, was brought to our hospital on account of a large, hard, and painful swelling of her left breast.

I found the swelling equal to a child's head, hard, unmoveable, and, towards the surface, divided into several smaller, softer, and more painful lumps or elevations; the veins were distended; the left arm was swollen, and in such pain, that it could not be moved.

I applied outwardly some of the softest linen, in order to preserve the parts from being hurt by rubbing; and, as to inward remedies, I ordered to be taken, morning and evening, twelve grains of the extract of hemlock, besides an infusion of ground-ivy.

The fourth day after this treatment was begun, the breast was softer to the touch; but the lumps grew larger, and from them some ichorous matter issued out; the pains, besides, were great; and at night an opiate became necessary.

The seventh day, the symptoms being the same, I gave, morning and evening, eighteen grains of the extract.

The ninth day, three lumps broke, and from them issued a large quantity of dark colored stinking matter; the bigness of the breast,



breast, and the acuteness of the pains, were much decreased.

The eleventh day, fetid ichor came away in plenty; the pain was moderate; the color of the breast was reddish, nor did any lividness appear.

I now gave, morning and evening, a scruple of the extract of hemlock.

The fourteenth day, the ulcers discharged a very large quantity of ichor.

The breast was smaller; but the patient's strength was much diminished; her whole body shuddered; and soon after her pulse quickened; and she became hot and thirsty.

On this, I decreased the dose of the extract, and administered only ten grains in the morning, and as much at night; but I ordered, besides, a dram of the best peruvian bark to be taken every three hours in the day.

The sixteenth day, the shudderings were less frequent; instead of ichor, pus was now discharged; the patient was still, however, weak and thirsty: the same remedies were continued.

The twenty first day, no shudderings were now perceived; her strength was increased, and her appetite returned; the pus discharged was good, and the breast reassumed almost its natural color: the swelling that still remained, was, however, very hard, but not in the least painful.

The same treatment was continued six days longer; but things persisted yet in the same state.

This



This circumstance induced me, on the twenty-seventh day, to encrease again the dose; and I gave eighteen grains of the hemlock-extract in the morning, and as much at night. I ordered also a dram of peruvian bark to be taken twice a day; outwardly I applied a cataplasm of milk and hemlock; the holes of the breast were filled with fine lint, which had been moistened in an infusion of hemlock.

The thirtieth day, the patient recovered strength; the color of her breast was natural; the matter in the ulcer was of the right kind; she eat heartily, and slept soundly. I now ordered no more bark, but returned to the use of hemlock alone; I administered, morning and evening, a scruple of the extract, with a few ounces of the infusion of elder-flowers, and the leaves of speedwell and ground-ivy.

The fiftieth day, the size of the breast was considerably diminished; and the pus was good; but the pain was so acute, that she passed the nights disquietly, notwithstanding the help of opiates.

I observed, however, that, after such great pains, a very large quantity of serum came away from the ulcers, and that the swelling was diminished.

I then ordered a dram of the extract to be taken every day; and the hemlock-fomentation was also diligently continued.

On the sixty-fourth day, the ulcer of the breast discharg'd serum in great quantities; but



the lips of the ulcer, which had been hitherto extremely obdurate, thick, callous, and externally contracted, now began to soften, resolve, and partly to be consumed by the pus: the patient's strength continued.

I encreased the dose of the extract, and administered eighty grains of it every day.

The ulcer of the breast still continued to discharge serum in very great plenty; no good pus came now away; and yet a fetid smell was not perceived.

On the seventieth day, the patient complained of a dryness in her breast, and laboured under a little short cough without spitting; the size of the breast, as well as of the lips of the ulcer, was now much smaller; the pain was by fits extremely vehement; the patient became weak, and emitted a very fetid smell.

I therefore had again recourse to the peruvian bark, of which I now prescribed half an ounce to be taken every day, and half a dram of the hemlock-extract.

I ordered the patient, besides, to drink plentifully of whey, or of a strong decoction of marsh-mallows root and liquorice.

The borders of the ulcers I covered with hemlock-plaster; and the ulcer itself was washed with an infusion of hemlock, to every pound of which two drams were added of the vinegar of litharge.

The patient's strength returned by degrees; the cough was over; the excessive discharge of ichor was diminished; and good matter appeared



appeared again in the ulcer : but the pain was violent again, nor could sleep be obtained without an opiate.

The eightieth day, the patient was pretty well ; the lips of the ulcer were lessened, moveable, and free from pain ; the ulcer of the breast was clean ; the hardness was not so great ; the pain was little ; the strength was tolerable ; and the stomach good.

I then ordered two scruples a day of the hemlock-extract, as well as two drams of peruvian bark, besides plenty of whey, and an emollient decoction : the external applications were still the same.

On the ninetieth day, the size of the breast was considerably lessened ; the lips were of a bright red, and soft ; and the ulcer discharged matter of the right kind.

I then abstained from the bark, but increased the dose of the hemlock-extract to an entire dram.

The hundredth day, things wore still a more favorable aspect ; the pus was good ; the patient had sufficient strength, and passed the nights very well.

I then prescribed four scruples of the extract ; and every thing else was carefully continued.

The hundred and fourteenth day, the lips were foul ; plenty of serum was discharged from the ulcer ; but the bigness of the breast was lessened ; the pain was inconsiderable ; and the strength was good.



A dram and a half a day was now administered of the extract; and a cataplasm of hemlock applied all over the ulcer and the lips.

In four days time, hard broad cores came away from the lips; the ulcer discharged a vast quantity of ichor; in consequence of which the swelling of the breast and lips was almost suddenly diminished.

But at this time, the patient became again extremely weak; a little fever appeared anew, which was often attended with shiverings.

Upon this, I prescribed half an ounce a day of peruvian bark, as also a scruple of hemlock-extract; I applied to the lips a plaster of the same plant; and the ulcers were filled with lint, which had been steeped in a slight infusion of hemlock and vinegar of litharge; plenty of whey was ordered to be drank, together with a decoction of marsh-mallows root and liquorice.

The hundred and thirtieth day, a little serum was discharged from the ulcer; but there was plenty of good pus; the lips were small, reddish, without pain; and the strength was somewhat recovered.

However, I continued the same dose of the bark; that of the extract I increased to half a dram; the same external remedies were still applied.

The hundred and thirty-sixth day, every thing was in a more favorable state: there  
was



was no complaint of weakness by day, nor of restlessness in the night.

I now thought proper to decrease the dose of the peruvian bark, to two drams a day; that of the extract I augmented to an entire dram every day, together with plenty of whey: the outward applications were continued.

The hundred and forty-second day, the patient was much better; the lips were quite softened; and nothing but a spongy substance seemed to remain.

I then forbore from ordering the bark, relying on the hemlock and whey, together with the external remedies as before.

The hundred and fiftieth day, the swellings being still less, and every way in a more favorable condition, the pus good, and the strength sufficient, I gave four scruples a day of the extract; and outwardly I applied a cataplasm of hemlock alone.

The hundred and fixtieth day, the lips were very small, indeed scarce more than the common thickness of the skin; the hardness almost gone; the strength pretty well recovered; and hardly any pain.

I now ordered daily a dram and a half of the extract: a cataplasm by day, and a plaster during the night, of hemlock, were also applied.

The ulcer was quite smooth by the hundred and seventieth day; all swelling, all hardness, were now no more; and the lips were utterly consumed.

The



The cataplasm of hemlock was still applied for the space of three days, and the same dose of the extract was continued.

In this situation, all hardness being softened, and a considerable quantity of serum discharging from the ulcer, however clean, I contented myself with applying outwardly some lint steeped in a very weak infusion of hemlock; inwardly, indeed, I ordered half a dram of bark to be taken three times a day, and six grains of the hemlock-extract every morning and evening, together with large and frequent draughts of whey.

The glands of the arm-pits, which were also become schirrous, returned to the natural state almost at the same time; three lumps only remained, each of which was near the bigness of a pea.

The arm, which could not stir without exquisite pain, was become now moveable; and the patient's strength was tolerably recovered.

The sixth day, a white cuticle or thin skin began to appear from the borders of the ulcer, which, extending itself gradually towards the centre, promised a re-union of the ulcer.

The fourteenth day, by the continuation of the same inward remedies and external applications, the ulcer was almost closed with this thin skin; which, however, broke again here and there; and from the opening a sharp ferous humour was discharged.

I therefore prescribed a purgative, composed of half a dram of rhubarb, eight grains  
of



of scammony, and fifteen grains of polychrest salt.

The patient was worked six times, and found herself very well.

Two days afterwards, I ordered a-new the former dose of peruvian bark and hemlock-extract; and outwardly was applied a very weak infusion of hemlock as before.

The new skin was now become stronger and more firm; which, however, was still corroded in many places by the acrid matter that discharged itself from the ulcer.

On this account the former purge was again repeated, after an interval of eight days.

I again returned to the bark and extract in the same doses; but externally I applied some nutritive ointment.

In twenty days the cicatrice was firm; no trace of the breast remained.

So that all who saw this woman afterwards supposed her breast to have been cut off.

I then entirely ceased from ordering any remedies; and I kept the woman a fortnight in the hospital, in order to perceive whether the disorder would return.

But she still continued to move her arm with the greatest ease; and the ulcer remained perfectly healed.

I then prescribed the same purgative as before; and in three days time she was dismissed, entirely cured.

When she came to return me thanks, she desired leave to call upon me in case any alteration should happen in her breast. I willingly  
ly



ly granted her request ; and there are now six months elapsed, during which she has not returned.

Mr. Haffner, who is surgeon to my hospital, assisted this woman with great diligence, attention, and experience ; and, by his judicious application of the external remedies according to the symptoms that successively appeared, he contributed considerably towards her recovery and cure.

### C A S E III.

**A** Man of seven and twenty years of age, had, for a great while past, a foul cancerous ulcer in his left side, towards the hip : this ulcer was continually spreading wide and deep, and it begun already to attack the vertebræ of the lumbs ; besides, cancerous fungusses were shooting out in many places.

After several of the best surgeons had employed some of the most efficacious remedies to no purpose, he came at length to our hospital.

The learned Surgeon Haffner first endeavored by the mildest medicines, afterwards with caustics, and finally by fire and with the knife, to extract the fungous cancer, and to clean and heal the ulcer.

I prescribed, for my part, the remedies which I thought most likely to sweeten the mass of blood.

This treatment now and then appeared, for a day or two, to be of some use ; but the evil returned



returned again immediately with the former, and sometimes even with augmented violence.

We found, therefore, that all such attempts were vain.

The peruvian bark, which elsewhere produces such wonderful effects in putrid ulcers, when given in large doses, and for a long continuance, in the present case, however, did not the least service.

Mr. Haffner applied, therefore, outwardly a cataplasm of hemlock to the part affected; and I prescribed to the patient nine grains of the extract of hemlock to be taken in the morning, and as much at night, together with a plentiful decoction of barley, or large draughts of whey.

Hitherto the patient was emaciated, feeble, and cachectic; and, about evening, had shiverings, and a fever, together with a copious and weakening perspiration.

But now, in a few days time, he began to have a stomach, and to sleep with ease. Good pus also was discovered in the ulcer.

The eighth day, I encreased the dose of the extract to half a dram; and the cataplasm was carefully renewed.

The ulcer was clean by the twelfth day; the cancerous fungusses were moveable, flaccid, entirely free from pain; and some bony fragments were separated from the vertebræ.

By the seventeenth day, the evening shiverings were no more observed; the patient slept quietly, without sweating; his strength was encreasing daily; the matter in the ulcer was of the right kind; and, from the fungusses



about the borders of the ulcer, a considerable quantity of serum was discharged.

The twentieth day, several small pieces or grains of bone were separated from the vertebræ which had been corroded; a cicatrice began to be formed here and there in the ulcer: the fungusses were flaccid, and entirely void of pain; but as they were too slowly consumed, and consequently hindered the healing of the ulcer, Mr. Haffner extracted them with the knife.

The patient felt no pain from the operation. The same internal and external remedies were continued.

On the twenty-fifth day, a cuticle appeared from every part of the borders of the ulcer; and, by this means, the ulcer began to heal; the color was of a bright red; the pus was of the right kind, and not in too great quantity.

The patient was now no longer weak; his stomach was good; he slept soundly; and his body was open.

The inward remedies and external applications were continued.

The thirtieth day, the ulcer was already almost closed; nor did any fungus afterwards appear. The patient was extremely well.

The fortieth day, the ulcer had a firm cicatrice; and this man was, to all appearance, cured.

However, for fourteen days, I ordered to be taken, morning and evening, six grains of the hemlock-extract, together with a considerable



derable quantity of whey ; that by this means every acrid and cancerous remains might be separated from the mass of blood.

I afterwards prescribed a purge ; and the man was dismissed entirely cured.

## C A S E IV.

A Woman, thirty-six years old, had for some years past a foul ulcer in her leg : by the application of several external and internal remedies, the ulcer was sometimes almost cured ; but when it was near being quite healed, it broke out again. A sharp ichor was discharged in great quantities, accompanied also with proud flesh.

The use of a great many different baths seemed sometimes to promise good effects ; but the evil immediately returned with violence.

In our hospital many remedies were also tried, to correct the sharpness of the blood, to eat away the proud flesh, and to heal the ulcer.

But in none of our trials did we meet success.

For tho the ulcer was sometimes entirely closed for a day or two, yet no firm cicatrice was formed ; so that an itching was soon felt again, an ichorous humor came away, the proud flesh sprung up afresh, and the ulcer grew worse and worse.

The infusion alone of hemlock was therefore outwardly applied, as an external fomentation ; and, during the night, the ulcer was



covered with a plaster of the same plant. Inwardly nothing was administered but whey.

It happened upon this, that the proud flesh separated of itself; and in twenty days after, the ulcer was closed with a very firm cicatrice; and the foot was moved with the greatest ease.

A purgative was then given; and the woman was permitted to remain eight days longer in the hospital, without taking any medicines. The ulcer still appeared perfectly healed; and she was thereupon dismissed.

#### C A S E V.

A Man, of sixty-two years of age, had a foul and antient ulcer in the right side of the lower belly, which was a span in length, and seven inches broad; and so deep, that it almost penetrated into the cavity of the abdomen.

On the right side of the breast there was an ulcer almost equally large, which discharged a large quantity of sharp stinking serum, and even attacked the ribs.

After having purged the patient, a fomentation of hemlock was applied to each of the ulcers.

As this man was also afflicted with a cough, a decoction was prescribed for him of the root and leaves of marsh-mallows, to which was added simple oxymel and diaphoretic antimony without being washed.

In a few days both the ulcers were much cleaner; the matter became of the right kind; and



and the patient, who had been hitherto very weak, seemed to recover strength.

About the tenth day, several fragments were separated from the carious ribs; and a thin skin began to grow out from the borders of the ulcer.

The ulcer of the lower belly became less deep; and it discharged good pus.

The fourteenth day, I ordered again a purge; and afterwards continued the decoction of marsh mallows.

The seventeenth day, both ulcers were much cleaner, and less extended. Several fragments were separated from the ribs.

The thirtieth day, the ulcer of the breast was closed, and the cough was almost entirely gone; but the ulcer of the lower belly was still of a considerable size.

This one, however, was also healed, by the sole use of hemlock, about the fiftieth day.

The old man was purged once more, and then dismissed from the hospital, perfectly cured.

He then informed us, that he had been afflicted with these ulcers for ten years past; that he spent most of his substance in order to obtain a cure; that the numberless remedies he tried had no effect; and that at last, his strength and his hopes exhausted, he came to us with no other intent than to finish his days in the hospital.



## CASE VI.

A Woman, twenty-eight years of age, had her left breast for four years past much encreased in size, and equal in hardness to a stone.

On any violent alteration of the weather, she felt pains in this hard swelling; which always, however, ceased of their own accord: and while the color of her breast remained in its natural state, and that the swelling did not obstruct the motion of her arm, she applied no remedy, nor did she shew her breast to any person.

At length, about the end of the month of February, 1760, she had an acute disorder; on account of which she was brought to our hospital.

In about six and twenty days, she began to recover pretty well from this new distemper.

But as she got out of bed, and walked about, she felt a continual, gnawing, shooting pain in her right breast; but not being extremely violent, she concealed it for several days.

At last, the great acuteness of the pain took away her rest; she lost her appetite, and strength at the same time. She then shewed her breast to Mr. Haffner, who gave me notice of it.

We found it extremely hard, of a purple color, mixed with black and livid streaks; the arm of the same side was also swollen; she continued to feel gnawing, violent, shooting pains; her veins were blackish, and distended.

The



The pulse was swift and small; the heart was in continual palpitation.

We immediately applied a fomentation of hemlock to her breast; and we ordered to be taken inwardly a nitrous anodyne emulsion.

The same night the pain was abated; and she slept tolerably quiet for about three hours.

When she awoke, the violence of the pain again returned; and the use of the fomentation had hitherto no effect upon the breast.

A glister was administered, in order to open her body; and the anodyne nitrous emulsion was afterwards continued.

The next night was passed much more quietly; the pains of the breast seemed much abated. There was as yet, however, no alteration made in the size, hardness, or color of the swelling.

The third day, the pulse being found tolerably good, eight grains were given in the morning, and eight at night, of the hemlock-extract; drinking after it a few ounces of the decoction of marsh-mallows.

Late in the evening she took an opiate, in order to pass a quiet night.

This remedy had its desired effect; and the patient was much recovered by sleep.

In the morning the pain was inconsiderable; the breast was soft, and better bore to be roughly handled.

The arm however, could not yet be moved, on account of the swelling and the pain.

By the twelfth day, there were now no longer any black or livid streaks to be observed;



ved ; the distended veins were almost contracted to their natural dimensions ; the pains were few ; and the swelling of the arm likewise was diminished.

Ten grains were then administered of the extract, morning and evening ; the hemlock-fomentation was also carefully applied : but the opiate at night was omitted, as the patient, being less racked with pain, began naturally to recover her rest.

The twentieth day, the breast had very near its natural color ; but the hardness still subsisted the same ; nor did the breast become moveable, seeming rather firmly rooted. The swelling of the arm decreased ; and the patient could move her hand and fingers without pain.

I then prescribed thirty-two grains a day of the extract.

The fomentation was continued ; and, during the night, the breast was covered with a plaster of hemlock.

The twenty-third day, the breast grew red again ; the pains were violent, and began from the time the plaster was applied at night.

The plaster was therefore removed ; the extract and fomentation were alone employed. In the evening I gave an opiate, in order to procure a good night's rest.

The thirtieth day, the breast recovered once more its natural color ; the pains were inconsiderable.

I now ordered forty grains to be taken daily of the extract ; and the fomentation was continued.

The



The fortieth day, the swelling of the arm was entirely gone, and it could be moved tolerably well; the breast was smaller, softer, and more moveable.

Things were still grown better in the breast by the fiftieth day; but the woman took a disgust for victuals, and complained of a bitterness in her mouth; her legs were somewhat swollen. This induced me to permit her abstaining from the hemlock-extract for some days; and I ordered her to drink plentifully of the infusion of elder flowers: the fomentation was still applied.

On the fifty-fourth day, I prescribed a purge of rhubarb, a little scammony, and polychrest salt.

She was worked four times; and the next day her appetite returned; the swelling of the legs almost disappeared; the breast was moveable, nor did the touching it give the patient pain; only some vague shooting stitches tormented her by fits. I ordered her legs to be fumigated with weak aromatics; and to the breast I took care that the hemlock-fomentation should be diligently applied.

The sixtieth day, as the patient was prodigiously recovered, her legs restored to the natural state, and her stomach good, I again prescribed, morning and evening, six grains of the extract of hemlock; together with plenty of the infusion of elder flowers.

The sixty-sixth day, the breast seemed divided into several lesser lumps; but continued without pain.



I then ordered, morning and evening, ten grains of the extract; and the fomentation to be continued.

The eightieth day, the breast was very small; the arm could be moved without the least uneasiness: the patient was strong, had a good stomach, and slept well.

The ninety-first day, a little hardness still subsisted in the breast, which was easily moved up and down; the woman, however, grew impatient at the constant application of the hemlock-fomentation; nor could she any longer bear the disagreeable smell that proceeded from it; the fomentation was therefore removed, and a plaster of hemlock was applied in its room: morning and evening, fifteen grains were now administered of the extract of the same plant.

The plaster gave no pain; all things were daily growing better; and the hundred and twenty-fifth day, the breast was flaccid, hanging down, nor could the least hardness be perceived.

This woman, then departed from the hospital. I ordered her, however, to take hemlock-pills, for some time yet, in small doses, that by this means the disorder might not so easily return.

#### C A S E VII.

A Virgin, twenty-one years of age, had an open cancer in her left breast; she coughed frequently besides, and complained of a continual burning heat, and a gnawing pain in her left side.

The



The whole mass of blood was corrupted ; the patient was also troubled with the itch, and was quite emaciated. In the evenings she had shudderings, afterwards heat, and, lastly, fell into a fetid sweat.

The ulcer discharged large quantities of stinking ichor.

In these worst of circumstances I tried the hemlock ; and immediately prescribed eight grains of the extract to be taken every morning, and as much at night ; outwardly, a fomentation of the same plant was also applied. The patient was ordered, besides, to drink plentifully of whey, or milk diluted with a double quantity of water.

In twelve days time, she was much better ; she coughed less ; her evening complaints, and her nocturnal sweats, were almost gone ; her strength was increased ; a thin pus appeared in the cancerous ulcer ; the discharge of ichor was diminished ; nor was any bad smell perceived.

But in her side, the burning heat and gnawing pain still subsisted.

I then ordered eight grains of the extract to be taken four times a day ; continuing likewise the other remedies.

The thirtieth day, the size of the breast was considerably diminished ; nor did the patient complain of weakness. The ulcer was clean ; the appetite excellent ; but on account of the continual burning heat under the breast, an opiate was necessary to render her sleep quiet and undisturbed.



The itch began to dry away, and the patient was able to be out of bed.

I now administered daily two scruples of the extract.

The forty-sixth day, the patient was pretty well; the size of the breast was smaller; and the ulcer also was diminished.

The burning heat and gnawing pain still persisted in the left side; tho now and then by fits it was very inconsiderable.

The sixtieth day, the hardness of the breast was almost gone; the ulcer was much smaller, and very clean.

I then prescribed a dram daily of the extract: the rest of the treatment to remain the same.

The eightieth day, all hardness disappeared; and the ulcer was almost closed.

The heat and pain of her side were by fits extremely violent; nor did she always pass the night without restlessness and anxiety.

However, she had strength; the itch was entirely gone; her countenance recovered very near its former color; but yet she remained emaciated.

The eighty-fourth day, the ulcer was healed; the patient got out of bed; walked about; had a good stomach; and sometimes slept very well without an opiate.

The menses then appeared, which for five months before had ceased to flow.

The patient was in great spirits; and hoped with reason, that the heat and pain of her side would probably now cease, as they were



were first felt on the stoppage of the menses.

The menses continued two days to flow; the third, they stopped; and then the heat, as well as the gnawing pain in the left side, was immediately encreased; and the patient grew worse.

The fourth day, a little purple lump appeared under the breast, and gave great pain.

Mr. Haffner, in order to abate the pain, applied the most emollient cataplasm possible, to the part affected.

But as the patient was extremely thirsty, had a strong fever, and a hard pulse, she was let blood, and resolving antiphlogistic decoctions were administered.

This gave her some little ease.

The sixth day, the lump broke, and discharged a considerable quantity of the sharpest ichor.

The surgeon, having now conveyed his probe through the opening, found out the sinus, which extended under the pectoral muscle almost to the superior border of the breast, where the rib also was attacked; so that, as soon as the patient had sufficient strength, the surgeon cut away the sinus and the parts which covered it, that he might discover how far the rib was eaten away.

This operation being made, the patient had a fainting fit of a short duration; the wound was therefore covered, and every thing postponed to the following day.

In the evening, the fever was very strong; and the pain considerable. Some antiphlogistic



gistic remedies, and anoydne emulsions, were given to the patient, who passed the night tolerably well.

Two days after the operation, Mr. Haffner, having opened the wound, found several of the ribs attacked; and discovered a second opening which penetrated into the cavity of the thorax, and thro which, when the patient coughed, a fetid ichor was discharged.

A decoction of barley, with a little honey of roses, was injected into the cavity of the thorax, in order to cleanse the ulcer, and that a proper separation might be made of what was corrupt from what was sound.

The nitrous anodyne emulsions were continued; and the patient was pretty well.

But every evening she had a little fever, and sweated in the night.

The fifth day, as the opening into the cavity of the thorax was extremely small, Mr. Haffner dilated it, that whatever was within side might the more easily be washed away and discharged.

The eighth day, some fragments of bones came from the wound after the injection; from whence it was evident, that the ribs were carious also within side.

I therefore prescribed the peruvian bark in plenty; besides a decoction of the woods, and cow's milk.

We then tried injections which were more detergent and balsamic; but these the patient could not bear: the fever encreased; the pain grew



grew vehement; and the matter which came from the wound stunk extremely.

We therefore returned to the decoction of barley, with honey; which was now the only injection employed.

Some fragments of bones were soon separated; which, after a violent cough, were discharged thro the opening, together with a large quantity of stinking ichor.

Nevertheless, the heat and gnawing pain were not in the least abated, but rather extended forward: the patient, notwithstanding the considerable doses which she took daily of peruvian bark, was still very weak; and the evening fever was augmented.

After long trials, when we found the remedies hitherto applied productive of very little effect, Mr. Haffner and I at length concluded to inject the infusion of hemlock; and to join the extract of the same plant to the peruvian bark.

The next day, the matter coming from the inside of the thorax was not now so fetid; and the heat and pain were somewhat decreased.

In a few days the patient's strength and appetite seemed to encrease; and she slept pretty quietly during the night.

Half an ounce of peruvian bark, and a scruple of the extract of hemlock, were administered to her daily; besides plenty of whey.

In the beginning, the infusion of hemlock for the injection was purposely made weak; but as it neither irritated the lungs, nor add-  
ed



ed any uneasiness, and as we found it besides of considerable use, we ordered it for the future to be stronger.

In the space of a fortnight, many fragments of bones were discharged from the cavity of the thorax, together with a thin purulent matter.

The patient was now much better; she was able to remain out of bed, and almost always to sleep without the assistance of an opiate.

However, by degrees she could no longer bear so large a dose of the peruvian bark; so that afterwards I gave her every day half a dram of the hemlock-extract, and two drams only of the bark of peru.

By the means of these remedies, by drinking plentifully of whey, and by the injection twice a day of a strong infusion of hemlock, we preserved this woman's life two months and a half; and now we even entertained some glimmering hopes of bringing about a cure.

It happened, however, that she then took a pleurisy of the worst kind, which very nearly threatened death.

Nevertheless, by the care of the learned Doctor Collin, who attended then the hospital, and ordered proper bleedings, cataplasms, and other excellent remedies, the pleuretic pain ceased at length, and the disorder was happily terminated by spitting.

The patient now began to recover some little strength: the matter, however, which  
was



was discharged from the cavity of the thorax, was very fetid and ichorous.

Neither the peruvian bark, nor the hemlock-extract, nor the infusion of the same plant, was now of any service; the evening fever of the worst kind was again returned; and the nocturnal sweats so reduced the patient, that in seven weeks time she became quite emaciated, and died.

By the dissection, we found the pleura in the left cavity of the breast almost consumed, and several of the ribs divided into thin carious plates.

The lungs on the left side were also in many places eaten away.

Certainly, if this ulcer had been on the outward surface of the breast, where the surgical aid might be put in practice, where proper fomentations might retard the progress of the evil, and help the separation of what was carious, this patient would have been perfectly cured of the worst of cancers, and the most fetid ulcer.

A man, of three and twenty, was dying of an empyema in the left cavity of his breast. Mr. Haffner, on my persuasion, gave a passage, by the means of a large wound, to about five pounds and a half weight of thin fetid matter.

It was a bold and doubtful undertaking; but as the patient, being almost suffocated, was on the brink of death, it was allowable to make any attempt; for we have observed, that by a hazardous operation, the lives of



men are often rendered longer, and more comfortable.

The matter being discharged, the patient was extremely ill ; his extremities were cold ; his pulse could no longer be perceived ; his countenance was sunk ; and his face was covered with a thick, cold, and clammy sweat.

We regretted the bad event of the operation ; but neglected nothing, notwithstanding, which we still thought could any way be of service to the patient.

His forehead, nose, and temples, were rubbed all over with spirit of hartshorn ; we poured into his mouth about an ounce of austrian wine, with six drops of the spirit of hartshorn : he then seemed somewhat to recover ; and a trembling pulse was now perceivable in the wrist.

He soon began to open his eyes and breathe.

We then gave him some ounces of broth, and disposed him afterwards to rest.

But he still remained in anxiety ; and, in a quarter of an hour, he vomited matter of a brown rusty color ; and now we supposed a second time that he was just dying.

The vomiting, however, having ceased by a paregoric remedy, a light sleep ensued.

Which, tho neither undisturbed, nor of a long continuance, contributed, however, somewhat towards recovering the patient.

The next day, he began to speak, and patiently received whatever was offered to him.

Mr. Haffner washed the cavity of the breast with a decoction of barley and honey  
of



of roses ; and I prescribed the remedies which the circumstances indicated to be necessary.

In four days time, the patient had already gained sufficient force to move himself about without fainting away.

Mr. Haffner penetrated with his probe into the breast ; and perceiving many of the ribs to be carious, he tried several detergent, balsamic, and vulnerary injections ; but found none more useful than the infusion of hemlock, which renders the matter of a right kind.

The patient recovered strength, and his appetite returned.

The nocturnal sweats and evening fever were mitigated by the assistance of proper remedies ; but could not be made to disappear entirely.

We could never hope a perfect cure ; but it was enough that we rescued a man by a bold operation from the jaws of death, that we lengthened the number of his days, and rendered these days more comfortable to him.

By injections of a strong infusion of hemlock, and by balsamic, anodyne remedies taken inwardly, together with a milk diet, we found means to preserve this man in a tolerable state near seven months : but autumn then approaching, he began to cough considerably again ; the evening fever encreased ; and in one and thirty days he departed this life.

The lungs were found in great measure eaten away ; and the ribs were carious.



Wonderful ! that a strong infusion of hemlock injected into the cavity of the thorax, and on the naked lungs, was productive of no anxieties or disturbance.

It appears, therefore, that the qualities of the hemlock are not so dreadful.

I have inserted this man's history here, on account of its similitude with the foregoing case.

### CASE VIII.

A Man, twenty-seven years old, had, for six years past, a lump under the roof of his tongue, which sometimes was very painful to him, and hindered him from swallowing without difficulty ; sometimes also it gave him no kind of pain.

This lump gradually encreased to the bigness of a filberd ; it was now entirely livid, and constantly attended with excessive pain.

At last it broke ; and a most sharp, fetid ichor was discharged ; it became a foul and extensive ulcer.

He now found great difficulty in swallowing.

Some physicians and surgeons thought the ulcer was venereal, and treated him accordingly.

Several decoctions, various purges mixed with mercury, and at last, a solution of corrosive sublimate in corn spirits, were administered for a considerable time, in vain : the disorder even was augmented.

Finally, the wretch was quite emaciated by



by a salivation, which did him not the least service.

These sovereign remedies having had no success, the man was abandoned to his fate ; and they gave him a certificate that he could not be cured, and that he ought to be admitted into the house of the incurables.

Nevertheless, the patient sought every where for succour ; he knocked at almost every surgeon's door, and was dismissed from most without the least relief.

At length he went to Mr. Haffner, surgeon of my hospital ; who, having considered well the case, immediately thought that the hemlock should be administered to this patient.

So that the next day, he shewed this man to me, on my arrival at the hospital.

I took care to have a bed made ready for him, and I kept him in the house.

He was however, at this time, entirely emaciated ; he had shiverings in the evenings, and afterwards heat ; finally, he fell into a profuse sweat ; and his sleep was disturbed and uneasy.

A very foul ulcer almost eat away the whole root of his tongue ; many fungous excrescences grew out from the center and borders of the ulcer ; all of which were also exulcerated, and discharged a most fetid ichor.

The pain was continually excruciating ; it was almost impossible for him to swallow ; the ulcer became wider and deeper every day ; the patient could no longer speak distinctly.

The



The palate, and almonds of the ears, and all the throat, were now affected; we perceived pretty deep erosions which began to discharge an acrid humor.

The patient coughed now more frequently, and complained of a constant pricking heat down from the throat to the stomach.

From his mouth proceeded a most horrid smell, which often created in the assistants a nausea and a horror.

The situation of this patient certainly deserved pity.

The learned Doctor Collin, who then attended the hospital with me, saw also this poor man; we were in great doubt whether the hemlock could be of any use in so inveterate a case.

There remained, however, no other remedy which had not been already tried upon him.

The first indication was cleaning the fordid ulcer.

I therefore desired Mr. Haffner to inject, by the help of a syringe, several times a day, an infusion of hemlock, with honey of roses, gently down the throat, and on the ulcer; in order that the filth and sharp matter should thus be washed away.

Internally, I ordered the following mixture:

Take of the extract of hemlock, ten grains,

of the mucilage of gum dragon, half a dram,

of syrup of poppies, one ounce,

of elder-flower water, five ounces:

Let



Let a mixture be made, of which the patient is to take a spoonful every two hours.

His common drink was whey; and his victuals consisted in broth with bread in it, panado, pearl barley, &c.

The patient slept the first night much better than usual.

The next day, the ulcer was less fetid and less foul.

But the difficulty of speaking, and of swallowing, remained equally great.

The same external and internal remedies were continued.

The third day, the heat in the throat, and all along to the stomach, was greatly abated; the ulcer was much cleaner; nor was there hardly any bad smell perceived.

I still repeated the preceding mixture, encreasing only the quantity of the extract, which I doubled.

The sixth day, he was already able to swallow solid meat without much pain; the cancerous ulcer was tolerably clean; a very slight cicatrice began already to be formed on the ulcers of the throat; and very little heat was observed in the passage to the stomach.

The same remedies were continued.

The patient had scarce any shiverings the evening of the eleventh day; little heat was felt; and the nocturnal sweats almost entirely ceased.

The cancerous ulcer now discharged pus instead of ichor; nor was there much pain  
felt



felt in swallowing solid victuals; and the fetid smell perceived, was extremely slight. The patient was able to speak much more distinctly; his strength was greatly augmented, and his appetite was good; several of the ulcers of the throat were now closed; so that the heat at present felt was very moderate.

The same medicines were continued.

The fifteenth day, the cancerous ulcer was of the best color; the fungous excrescences were smaller, and ceased to discharge ichor any longer; from the circumference of the ulcer a very thin and white little skin began to appear, which gave us the first hopes we entertained of bringing about a cure, and shewed that bounds were fixed to the progress of the cancer.

The throat was healed; the heat which had been felt in the passage to the stomach, was now no more; the patient recovered strength; the symptoms grew not worse towards evening; nor did he sweat in the night.

I then administered eight pills, of two grains each, of the extract of hemlock, every morning, and as many in the evening; ordering, at the same time, a large quantity of whey to be drank after it; the injections on the ulcer were continued.

The twentieth day, every thing wore still a better aspect; the ulcer began to lessen considerably; many of the fungous excrescences came away of their own accord; the bad smell was entirely gone; and pus was substituted to ichor.

The patient's rest was good; his strength increased; and his appetite excellent. The



The thirtieth day, the ulcer was tolerably clean; several of the excrescences were already separated; and those that still remained, were flaccid, pale, and could bear being touched without creating uneasiness; and the patient drank pure wine without feeling in the ulcer any pain.

I then prescribed two scruples a day of the extract, besides plenty of whey; and the ulcer was washed several times in the day with an infusion of hemlock.

The thirty-fourth day, the patient grew vastly hungry, and swallowed every thing that was offered to him, without chewing it sufficiently.

Hence his stomach soon grew overloaded; and the next day he had a nausea, shuddering, a continual endeavor to vomit, an uneasiness about the pit of the stomach, a giddiness in the head, a trembling motion of the lower lip, great heat, a pulse unequal in strength as well as swiftness, a short and difficult breathing, a swelled face, and a livid countenance.

I was much grieved to see our hopes of cure thus so much diminished, and the patient put into the utmost danger of his life.

The indication was extremely urgent to free the stomach from its load; I therefore gave twenty grains of ipecacuana root, and one grain of tartar emetic.

This dose was scarce administered when the patient began to vomit crude, undigested matter. I assisted the operation of the powder, by giving plentiful draughts of warm water.

The victuals which had been so ravenously swallowed were thus cast up in six repeated vo-



mitings, together with a yellow serum that had an acid smell.

After the vomit had finished its effect, the bad symptoms almost all disappeared. The patient was nourished that day with nothing but weak broth; and at night he took an anodyne.

The night was passed in quiet.

In the morning the pulse was even, slow, and small; nor did the patient complain of any thing besides weakness.

The ulcer was now filled again with filth, and gave greater pain; however, he could swallow still without much uneasiness. The ulcers were continued to be washed by a very gentle injection several times a day of the infusion only of hemlock mixed with honey of roses.

By a pleasant julep, a proper diet, a little wine, and an opiate in the evening, I endeavored to recover somewhat the strength of the patient.

The thirty-ninth day, he was tolerably well, and now desired himself, that the hemlock-pills should be administered to him.

I then prescribed two scruples of the extract every day, together with plenty of whey; and I allowed a little wine to be drank at dinner. Things now daily wore a better aspect, and the ulcer afforded the strongest hopes of cure.

As every thing now proceeded according to our wishes, I did not afterwards encrease the dose of the extract. Gentle injections of the infusion of hemlock alone upon the ulcer were carefully repeated several times a day.

The fiftieth day, a few fungous, flaccid, hanging excrescences still remained, which retarded the healing of the ulcer.



These Mr. Haffner with the scissars cut away without causing the patient any pain; nor did any blood flow from the wounds he made.

The injections were diligently continued, which procured great ease and succour to the patient.

He now could speak with the greatest freedom, and swallow without uneasiness; he recovered his strength, his appetite, and rest; his body was open, and his urine plentiful, and well colored.

The same remedies were continued; and the sixty-eighth day, a cicatrice was formed upon the ulcer.

The injections were now stopped; but the extract of hemlock was still continued in the same dose for a fortnight longer.

But when we found the cicatrice perfectly firm, and the man every way in entire health, we gradually laid aside the administration of any remedies; we allowed him to go into the open air, and to eat those things to which he had been accustomed.

We retained him, however, perfectly recovered as he was, a month longer in the hospital.

At length he himself petitioned to be dismissed.

Dr. Collin visited this patient with me the whole time, and observed the progress of the cure.

It afforded great satisfaction to us both, to find this man, who had been abandoned by all the world, and considered as incurable, by the help of hemlock not only recovered from his evening-fever, nocturnal sweats, a cachexy, and maras-



mus, but also cured of a cancer of the worst kind, and perfectly restored to vigor and to health.

In a few weeks I heard from his relations that he married.

## CASE IX.

**A** Man, forty-two years of age, complained, for several years past, of a wandering gouty pain, which the heat of the bed at night considerably encreased.

He took, for a great while, decoctions of various kinds, besides many other external and internal remedies; but without the least relief from any.

Nor were sulphureous and other baths, tho continued for a considerable time, of any service to him.

At last the matter, which had hitherto been wandering and unsettled, now fixed itself at the right shoulder, and at the coxendix-bone of the same side.

His arm and his foot were now deprived of motion; his side became less sensible; and a marasmus was coming on.

Several kinds of medicines were now inwardly and outwardly attempted, which rather encreased the pains, and seemed to render worse the evil which was already great.

Nor did electricity, applied constantly for three months, produce any alteration in the present case.

Last summer, when I lived in the country, this man came to me, and related to me the history of his complaints.

The



The cause and true origin of the disorder he could not tell.

But as I had found, that hemlock was of considerable use against rheumatic and gouty pains, whether wandering or fixed, I also thought it ought to be administered in the present instance.

I therefore prescribed, morning and evening, five pills of two grains; together with a plentiful decoction of burdock-root.

He returned eight days afterwards, and complained of greater pain in his shoulder, and near the coxendix-bone, and a disagreeable tingling all over his foot and arm.

No alteration happened in any other respect.

I therefore persuaded him to take eight pills of hemlock every morning, and as many at night; and to continue the decoction of burdock-root.

The fourteenth day, the pain was mitigated; but from the side that was affected, as well as from the foot and arm, an itching and stinking sweat perspired; and white transparent pustules, filled with sharp serum, began also to appear.

The sensation was now much recovered in his side.

He had a good stomach, and tolerable strength; he urined plentifully, but it excited heat in the passage as it came away; his body was sufficiently open.

The patient now began to take twenty pills a day, and continued to drink the decoction of burdock-root.

The twenty-fourth, the flesh seemed to return to the arm; and some appearance of motion was observed.

Every thing else was in the former state; but the



the pustules were still encreasing; nor did the itching cease.

The thirty-sixth day, the patient felt all over his body a disagreeable heat and itching; and, from the pustules which were broke, thick crusts arose, and an actual scab appeared.

But the foot and arm were much more moveable, tolerably strong, and quite sensible.

I took care to have the whole body washed over twice a day with an infusion of hemlock in milk.

In a few days, several of the crusts fell off; but the pustules were still in greater number, and the itching was encreased.

The fiftieth day, the arm could be already moved on every side; the foot, however, was not quite so free, but yet was moveable, flexible, and enjoyed perfect sensation.

I then prescribed an entire dram of the extract of hemlock every day; and in the room of the decoction of burdock-root, I substituted whey; the body was washed over at the same time with the infusion of hemlock in milk.

In the space of eight days, the itching ceased entirely; the crusts and pustules disappeared; and the patient began perfectly to recover.

The sixty-ninth day, he was enabled to stir about, to move his arm every way, and to walk an hour and an half together without being much fatigued.

I then began to decrease the dose of hemlock by degrees; I still ordered large quantities of whey to be drank every day. His body was now no longer washed with the infusion.

The



The eightieth day, he came to return me thanks, being perfectly cured.

## C A S E X.

A Virgin of eighteen labored under a spina ventosa, for seven years past, in the heel of her right foot, and in the elbow of the right arm.

The remedies most approved and most successful in the like cases were of no kind of benefit in the present instance.

She drank, for several months, great quantities of a decoction of the woods, which produced copious sweats, and seemed, in the beginning, to procure some ease; but soon again the patient was troubled with a dry cough; she began to grow weak and emaciated; and the evil became worse.

Antiscorbutic remedies were administered, and plenty of whey was drunk, which almost healed the ulcers.

But at the time when the expectation of a cure was highest, a new pain was felt about the parts already affected; a most sharp ichor began again to flow; and the ulcers returned to a most foul and filthy state.

Corrosive sublimate dissolved in corn spirits, which, on the like occasions, produces such excellent effects, was of no service here.

I therefore prescribed the extract of hemlock, and a plentiful decoction of barley with a little milk.

Outwardly nothing but a diachylon plaster was applied, in order to be sure what effect the hemlock given inwardly could operate in such a disorder.



In four days time, the ulcers, which had been hitherto foul and fetid, were now grown cleaner; the pus also became good; the pains were much abated; her sleep was quieter, and her stomach better.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth day, a considerable quantity of sharp serum was discharged from the ulcers.

The twelfth day, the swellings of the bones seemed much smaller; and the deep red was now changed to a more natural color.

The fifteenth day, three fragments of bones were separated from the ulcer in the right heel.

The seventeenth, this last ulcer was become clean; and from its lips a thin little skin began to shoot, which promised success; the swelling of the bones about this ulcer was much diminished.

But the ulcer and swelling of the right elbow suffered little change; the pain was considerable; plenty of serum was discharged; the motion of the joint, however, seemed somewhat easier.

I therefore applied a hemlock-fomentation to this ulcer; and to that of the heel a plaster of the same plant.

The twenty-fourth day, the swelling about the articulation of the elbow was become much smaller; the ulcer was clean, and discharged a considerable quantity of serum; and a grainy substance was separated from the bones.

The ulcer in the right heel was greatly decreased; the swelling was almost gone; and things promised a speedy cure.

The thirty-fourth day, a considerable long bony fragment was separated from the bone of the shoulder near the elbow.

The



The swelling about the joint was much diminished; and the patient could now move her arm with ease, and bring victuals to the mouth.

From the ulcer in the right heel a great quantity of serum was again discharged ; several very small fragments of bones came now away ; and the patient complained of suffering considerably.

In the mean time her strength was encreased, and her appetite was good; she was fatter, and more in spirits.

The forty-eighth day, the ulcer of the heel was entirely closed; nor was there scarce any swelling, or any pain, perceived.

About the elbow every thing also wore a better aspect.

I then ordered a purge, which gave eight yellowish stools.

Nothing was administered the next day, which was set aside as a day of rest.

But the following days I prescribed again the extract and the whey.

The fifty-sixth day, the patient was much better; she could bend her arm, and move it in every sense.

The ulcer in the heel continued firmly closed.

The seventy-second day, the parts which had been swelled were now returned to their natural state; and the ulcer of the elbow was almost healed.

As the motion of the joint was now tolerably free, and the bones no longer swelled, I thought it unnecessary to apply the fomentation for the future. The ulcer only was covered with lint steeped in an infusion of hemlock.

The ninetieth day, the ulcer of the elbow en-  
G tirely



tirely closed; nor did the cicatrice which was formed, any way hinder the flexibility of the arm.

I still continued to prescribe, for twelve days longer, the hemlock and the whey; then I ordered a purge; and finding the patient quite recovered, and the ulcers perfectly healed, we dismissed her from the hospital.

### CASE XI.

**A** Man, aged thirty-five, had ulcers, for two years past, of the foulest kind, in both heels, and between the shoulder-blades.

His whole body, besides, was covered with itching pustules, filled with the sharpest serum.

The ulcers continually discharged a most acrid ichor, eat away the neighboring parts, and even consumed the tendons and the bones.

The use of baths, and the application of various other remedies, brought but small relief; or, if the ulcers seemed almost healed, they broke out again immediately, and were in the worst state.

Thus the patient became very weak, began to be emaciated, and had nocturnal sweats.

At length he called for my advice; and as I knew, by manifold experience, that hemlock corrected a sharpness of the blood, and healed similar ulcers, I prescribed two pills of the extract of that plant, and a decoction of burdock-root.

In the space of eight days, the itching over his body almost ceased; many of the pustules disappeared; nor did the ulcers discharge such quantities of ichor.

The



The twentieth day, the patient was much stronger; the nocturnal sweats were not now perceived; and, from the borders of the ulcers, a white little skin begun happily to proceed, in order to the formation of a cicatrice.

I then prescribed an antiphlogistic purgative.

Afterwards I ordered a continuation of the hemlock-extract, and of the decoction of burdock-root.

He now took daily half a dram of the extract of hemlock.

The thirty-sixth day, the patient was tolerably well; and the ulcers were almost closed.

The tendons had hitherto appeared naked in the ulcers; but since the cicatrice began, their motion was not impeded.

The forty-eighth day, the ulcers were covered with a thin cicatrice; to which, in order to render it the more firm, I applied some nutritive ointment.

I afterwards prescribed another antiphlogistic purgative.

The sixtieth day, the ulcers seemed entirely consolidated; and the man was perfectly cured.

I prevailed, however, upon him to continue, for the three ensuing weeks, a small dose daily of the hemlock-extract, drinking after it the infusion of the flowers of elder, and concluding the whole course with a purge for the third time, that the blood and the first ways might thus be freed from all crudities and acrimony.

From the use of hemlock this man recovered a much better color in his countenance; all the muscles, which had hitherto been flaccid, were



grown firm now and strong; and he soon fattened to a degree of becoming square and bulky.

## CASE XII.

**A** Smith was troubled for ten years past with a most foul disorder of the skin, which did not differ much from the elephantiasis or leprosy.

He had implored the assistance of almost every physician, surgeon, bath-keeper, and quack he could meet; he took many of the most celebrated and specific remedies for a long continuance; he went into many mineral baths, and received various vapors; but scarce ever found relief. He was, however, able to continue the labor of his trade.

This foul scab did not shew itself in the face or hands, but in those parts only which apparel covers.

From this circumstance he was enabled to converse with his companions, but never lay in the same bed with any of them.

When he found, however, that the strongest medicines were productive to him of no amendment, he ceased to apply any longer to physicians; but leaving all to nature, he refused himself nothing which pleased his palate, drank strongly, nor guarded against the vicissitudes of weather.

This conduct did not make him worse.

It happened, however, that being exposed last winter to a sudden cold, he caught unluckily a pleurisy.

Upon



Upon this occasion he was conducted to our hospital.

He should have been blooded at repeated times; but his skin was so very hard and tough, that the surgeon could not open a vein without considerable force and particular attention.

The blood that came away was truly pleuritic.

By the means of decoctions of emollients, expectorants, nitrous and balsamics, this heavy disorder was in fourteen days happily determined by a spitting.

The eighteenth day, I prescribed a purge; and the man again appeared in perfect health.

The distemper of the skin, was, notwithstanding, no way altered, during the course of this acute disorder.

I then imagined that the hemlock ought to be tried in the present complaints, however obstinate they had hitherto appeared.

I persuaded him, therefore, to remain still longer in the hospital; and I promised him a cure.

I ordered immediately ten grains of the extract of hemlock to be taken in the morning, and as much at night; together with plentiful draughts of the decoction of burdock-root and liquorice.

The whole body was washed twice a day, besides, with equal parts of water, and warm milk, in two measures of which one ounce was dissolved of venice soap.

In the space of ten days many of the scales fell off; the wrinkles were much softened; and a very slight perspiration was perceived.

The



The skin, which hitherto had been wrinkled, foul and scabby, hard almost indeed to a horny substance, and insensible, became painful now, when handled somewhat roughly.

The eleventh day, the patient began to take half a dram of hemlock-extract in the space of every twenty-four hours. The decoction of burdock-root, liquorice, and the washings, were continued.

The seventeenth day, almost all the scales were separated; and the wrinkles of the skin were levelled by degrees.

The patient complained, nevertheless, of a wandering heat, and of anxiety; his pulse was even, and not feverish; his strength recovered; and his appetite good; his urine was sharp and plentiful; and he had daily, without the assistance of medicine, three or four bilious, fetid stools.

He felt, from the least touch of those parts where the scales adhered, a lively heat and pain.

The same medicines, and in the same doses, were still continued.

The twenty-sixth day, he was seized with a shivering, afterwards a heat, and a great thirst, accompanied by a strong fever.

I immediately refrained from prescribing hemlock; but I ordered plenty of the rob of elder, as well as nitre, and a decoction of barley.

By these means he was pretty often worked; however his strength was not much diminished; the symptoms were all by degrees abated; and the thirty-fifth day, the skin had very near  
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the natural color; the patient's appetite returned; and his pulse was regular, and slow.

I restored the strength of the patient with a soft diet; and by way of medicine, as well as for common drink, I ordered an infusion of elder flowers in milk.

The forty-ninth day, the skin was almost returned to its natural state; but it always remained endued with a quicker and more lively sensation than had been usual to it formerly.

The patient had then recovered strength; he eat heartily, and slept soundly; his urine was well colored, and in sufficient quantity; his stools were of the proper kind.

But as various pustules appeared upon the skin, which itched, and, when broke, discharged an acrid serum; I thought that, to purify more effectually the blood, the use of the hemlock was still to be continued.

I therefore ordered ten grains of the extract to be taken every morning, and as much at night; besides whey to be plentifully drank.

By these means he was perfectly recovered in a fortnight.

The out skin, or epidermis, remained, however, very tender, and was broke with the least rubbing.

But this complaint was soon remedied by the baths of Bade, which this person made use of for three weeks.

Being thus perfectly restored, his skin and epidermis in their natural state, he came to me again, and returned me thanks.



## CASE XIII.

A Woman of two and forty, otherwise in a very good state of health, began about seven years ago, from what cause she did not know, to be troubled with the whites; and from that time the natural discharge entirely ceased.

The matter proceeding from the womb was in the beginning mucous, thick, and whitish. A tension, and a wandering stich were also perceived in the lower region of the belly.

The urine, besides, was totally stopped, or rendered difficult at least to come away.

After the use of baths and various other remedies, this flux was at length suppressed.

But there still remained a stich and tension in the lower region of the belly. A stoppage of urine was also frequent; a vague heat often attacked the head; slight fainting supervened; and almost every evening a kind of shivering seized the back.

These complaints were removed by the decoction only of marsh-mallows.

For very near five years, the disorder was pretty tolerable; the patient did not lose her strength, and was able to continue her usual occupations.

But now gnawing pains were felt; the tension of the lower region of the belly rendered it excessive painful upon the slightest touch; nor could the patient either urinate, or go to stool.

By the means of the most emollient glisters and fomentations, a sharp troubled urine came away;



away; the stools were black, hard, and lumpy.

The patient received relief from hence; recovering her strength, and able to be out of bed.

On touching the outside, a hard swelling was perceived in the lower region of the belly, in which was felt a hot, gnawing, pungent pain.

On this account the woman went into the most emollient bath for two hours every day; and on the eighth, a stinking, blackish, and sharp ichor came away; which abated both the heat and pain.

She used the same bath for a fortnight still, and found herself infinitely better; for the parts which had been so tender, could now well bear a rougher handling; and the patient was able to walk about without uneasiness.

But the flux of the sharpest ichor was still becoming more considerable; and the neck of the womb, and outer parts, were eaten away.

External remedies were applied, and inward medicines administered, upon this occasion.

For some days the patient seemed to receive relief; and the discharge was much more moderate.

The pains were, however, again augmented; and a fever supervened, accompanied with a stoppage of the urine; so that emollient glisters and fomentations were necessary to free the urinary passage; in consequence of which, the discharge, also, of the ichor was more copious.

By degrees the patient became much weakened; she began to shiver towards evening, af-

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terwards



terwards to be hot, and to sweat profusely in the night.

Every thing that was tried, was tried to no kind of purpose; the pains were more acute, and more obstinate; the matter was more fetid, and more acrid.

Abandoned by the physicians, she came to our hospital, emaciated and cachectic.

I prescribed every remedy which I had experienced to be useful in the like complaints.

I endeavored, besides, to correct the acrimony with demulcent decoctions, and a softening diet.

The patient's strength seemed somewhat augmented, and her mind less melancholy; but the evening fever, and the nocturnal sweats, remained.

Nor were the pains diminished, or the flux more moderate.

These circumstances induced me to change the usual remedies, in favor of the hemlock.

I ordered, however, to be drank at the same time a strong decoction of marsh-mallows, and took care to have the neck of the womb and outer parts washed, several times a day, with a weak infusion of hemlock in milk.

Every thing wore, in a few days, a much better aspect; the pains abated; the evening fever was more moderate, sleep more undisturbed, the sweats much less profuse, and the matter, which the womb discharged, less fetid.

The eighteenth day, I now ordered four and twenty grains of the hemlock-extract, in the space of every twenty-four hours.

The symptoms were, almost every day growing  
ing



ing better ; the pain was, however, so considerable, that, in order to abate it, the help of opium was found necessary.

The thirtieth day, the pains were violent and burning, accompanied with a fever, and a thirst ; and the patient was much reduced.

I discontinued the hemlock for a time ; not that I condemned it on this account.

I ordered the patient to be blooded ; nothing was administered inwardly except a most emollient decoction with nitre and honey.

Outwardly, an emollient cataplasm was applied.

When the fever came on, the discharge from the womb entirely ceased ; the passage of the urine became difficult, tho not totally stopped.

The blood which was drawn was thick and enflamed.

These bad symptoms persevered, with scarce the least remission, to the fourth day ; and the patient was perceived often to have shiverings.

The fourth, she was very weak ; the pulse often intermitted ; and in the face many changes were observed of color and of heat.

At length, towards evening, after much shivering, a cold sweat, and a slight fainting, some mucous matter discharged itself from the womb, mixed with bloody streaks, and emitting a very offensive smell.

Hence all concluded the presence of a mortification which could not be otherwise than fatal.

But in half an hour a considerable quantity of pus appeared, and the patient found herself much relieved ; the night was past in quiet, and the sleep refreshed her.



The next morning, I found the patient in good spirits; the pulse was natural; a moderate flow of pus continued.

I then prescribed a decoction of marsh-mallows without nitre; but I ordered pills, at the same time, composed of olibanum, mastick, sarcocol, and the mucilage of gum-dragon.

The pains about the region of the womb were at present few; nor was there any hardness now observed.

By these medicines alone, and with a softening diet, the discharge of pus was ended in a fortnight; and the patient's strength augmented.

However, as, upon the cessation of the pus, a dropping of ichor was still perceived, which made the patient feel pungent pains wandering in the womb; I laid aside the balsamic pills, and prescribed a-new the hemlock-extract; by which means she was entirely cured in three weeks time.

She now was lusty, active, strong; the discharge from the womb was ceased; her urine flowed with ease; her appetite was good; her sleep was refreshing and undisturbed.

#### C A S E XIV.

A Woman of eight and forty had had the whites for about fifteen years; and tho she took, for a very long continuance, every remedy prescribed to her by the best physicians, the evil still persisted in its usual state, or even became worse.

When she found that her complaints remained the same, whether she followed or neglected the directions



directions of her doctors, and that even medicines had weakened and altered her for the worse; she changed her conduct, and abandoned herself to the management of nature.

She took no remedies for eleven years; and then the menses discontinued, which hitherto had always flowed at proper times, and in sufficient quantities.

Very violent and acute pains were felt upon this occasion in the womb, accompanied with a continual heat; and the matter which had hitherto been mucous, benign, and thick, was now become greenish, thin, and of a bad smell.

She then implored the succour of physicians, applied to surgeons, and advised with several old women; but remedies rather encreased her misery, than afforded her relief.

The patient was by degrees reduced to the lowest state.

The pains and heat were both continual; towards evening they encreased; to the discharge of the most putrid ichor, now was joined dissolved and fetid blood, together with fibrous, corrupted, blackish crusts; the neck of the womb and outward parts were gradually exulcerated and eaten away; nor could the emaciated patient scarce support herself erect.

In this most wretched situation we admitted her into the hospital.

I desired Mr. Haffner to examine as well as possible the parts of generation.

He found those, which outwardly appear, exuded; the neck of the womb exulcerated; its mouth hard and painful, emitting a sanious matter when closely pressed.

I ad-



I advised injections into the neck of the womb twice every day, composed of a weak infusion of the hemlock-plant, with a little honey of roses, and one-sixth part of milk.

A decoction also was administered of emollient, demulcent, and involving ingredients, mixed with one-third portion of new milk.

In six days time the smell was become much less offensive; and the patient was somewhat better.

I then, besides the decoction, prescribed the hemlock; the injections likewise were continued.

All the symptoms were by degrees abated; in the room of ichor, a mucous pus-like matter at length appeared; and afterwards all discharge was discontinued.

And in the space of eleven weeks this woman recovered perfect health.

It was not found necessary to administer above half a dram daily of the extract, as this dose proved sufficient to obviate every symptom.

The injections were laid aside, as soon as the benign matter began to flow.

The genital parts were, however, washed now and then every day, lest this benign matter should acquire acrimony by lodging in any of the folds.

#### C A S E XV.

**A** Woman of two and fifty was long troubled with a continual gnawing pain in the womb.

She was at the same time afflicted with the whites, which became at length of such malignancy,



nancy, that the parts of generation not only were corroded; but the very linens, into which it was received, were shortly rendered friable and rotten.

The smell, besides, was so considerable, and so offensive, that her husband shunned her; and her female acquaintance, with whom she had been most intimate, avoided now her company.

After having spent much of her substance to no purpose, in search of cure, she at last requested my advice.

I ordered her to drink plenty of whey, and to wash the genital parts with a weak infusion of hemlock and milk, with a little honey of roses.

But as she complained of terrible pains, during the night, in the womb, I ordered her powders, every night going to bed, of half a dram of crabs-eyes, and a grain of opium.

This rendered her sleep longer, and less disturbed; her appetite was augmented; she even seemed somewhat stronger, and more hearty.

In other respects, however, no alteration happened.

I then prescribed, besides the whey, the hemlock-extract; and I continued the evening powders.

The pains were so much abated in the space of a fortnight, that the opiate at night became unnecessary; the matter which issued from the womb neither smelt so ill, nor was as sharp as formerly.

The urine, was however, stopped.

I then abstained from giving the hemlock for some days, and prescribed the following mixture.



Take of crabs eyes, one ounce,  
of mountainy austrian wine, one pound.

Let a mixture be made, of which the patient is to take a spoonful four times a day.

This mixture was attended with remarkable effect : the urinary passage became perfectly free ; and from the womb much sharp ichorous matter was discharged, to the patient's great relief ; but in the mean time the pains were again encreased.

It was therefore necessary to return to the hemlock.

I ordered to be taken, twenty grains of the extract every day ; besides plenty of whey, or decoction of marsh-mallows.

The pains were upon this asswaged, and the strength augmented ; the discharge was mucous, and seldom fetid.

Notwithstanding, in about three weeks, a stoppage of urine supervened again.

I therefore substituted, in the room of the hemlock, the former mixture of crabs-eyes and wine.

This gave great relief.

Thus I was often obliged to interrupt the use of the extract ; and almost every fortnight I gave the mixture, returning afterwards to the hemlock.

The consequence of this treatment was, that in six months time, this patient was perfectly recovered from the most wretched state.

And now, these nine months past, she enjoys excellent health.

She lately indeed eat too freely at a feast, and  
came



came to me for some remedy to cure the indigestion.

But I only advised her to live abstemious for a day or two.

The learned Doctor Collin happened to be present at the time; I shewed this woman to him, restored from a most dangerous disorder.

She related to him, better than I was able, the whole history of her complaints; and could not enough praise the pills, which had caused her cure.

She told him, that she was despised by every body, on account of the smell which proceeded from her womb; that her own husband, her very children, had forsaken her, as if she had been afflicted with the plague.

That, emaciated by a consumption, she had been reduced almost to skin and bone; that she had taken a disgust for victuals; that her nocturnal sweats had been very profuse.

But that she was now restored to vigor and to flesh; and added, that she was at present extremely pleasing to her husband.

## C A S E XVI.

**A** Virgin of eighteen had, for three years past, both breasts as hard as stone.

Besides, she was flaccid, pale, cachectic; her menses had hitherto never flowed; she complained of a palpitation of the heart; and upon walking a little faster than usual, she panted, and was almost suffocated.

Both breasts were marked with livid streaks; and a very sharp wandering pain was also often felt.



The glands likewise of the arm-pits and groin were swelled and hard.

I immediately ordered three pills to be taken of the extract of hemlock, three times a day, each pill weighing two grains; and after every dose, two cup-fuls to be drank of an infusion of balm and elder-flowers.

Outwardly, nothing was applied.

The fifth day, no alteration was hitherto observed.

I therefore encreased the hemlock to four pills three times a day, and continued the same infusion.

The eighth day, the livid streaks disappeared from both the breasts; but the wandering pungent pains were much more frequent; the strength was greater.

The tenth day, fifteen pills were now daily administered to the patient.

The twelfth day, a white, glutinous matter issued from the womb in considerable quantities; all the hardnesses appeared less great; the respiration was easier; nor was the palpitation so frequent.

I continued the same dose of the pills to the twentieth day, when all things wore now a better aspect; the swellings were much less; both breasts were become more moveable, and in some measure hanging down.

The color of the countenance, before of a yellowish green, was now changed to near a rosy color; all the functions began to be restored.

A mucous matter issued from the womb in plenty, which was sometimes sharp, and produced



duced a heat in the neck of the womb, and sometimes so benign that the patient perceived nothing.

Eighteen pills were now daily administered of the hemlock.

The thirtieth day, both breasts were almost restored to their natural condition; the glands of the arm-pits were considerably lessened; the patient felt no pain, and was in very good spirits.

The discharge from the womb was no longer either considerable or frequent.

The dose of the pills was not afterwards augmented; and the infusion of balm and elder flowers was continued.

The fiftieth day, nothing could be found disordered in the breasts; there were yet under the arm-pits indeed a few lumps, of the size of peas; the discharge of mucous matter from the womb was entirely ceased; and a good appetite was obtained.

I prescribed, for three weeks after, a moderate dose of hemlock, and some infusion of rue.

The menses then appeared without any kind of pain; pure blood discharged itself during the space of five days; no palpitation was now observed; nor did a considerable walk render her respiration difficult.

Thus appearing restored to perfect health, we ordered her no more medicines.

## C A S E    XVII.

**A** Man of thirty was, two years ago, afflicted with a very strong quotidian ague.



His surgeon immediately ceased, upon his recovery, to administer the peruvian bark.

Upon which the respiration of the patient became soon difficult, and his appetite lost; there was a tension in the left hypochondrium; nor could it be touched without causing pain; he could not lie on his right side. Finally, there arose a hard swelling, which filled almost the whole left cavity of the lower belly.

Besides, all over the body there appeared by degrees very foul boils, of a blueish cast, which penetrated deep between the skin and the membrane of the fat; some of whom, being broke by rubbing, discharged black, putrid blood, and shortly gave way to fungous flesh, which grew with expedition.

To all these misfortunes a tertian ague now was added.

The physicians who attended this patient expected to see his former complaints cured by this new disease.

Hence, they prescribed saline and dissolving remedies, and bitters in order to assist the efforts of the fever.

But they had no effect; and the fever became so vehement, that the patient was considerably weakened; his extremities swelled gradually; and a dropsey was justly apprehended.

At length he was brought to our hospital.

With slight diuretics, venice sope, rhubarb, antiscorbutic conserves, &c. I dispelled the swelling of the extremities; his appetite returned; but the violence of the fever was still increasing, and the fits were become of such continuance



tinuance that almost every one of them lasted about five and twenty hours.

A cough seized the patient always in the fit to such a great degree, that at last he spit up florid blood.

The paroxysm, however, over, he neither coughed, nor was troubled with a difficulty of breathing.

No remedies were able to mitigate this cough when the fit approached; and a very great heat was felt in the breast in consequence of it.

The patient was at length quite emaciated; his strength was entirely gone; and the nocturnal sweats threatened a consumption that would be fatal.

It was therefore necessary to abate the fever.

For this purpose I joined, to the antiscorbutic conserve, some of the choicest peruvian bark; by which means, in five days time, the fever was greatly diminished; the sweats by night were inconsiderable; the patient's strength was somewhat now recovered; he was greatly refreshed by natural and undisturbed sleep; the cough was much less troublesome, and was capable of being asswaged by the help of mucilages and opiates.

I therefore continued similar remedies for some weeks, and afterwards added to them others which might contribute to dispel the swellings, and cure the boils.

The swelling still, however, persisted in the left side of the lower belly; the boils remained always in the same state; nor was the fever at an end.

A livid swelling in the feet was now observed;  
and



and boils in the same place appeared, larger in size, and more in number.

Several decoctions, which, upon other occasions, have contributed considerably towards correcting the mass of blood, were of no service in the present case.

To these at length I joined some slight anti-venereal mercurial remedies.

As the patient obeyed these last prescriptions without any inconvenience, and as no alteration hence had happened for the better or the worse, I administered by degrees ingredients of a stronger kind; and towards the end I ordered, besides great quantities of decoction, some corrosive sublimate dissolved in corn spirits.

These also the patient bore extremely well.

But, tho given in large doses for a month, they were productive of no effect.

Having now tried so many different remedies, scarce any thing, except the hemlock, remained of those which the disorder indicated.

I therefore administered immediately ten grains every morning, and as many at night; besides plenty of the decoction of barley.

The third day after having employed the hemlock, the patient scarce felt any return of the fever.

In other respects, nothing was yet altered.

The seventh day, the patient's strength was much recovered; the fever was entirely gone; the appetite was encreased; the flaccid swellings about the joints and in the face were now totally dispelled.

I now gave daily half a dram of the hemlock-extract.

The



The twelfth day, the urine was thick, fetid, and of a blackish red; some of the boils were dried; while others, which broke, discharged a fluid of a livid color.

The swelling in the left side of the lower belly seemed softer, and more moveable; but the patient could not, however, yet lie on the right side.

The nights were passed without restlessness or anxiety.

I then ordered an antiphlogistic purgative.

The fifteenth day, twenty grains were now administered, morning and evening, of the extract.

The twentieth, the feet, which had been hitherto swollen and livid, returned to their natural size as well as color; and several of the boils were dried up.

Here and there, however, new boils again appeared, of a bright red, and very small.

The urine continued thick, and of a blackish red.

I then applied to all the lower belly a plaster of the hemlock.

The twenty-fifth day, the patient took a purging antiphlogistic draught.

Afterwards an entire dram was taken daily of the hemlock-extract.

The thirty-first day, many of the dried boils were separated from the skin; but the whole surface of the body remained extremely tender; the skin broke upon the slightest friction, and discharged a sharp serum.

The urine now appeared less thick, and of a brownish hue.

The



The thirty-fifth day, I repeated the antiphlogistic purgative.

The fortieth, five boils only were now observed, and these were extremely small and almost dry.

The swelling of the lower belly was softer, and smaller.

The fifty-third day, all the boils disappeared; and, only for the swelling in the lower belly, this patient might be then dismissed as entirely cured.

An antiphlogistic purge was then administered to him.

And as he now recovered his full force, he returned to his trade, which was that of a carpenter.

I ordered him, besides, to continue still to take thirty hemlock-pills of two grains each; and to drink plentifully of the decoction of burdock-root; applying, at the same time, the plaster of hemlock to the lower belly.

After six weeks, he was able to lie on the right side without uneasiness; the swelling was reduced to a very small size.

The tenth week, the swelling had almost entirely disappeared.

At the end of the third month, the man was perfectly cured.

After repeating once more the purging potion, I thought it unnecessary for him to take medicines any longer.

#### C A S E XVIII.

**A** Youth of seventeen, on his arrival from Hungary at Vienna, was seized with a very violent fever; he had, besides, a large, hard, immove-



immoveable swelling in the left hypochondrium; this was accompanied by the jaundice; and his body was all over bloated.

I ordered divers remedies in the space of three weeks, but could procure him no relief.

I therefore had recourse to the hemlock-extract, of which I administered to him eight grains morning and evening; together with a strong infusion of the leaves of trefoil.

In eight days time, the fever was much abated; the strength encreased; the general swelling of his body was softer, smaller, and the skin already began to wrinkle; the urine, which had hitherto been brown and thick, was now of a citrine hue; the right hypochondrium the least touch of which caused pain, now even bore to be strongly pressed; the appetite likewise was encreased.

I then prescribed a slight purgative of rhubarb and polychrest salt.

The next day, I began to give ten grains of the extract every morning, and as much at night: the trefoil-infusion was continued.

The eighteenth day, the patient scarce felt any attack for the future of the fever; the swelling of the whole body, and especially that of the extremities, was much diminished; the jaundice now was inconsiderable, and the appetite good; the urine almost natural, and the swelling softer in the left hypochondrium.

I then ordered half a dram a day of the hemlock-extract; and to the left hypochondrium I applied a plaster of the same plant.

The thirtieth day, the young man was already strong; the fever entirely ceased; some slight



remains of the jaundice still subsisted; the pain in the joints, and the swelling, totally disappeared.

I repeated the purge of rhubarb and polychrest salt.

Afterwards I continued the same infusion and the same dose of the hemlock-extract.

The forty-first day, no traces of the jaundice could be now perceived; and the patient's strength was good.

But no great alteration for the better was yet observed in the swelling of the left hypochondrium.

I therefore ordered forty grains to be taken daily of the extract; the left hypochondrium to be rubbed, morning and evening, with equal parts of the ointment of marsh-mallows and flowers of marygold, with a little camphire; and the body to be well exercised in the open air.

By this means, in the space of two months and an half, the swelling of the hypochondrium entirely vanished; and the youth, being perfectly recovered, returned to the army.

I had ordered him a slight purge every fortnight during the whole course of the remedies.

### CASE XIX.

A Man of four and thirty had the glands of his neck swelled to so great a size, for some years past, that the swelling on each side of the neck was equal to a man's head.

It was horrid to behold this wretch from the appearance of his being treble-headed.

The several glands joined in one mass, and stuck closely to one another.

Under the arm-pits there were also large swell-



swellings which rendered the motion of the arms extremely painful, if not almost impossible.

In the fore part of the breast, a schirrous mass extended itself from the neck to the borders of the ribs.

These schirs were corroded here and there by ichorous ulcers.

Foul and fungous cancers grew out in other places.

Numberless fistulas and sinusses were discovered likewise.

A terrible cough attacked the patient; nocturnal sweats consumed his flesh and force; his respiration was difficult; his appetite lost; his feet and arms, his face and the whole habit of his body, were bloated by an edematous swelling.

The manifest signs appeared of a true consumption.

The most penetrating vegetable and mineral remedies were prescribed upon this occasion, by various physicians; their endeavors were ineffectual; nay, the patient became worse.

I ordered this man, thus emaciated, panting and swollen, to be admitted into our hospital.

Mr. Haffner, tho he had often seen many very dangerous disorders cured by the sole use of hemlock, could entertain no hopes at all in the present case.

I must own I gave up the man myself for lost; for the undermining fever, the nocturnal sweats, the continual and fatiguing cough, the weakness of the patient, the swelling of all the body, the cachexy of the humors, and the



difficulty of breathing, presaged an almost certain death.

In the mean time, however, I desired Mr. Haffner, outwardly to apply an hemlock-fomentation, and inwardly to inject into the fistulas and sinusses a weak infusion of hemlock, with a little honey of roses.

I prescribed, at the same time, some expectorant and strengthening medicines.

By the fomentation alone, the ulcers were become considerably cleaner, and the swellings softened.

At the end of twelve days, the patient recovered some little force, breathed more freely, and passed more quiet nights.

This induced me to administer the hemlock inwardly.

I ordered, for common drink, a decoction of barley, with a fourth part of milk.

By the use of hemlock, the spittle came away with ease; and in about a fortnight, the swelling all over the habit of the body ceased; the urine was discharged in plenty; the evening fever was abated; and the nocturnal sweats were less profuse; the hardness of the neck, the fistulas and sinusses, were now all in a much better state; and the patient was already able to be out of bed.

The great and quick effect of this medicine in so desperate a case, afforded us considerable satisfaction; and added to the alacrity and spirit with which we persevered in the administration of the inward, and the application of the outward remedies that the circumstances required.

Before the first month was over, in which  
the



the hemlock was prescribed, the color of the countenance was already natural; the appetite returned; the evening fever ceased; the sweats by night no more observed; the strength tolerably good; the swellings of the neck softer considerably, and smaller; and the best of pus discovered in the ulcers.

The learned Doctor Collin and I took care together of this patient; Mr. Haffner carefully continued the fomentation and injection in the day, and, during the night, applied the plaster of the hemlock.

In six weeks time, the swellings of the neck were lessened by the half; and the patient could bend his neck on every side without much uneasiness.

The breathing was free; no cough was heard; and the patient was become fat and strong.

We now prescribed an entire dram every day of the extract of hemlock.

At the beginning of the third month, the patient took a dram and a half daily of the extract.

We continued three months this dose, by which time all the swellings were dispelled, and the ulcers closed by cicatrices; the fistulas and sinusses were healed, and the neck reduced to its natural size, and restored to its natural state.

The patient was now hearty, fat and strong; nor did we ever perceive that the least inconvenience proceeded from the dose that we administered.

Thus was effected, by the hemlock, what no man before could presume to hope for.



## CASE XX.

A Virgin of five and twenty had her right breast hard for ten years past.

This swelling gradually extended to the armpits; at length a lividness appeared; the veins distended; the affected part was in continual torture day and night; and the arm swelled, and was immoveable.

Called upon to this patient, I prescribed immediately the hemlock-extract, but ordered no outward application.

In the space of five days, the lividness was changed to a bright red, and the pains were much abated.

The thirteenth day, the breast had almost its natural color; the veins were still distended; the swelling was much softer, and more moveable; the size of the arm was likewise lessened, and capable of some little motion.

The menses appeared the sixteenth day; the patient observed the blood to flow much purer than before, and less uneasiness to precede the terms.

For hitherto, when the return of the menses was approaching, the patient was tormented always with a most troublesome vomiting, a very violent cholic, and a disagreeable tension about the os sacrum and the groin; accompanied mostly with an anxiety in the breast, a palpitation of the heart, a giddiness of the head, and painful stoppages of urine: none of these complaints were felt upon the present occasion.

During the flow of the monthly terms, the veins of the affected breast were reduced to their



their natural dimensions; the breast was become softer, smaller, more moveable, and divided into several lesser lumps.

The arm was moved with tolerable ease, and reduced to its natural size.

The twenty-fourth day, the menses ceased to flow; the patient was very well, felt no pain, and recovered some strength; and the lumps of the affected breast were separated into very thick fibres.

I then ordered a slight purgative.

The thirty-sixth day, a few very small lumps only, and some fibrous hardnesses, subsisted in the breast; the patient was in an excellent condition; the countenance, which before had been wan and cachectic, now was of a rosy hue; and the whole habit of body was become much stronger, firmer, and more fit for doing any business.

The forty-third day, the menstrual flux returned without the least inconvenience.

The fiftieth day, scarce any thing differed in the breast from the natural state; the arm was moved with perfect freedom; and pain was no longer now perceived.

I prescribed, at this time, a gentle purge.

The eightieth day, the woman was in perfect health; and her breast was found entirely restored to its natural state.

I then ordered another purgative; and afterwards I thought it was no longer necessary to give the hemlock.

A moderate quantity of the extract of this plant proved sufficient to cure this patient.

The first four weeks, I only ordered three pills in the morning, and three at night; after-



wards, I proceeded to four; and finally, to five pills for a dose.

Each pill weighed two grains.

No external remedies were applied.

Nor was any decoction drank to facilitate the cure; except some veal broth, after every dose of the hemlock-pills.

This patient had formerly been often subject to a very violent pain on one side of the head, which, from the taking of the hemlock-extract, has not been once observed.

A small dose, therefore, of the hemlock cured entirely many ills.

### CASE XXI.

**A**N old woman of seventy, extremely weak and emaciated, had a most foul and cancerous ulcer near the left parotid.

This ulcer produced sinusses and fistulas, which penetrated deeply between the muscles of the neck and the integuments of the head.

Outwardly, a fomentation of hemlock was applied by Mr. Haffner; and he injected several times a day, the fistulas and sinusses with an infusion of the same herb.

Inwardly, I ordered the hemlock and plenty of milk.

In the space of twenty days, every thing cancerous, fungous, or corrupt, was separated from the ulcer; several of the sinusses were closed; and the patient recovered strength.

She then took a disgust to milk; so that I allowed a little wine, some veal, barley-cream, or rice lightly boiled.

Every



Every thing wore daily now a better aspect; and in the sixth week of the hemlock's being employed, all the sinusses and fistulas were found closed, and the ulcer covered with a firm cicatrice.

Nothing more was outwardly applied; but two pills were still ordered to be taken inwardly every morning, and as many every evening, for a fortnight.

We then dismissed this old woman from the hospital, perfectly cured, and full of spirits.

## C A S E XXII.

A Woman of four and forty, healthy in other respects, discontinued to have her monthly terms from the age of two and thirty.

She felt no other inconvenience from this cessation, than a tension in her left groin.

She frequented baths, and tried various other remedies, in vain.

In two years after the first stoppage of the menses, she perceived a hardness in the left region of the belly, which caused no pain even on being handled, and could be moved up and down.

This encreased, in size, so quick, that in a very short time it was double the bigness of a man's fist.

And when the patient lay on the right side, it excited a pain, a tension, and anxiety.

She had recourse again to the most emollient baths, took remedies prescribed to her by the best physicians, and outwardly applied a plaster and ointment.

The swelling soon seemed softer, smaller; but



it returned quickly to the hardness of a stone; and a tension was perceived all over the left side of the belly.

The patient, finding remedies productive of no effect, left her disorder to take its course, without attempting to check its progress.

However, she bound bandages round her belly, to hinder the swelling, which was not fixed to any one place, from being any obstruction to her in walking or in lying.

In the month of February, 1761. she was seized with a peripneumony, which obliged her to be brought to our hospital.

By the means of antiphlogistic, emollient, and expectorant remedies, this disease was happily terminated in five and twenty days, by a spitting; and the patient recovered.

After this disorder, a pain began to be perceived in the swelling of the lower region of the belly, which was sometimes violent, and at others, almost vanished.

The woman, herself, told her story in the manner I have now repeated it.

Mr. Haffner and I examined the swelling, and concluded it to be a schir of the left ovary.

But as so many remedies were already given, for a considerable length of time uninterruptedly, without effecting any alteration, we immediately prescribed the hemlock, together with a strong decoction of marsh-mallows root; but applied nothing outwardly.

The pain soon ceased in the part affected; but the head was heavy, and seemed to the patient, as if squeezed by a press.

I then ordered a gentle purgative, which gave  
the



the head great ease. Afterwards I returned to the hemlock.

This woman, by degrees, became quite well; her appetite was restored; her strength encreased; her sleep calm and undisturbed.

A fortnight after we first gave the hemlock, the swelling seemed already to be softer; and from the womb proceeded a white, thick, viscid, mucous matter, without smell.

In the space of a month, the swelling was now smaller by the half, and softened; the mucous matter still continued to issue from the womb.

It was then observed, that the discharge of this matter produced a heat in the womb, and other genital parts.

Before the second month elapsed, nothing could be now distinguished like a hardness, or a swelling; the woman complained of no inconvenience, and was able to lie on any side.

The mucus flowed now in less quantities from the womb, and was of a thinner kind.

In a few days it ceased entirely; and the woman had every appearance of perfect health.

However, I took care that she should still continue for a fortnight the use of the hemlock-pills, that nothing might remain which could afford occasion for a relapse.

## C A S E XXIII.

A Child of three years old was afflicted with the worst rickets; his face and body were swelled; and his strength reduced.

I tried many remedies, which have been salutary



lutory on the like occasions, but were of no service here.

This determined me to give the hemlock; I began by a grain every morning, and a grain at night.

The fourth day, I encreased the dose to four grains daily; the child began already to have an appetite.

The eighth, I now administered six grains a day; the infant was stronger, and could support itself on its little legs.

I did not afterwards augment the dose, as things were growing better every day; and the child, which had hitherto been fluggish, morose, and fearful, was in a month's time become active, merry, and stout; he eat heartily; and the swellings of the joints were, at least, lessened by two thirds.

The cachectic color of the countenance was changed to a natural and ruddy complexion.

At the end of the third month, the child was perfectly cured; he walked without support, and slept without anxiety; he fattened apace; and on his recovery, his cloaths were found too narrow, and too short. Hence we may conclude, that this child grew considerably during his taking of the hemlock; nor ever felt any inconvenience from it.

#### C A S E XXIV.

**A** Little girl of four years old, and rickety, has taken the hemlock these three months past, and is now near cured.

C A S E



## C A S E XXV.

**A** Virgin of eighteen vomited, every afternoon, for four years past, whatever was in her stomach; in consequence of which she became cachectic, and was almost emaciated.

Various remedies, administered to her by other physicians, and by me, afforded indeed some temporary relief; but the evil returned again in a few days.

The patient complained of a pain and heat in the upper region of the belly; a tension might also be perceived, but no hardness.

I tried, however, the hemlock; and in a fortnight the vomiting was less frequent; and the strength was somewhat augmented.

The third week the vomiting entirely ceased; but a kind of anxiety was felt every afternoon; and the nights were passed uneasily.

I then prescribed a purging draught, which gave the patient great relief.

Afterwards I continued the hemlock; and towards the end of the second month, perfect health and sufficient strength were now restored.

The monthly terms, which had hitherto been inconsiderable, and always began with a pain in the belly and towards the lower part of the back, flowed at present plentifully and freely.

## C A S E XXVI.

**A** Woman of three and twenty had a large lymphatic swelling all round her right knee.

Neither the fomentations, plaster, ointments, or internal remedies usual in similar cases, were of any benefit here. But



But the use of hemlock alone, inwardly and outwardly administered, totally dispelled the swelling in three weeks time.

In this interval purgatives were twice prescribed.

The hemlock in this person provoked very plentiful discharges of urine.

### CASE XXVII.

**A** Workman, who had a cataract very near a year in his left eye, was cured in the space of three months and a half by the means of hemlock, together with a decoction of burdock-root.

Every tenth day a purge was given to him.

For six weeks he took a dram and a half, every day, of the extract; and during the last months, two drams daily.

This man not only recovered perfect sight by the use of hemlock, but his strength also was much encreased; and he got rid, at the same time, of rheumatic pains, with which he had been afflicted all over his body for eight years before.

### CASE XXVIII.

**A** Virgin of five and twenty was suddenly deprived of sight after an acute disease, and afflicted with a true gutta serena.

I had often seen corrosive sublimate dissolved in corn-spirits, together with resolving decoctions, of great use on similar occasions.

This medicine I therefore ordered to the present patient, and continued it for near two months; but without perceiving the least benefit to arise from it. But



But as I had often observed the hemlock to penetrate where the sublimated could not gain admittance, I thought it proper to recur to it now.

I immediately began with twenty grains a day.

After three weeks the patient frequently complained of giddiness and scintillations; she thought already she could distinguish light and colors.

But such intervals soon ended; and the head returned giddy.

I then ordered a purge.

Towards the end of the second month the patient could now obscurely perceive some objects; nor was she often troubled with the giddiness or scintillation.

From the beginning of the third month she took two drams a day of the extract; and her sight was considerably improved.

This dose was continued to the fifth month; at which time she could see and distinguish every thing.

Tho the hemlock was administered in large doses to this patient, and for a long continuance, she never found any inconvenience from it; her appetite was even restored; her strength increased; and all her actions, which had hitherto been languid, were now exercised with ease and pleasure.

The monthly terms continued to appear at due times, and in proper quantities.



## CASE XXIX.

A Man of fifty was troubled with the gout from his thirty-seventh year; he had nodes not only about the joints of his feet, but also in his hands and knees; the chalky matter eat away the neighbouring parts; the motion of his hands and feet was rendered very difficult, and his knees were become quite stiff; every change of the weather or the season produced most torturing pains in these parts, and obliged the patient to take to his bed for several days.

Neither the baths, nor any other external or internal remedies which the patient had hitherto employed, were of any benefit to him.

I ordered him, therefore, the hemlock, and some whey; nothing was outwardly applied.

In the space of five weeks the nodes were all dissolved; motion returned to the limbs; nor did a change of air any longer cause great pain.

However, I advised a continuation, for a few weeks more, of a moderate dose of hemlock, with plenty of whey.

The nodes and gouty matter thus dispelled, the patient complained, for several days, of a disagreeable tenderness, which changed into a very acute pain on the slightest motion, about the joints and places which had been filled with nodes and chalky matter.

I therefore ordered him, as it was then in spring, to frequent the mineral waters near Vienna.

He returned from thence fat, lusty, strong, and healthy; and was able to bear every injury of the weather without pain.



## C A S E XXX.

**A** Woman of fixty was troubled with the gout for twenty years past, which spread itself by degrees over her whole body, fixed itself in all the joints, and created nodes and chalky swellings.

This woman was never free a month from pain; and when it came, it was constantly so violent, that she could neither move hand or foot, nor convey victuals to her mouth; and often, in the exquisiteness of suffering, she wished for death as the only riddance that could be now expected.

I administered the hemlock to this patient, together with an infusion of the flowers of elder.

The fourth week after this treatment was begun, she was able not only to walk about in her own bed-chamber, but even to go out and pay visits to her friends.

In a short time after, the nodes and swellings were dispelled entirely; the hands, which had been rendered by the chalky swellings extremely disagreeable, as well as almost useless, were now restored to their natural, tender, soft, and fair condition.

Her strength encreased; and all her actions, hitherto interrupted, were performed with ease.

This woman has now lived near nine months in perfect health, and free from pain.

## C A S E XXXI.

**A** Man aged forty was troubled, every spring and autumn for these eight years past,  
M with



with a hard swelling about the ancles; so painful as to occasion a fever, and confine him to his bed.

By the warmth of the bed, however, and by diluting medicines, in a fortnight or three weeks time, he was usually freed from all his complaints, and able to follow his ordinary business.

In the spring of 1760, about the time the pains in the ancles usually attacked him, he perceived a slight and moderate tension, from whence he supposed his distemper was about to return.

But this tension suddenly disappeared on the second day, and was followed by a sharp pricking pain in the pleura of the left side, producing a disease of the true inflammatory kind.

By repeated bleedings, and medicines generally exhibited in such cases, the violence of the fever, indeed, was checked; but the stich persisted equally severe.

The blood drawn from the veins was always covered with a thick, mucous, tough, variegated coat.

Blisters, sinapisms, and other topics, applied to the feet, in order to bring about a revulsion of the pain, from the breast to the former seat of the distemper, were not found to be of service.

The fever at length went entirely off, tho the stich remained continually violent.

As it appeared, however, on duly considering all the circumstances of this obstinate ailment, that it proceeded from a derivation of that humor which hitherto had attacked the feet; and as I had learned from manifold experience, that



in such cases the hemlock had great efficacy in resolving any ferous, acrid, thick, tenacious humor; I prescribed it on this occasion, together with a strong decoction of marsh-mallows root.

I used no external application, either to the feet, or to the side.

The third day, the stich was abated; the ancles sweated freely, and were affected with an obtuse pain.

The fifth, the patient began to spit; the stich was much easier; nor did he feel any pain or swelling in his ancles.

The twelfth day, he left his bed; scarce perceived afterwards any pain; and continued to spit considerable quantities of a glary phlegm.

The thirteenth, he passed an uneasy night; he became soon weak, and was seized with a violent racking pain in his limbs, and over his whole body; at length a clammy, fetid and copious sweat broke out; the next morning, he found himself prodigiously recovered; he was brisk and strong, and had a very good appetite.

I then advised him to continue, for three weeks longer, an infusion of elder-flowers in whey, with a small dose of the hemlock; at the end of which time he came, in the full possession of health and vigor, to return me thanks.

## C A S E XXXII.

**A** Woman of three and twenty had, for four years past, a hard swelling, bigger than



than a man's fist, in each breast; but never felt in either the least pain.

Ten months ago she married, and became with child.

In the fourth month of her pregnancy, both her breasts swelled greatly, and gave pain; their natural color was changed to a deep red.

All who saw these breasts, were apprehensive this good woman would have cancers of the worst kind.

She at length sent for me; I was fearful at first, and refused giving the hemlock, as I had never yet tried it on women with child.

Being certain, however, from a great variety of experiments, that it excited no commotions in the body, and that infants might take it with safety; I began with a gentle dose.

In a short time it produced considerable effects; the urine became turbid, whitish, flaky, mucous.

By the fourth day, the breasts had recovered their natural color; the swelling was less, and softer.

I then increased the dose of the hemlock, giving, for the space of a month, half a dram every day; nor was it afterwards necessary to give it in a larger quantity, as the patient mended daily; and in the eighth month of her pregnancy, both breasts were entirely restored to a natural state.

During the use of the hemlock, this woman was much healthier than she had been hitherto; being freed from a frequent vomiting and a continual head-ach, with which she had been greatly afflicted before she took this medicine.

I could



I could observe no inconvenience that it caused to this pregnant woman.

She went regularly to stool every day; and made a great deal of flaky, mucous urine; which, however, became less copious, and quite of a natural color, after the swellings of the breasts were discessed; tho a considerable dose of the hemlock was still exhibited for several days.

## C A S E XXXIII.

**A** Girl twenty-four years of age, had over her whole body, but especially about the joints, a ferous, yellowish, swelling.

For five years together, she took every thing that was thought proper in her case, by the most eminent practitioners; whence, however, she derived no benefit; on the contrary, her strength was diminished; a dry cough came on; and all her limbs became immoveable.

I likewise prescribed several medicines to this patient, but without effect.

At length, I cured her in a months time, by a course of the hemlock and whey.

From the first, the hemlock excited a good appetite; and afterwards promoted a copious discharge of a greenish-colored urine, with a thick, tenacious, glutinous sediment.

The swelling over the body subsided in twelve days; but that about the joints was somewhat more obstinate.

This patient had no occasion for a purgative; for the hemlock gave her a laxative stool twice a day.



## C A S E XXXIV.

A Man forty-seven years of age, had, for eighteen months, a hard schirrous swelling in his scrotum; larger than a man's fist.

Both testicles were found and well.

This swelling was owing to a gonorrhœa injudiciously stopt, by means of an astringent injection.

The strongest mercurial medicines, even a salivation, anti-venereal decoctions, external fomentations and plasters, were not of the least service.

On perceiving this, I gave him the hemlock, with a large quantity of the decoction of burdock-root.

After the patient had taken a whole dram of the extract for twenty days together, no alteration was yet observable in the swelling.

The thirtieth day, I encreased the dose of the hemlock to a dram and half.

The thirty-third, the swelling was softer; and the patient, in other respects, well.

The thirty-sixth day, I gave a purge, to which was added some sweet mercury.

The fortieth, the patient now took two drams daily of the extract of hemlock, the swelling still becoming smaller.

I continued this treatment for five months, giving him, every fortnight, a gentle mercurial purge; at the end of which time, the swelling was entirely dissolved, and the man in perfect health.

C A S E



## C A S E XXXV.

A Youth, aged nineteen, had very bad venereal ulcers over his whole body, with a deep caries in each tibia.

Antivenereal medicines of every kind proved hurtful; his strength was exhausted, and he was greatly emaciated.

After this patient, put now under my care, had informed me of the different methods of cure which had been attempted, I was still doubtful, whether the antivenereal medicines had been administered in proper quantities, and with due caution.

I repeated, therefore, various remedies of this sort; but to no purpose.

Upon this Mr. Haffner, surgeon of my hospital, and I, agreed to make trial of the hemlock.

Accordingly, pledgets of lint, moistened in a fomentation of the hemlock, were applied to the sores and carious bones externally; while the extract and a large quantity of the decoction of burdock-root, with a third part milk, were given inwardly.

In a few days, a considerable change appeared for the better; and his strength encreased.

Towards the conclusion of the second month, the carious bones were exfoliated, and many of the ulcers were covered with a firm cicatrice.

The pains, which had cruelly tormented him in the night, were entirely gone.

At the end of the third month, his health seemed quite re-established; he felt no pain; and found himself strong.

A moderate dose of the hemlock proved sufficient



cient to effect a cure of this obstinate venereal case.

The greatest dose given in the space of twenty-four hours was one dram.

### C A S E XXXVI.

**A** Lad, of thirteen, was troubled, for five years, with a very bad scald head, which resisted the efficacy of all kinds of medicine.

At length I gave him a decoction of the root of the sharp-pointed dock, and the extract of hemlock; and ordered his whole head to be washed twice a day with a decoction of the hemlock in milk.

By these means he was perfectly cured in six weeks.

This lad had been hitherto pale, consumptive, lean, and troubled with a dry cough and a continual heat in his breast.

All these symptoms, however, disappeared by the use of the hemlock.

### C A S E XXXVII.

**A** Young man of sixteen, by trade a taylor, was, two years ago, affected with a most loathsome scab.

After the exhibition of a single purge, an ointment was applied, by which the ailment was repelled from the skin.

On which ensued a difficulty of breathing, and a convulsive cough.

Whatever medicines were tried afforded but little relief; and the lad, almost spent with a slow fever, was at length brought to my hospital.

Having often observed, that the hemlock performed



formed wonders in foulnesses of the skin, I now resolved to try what it could do in a case where a foulness was repelled into the habit.

I gave him, therefore, a strong decoction of marsh-mallow root, and the extract of hemlock. I likewise ordered the whole body to be washed twice a day with warm milk, in two quarts of which was dissolved half an ounce of venice soap.

In eight days time, a very troublesome itching spread over the whole body, and reddish pustules appeared full of a sharp humor.

His breathing then became easier, his cough less frequent; he slept soundly a-nights; and he began to spit a glutinous phlegm.

Tho his whole body was covered with pustules of the same kind, I ordered it, nevertheless, to be washed twice a day.

About the tenth day, many of these pustules disappeared again; others of them burst, and discharged an acrid serum, from whence were formed rough dark-colored scabs; and the ailment, such as it had been two years before, now returned.

The head likewise was exulcerated.

The patient then breathed perfectly free, and spit plentifully.

The slow fever left him; and his strength was much augmented.

I then gave him half a dram of the extract of hemlock every day; and, as I saw this dose was sufficient, I did not afterwards encrease it.

The whole body was washed twice a day with the milk and venice soap.

The twentieth day, the patient was tolerably  
N well;



well ; but he spit less, tho the sound was heard of loose matter in his breast.

Instead, therefore, of the decoction of burdock-root, I gave an infusion of the stalks of bitter-sweet.

By means of this infusion, the extract of hemlock, and the external fomentation, constantly administered, the breast was not only freed from the acrid glutinous matter, but even the loathsome scab, which appeared again, on having used the hemlock, was entirely cured almost within two months, and the young man recovered perfect health.

These are the principal cases which I have selected from my own practice.

Were I to relate more cases, I might, perhaps, seem prolix and tiresome to my readers.

By the hemlock alone I have cured a vast number of scrophulous and strumous complaints.

I have seen women finely shaped, with faces handsomer than the most agreeable pictures, who have had the thyroid gland large and indurated ; a blemish which, in the eyes of most men, eclipses the splendor of the highest beauty.

To most of these the hemlock was of great service, if the swelling proceeded from an obstruction or stuffing of the gland.

I forbear mentioning schirs of a slighter kind, in the breasts, arm-pits, groin, neck of the womb, and womb itself, which have been dissolved by the hemlock alone.

Obstructions and hardnesses in the hypochondria, and various kinds of swellings in the region  
of



of the lower belly, I scarce ever failed of dispersing by means of this remedy.

A woman, upwards of sixty, had, for sixteen years, above twenty very hard swellings, each of which was as big as a goose's egg, in different parts of the abdomen.

Various medicines which she tried yielded no relief; and the ailment encreased to such a degree, that she could not make water, and was obliged often to have recourse to a catheter.

On taking the hemlock, she urined freely; her appetite became better; and her strength returned.

Some of the swellings even became softer, and a considerable quantity of purulent matter issued from the womb.

If the patient abstained a few days from using the hemlock, the belly immediately grew tense, the urine was suppressed, and bad symptoms came on.

In proportion to the quantity of matter discharged from the womb, several of the swellings grew soft and small; many others, however, remained unaltered.

This woman has received great benefit from the hemlock; and, if she continues the use of it, may, perhaps, be entirely cured.

Nor am I afraid of a suppuration bringing on a mortal tympany, since the dissolved matter finds a passage by the womb; neither are there signs of the matter being re-absorbed, which might occasion a hectic fever.

In inveterate heartburns, I have very often given the hemlock with the greatest success; in a short time it took away the burning heat, as



well as pain, and desire of vomiting. Persons, before weak and emaciated, recovered their strength by the use of the hemlock, and became lusty.

Obstinate head-achs and hemicranias of a long standing gave way to it.

When I observed any obstructions or stoppages in the vessels of the kidneys or the womb, arising from an acrid tenacious serum; on giving the hemlock I almost always perceived that the menses flowed in greater abundance, the blood assumed a better appearance, the racking pains of the colic ceased, as well as all uneasy reachings, bilious vomitings, and painful tensions in the groin, or near the os sacrum; nor did head-achs, dimness of sight, or giddiness, afterwards return.

I attended two women, who, about the time of the menstrual discharge, were afflicted with the most dreadful symptoms; they had been married several years, but never had been with child.

On taking the hemlock, they not only were entirely relieved from these complaints, but became much heartier, and both soon after became with child.

What can the amiable fair sex expect farther from the hemlock?

I have often cured a scrophulous consumption with hemlock and milk; I have had the same success with the hemlock in obstinate, inveterate, ulcerated, sore throats, whether eruptive, scorbutic, ferous, or by whatever acrid defluaction they were occasioned.

In many desperate diseases, where I saw the most efficacious medicines exhibited for a long  
time



time to no purpose, I have made constantly trial of the hemlock, and by this means have often effected a cure.

A dropfy, owing to a hardness of some of the abdominal viscera, has often yielded to the hemlock alone; often it required the assistance of other remedies; and often the evil proved altogether incurable.

Ancient gouts, inveterate rheumatisms, the spina ventosa, pox, deafness, the deepest melancholy, (from a physical cause) the scab, scald head, bad ringworm, foul ulcers, and the most obstinate sinous and fistulous sores, I have for the most part subdued, and happily cured, by the sole assistance of the hemlock.

I met, however, with some cases, in which the hemlock did no service, tho it was exhibited for a long time, and in a large dose.

A young girl, twenty years of age, for a swelling in her left cheek, which was closely united to the lower jaw, and bigger than a man's fist, took daily, for above half a year, a considerable dose of the extract of hemlock; from which receiving no benefit, she grew tired, and left it off.

Another young woman, aged twenty-five, had, for many years, a large dark-colored swelling in the right side of her neck.

I made trial of the hemlock; but a fever was immediately produced, and she became weak.

Other medicines, however, prescribed for this swelling, besides external applications, afforded no relief.

Wherefore Mr. Collin and I agreed to make another trial of the hemlock in this case, under



a different form, in a very small dose, and joined with other medicines; but the former symptoms immediately returned; and the patient, from the use of the hemlock, even in so small a quantity, grew weak, and was extremely uneasy.

Hence it was judged proper to leave the ailment to itself.

A woman, forty-two years of age, felt a very painful schir in her right breast for six months past, which was the time the menstrual discharge had left her.

A surgeon advised her to apply an external fomentation of wine-lees, boiled in wine.

In two days the schir was much larger, harder; and the skin grew livid.

Afterwards the scarf-skin burst, and a sharp fetid serum was discharged.

For several weeks, different surgeons and physicians tried a variety of medicines.

But the disease gained ground; the patient complained of a dry cough, of a heat in the breast; began to sweat in the night, and to become emaciated.

Being at length consulted, I recommended the hemlock, with a decoction of common barley, and plenty of milk.

From thence her strength was augmented; the night sweats ceased; her appetite returned; the breasts changed to a brighter red; and the hardness decreased.

For almost two months, there was the greatest hope of making a cure of this woman.

Then, I know not from what accident, she  
was



was suddenly seized with a cough, so violent that she spit blood.

Hence I was obliged to discontinue the use of the hemlock, and the patient at last died of a consumption.

Another woman, afflicted with a running cancer in her right breast, was better on taking the hemlock; and the exulcerated hardness was reduced at least two thirds.

But, in the mean time, she was seized with a tertian ague, which weakened her extremely.

Upon this I discontinued the hemlock, and gave her the peruvian bark in considerable quantities.

The ague was subdued; her strength was restored; and from the use of the bark every thing seemed to promise well.

Wherefore I continued giving her the bark for a fortnight longer.

At which time she was attacked with a humoral asthma, with which she had been afflicted about three years before. She was not able to expectorate, and thus died suffocated.

A man, turned of seventy, was seized with an apoplexy, from whence the left arm, and foot of the same side, became paralytic.

He was troubled at the same time with a great cough, and had in the right side of his neck a fleshy swelling, more than double the size of a man's fist.

After physicians and surgeons had tried a variety of medicines for several months to no purpose, the poor man was at length abandoned to his fate.



The patient's wife then desired me to visit him. I beheld him almost spent with old age, and with distemper, fetching with breath with difficulty, and spitting up a little adhesive glutinous matter; the swelling on the neck was hard, livid inclining to purple, and with a continual gnawing pain.

I immediately pronounced the case desperate, to his wife, and promised nothing. I talked encouragingly, however, to the dejected old man, and ordered medicines that might afford him some relief.

He began to spit more copiously, and his respiration grew easier; his strength was somewhat augmented; but the swelling continued painful, and its size encreased. Hence the patient himself earnestly besought me to try the hemlock.

As I knew it was innocent, even in the most debilitated old men, I gave him two grains night and morning, and continued, besides, the use of expectorating medicines. The effect of the hemlock was wonderful; the discharge from his breast was copious and more concocted; and in a few days, a greater degree of motion and sensation was perceived in the paralytic limbs. In the swelling, the pain was lessened; neither was it continual, only returning at intervals; but his strength did not encrease; and his appetite was gone.

I did not augment the dose of the hemlock.

In about a month's time, the swelling seemed softer; but in other respects he continued much the same, and took little or no nourishment.

Nevertheless



Nevertheless, he was kept alive for four months, at the end of which, his strength being entirely exhausted thro want of nourishment, the poor wretch languished for eight days, and then died.

Sometimes I have given the hemlock in a cataract, and by a long course of it, in a large dose, have at length succeeded. Often, however, in this disease it produced no effect at all.

I made a perfect cure of four women with cancerous ulcers about the womb, by means of the hemlock. Many others it relieved for a time, without effecting an entire cure.

In others, afflicted with cancers, the hemlock evidently did no service; there were even some patients who could not bear it, complaining that from taking it, their pain became more violent, their weakness greater, and the ichorous discharge more fetid, acrid, and copious.

For instances like these, should the hemlock be exploded? or should it never be tried in similar cases?

It was necessary, candidly, and ingenuously, to mention these exceptions, lest I should be thought to want to impose on the learned world, by dwelling only on the praises of hemlock.

## CHAPTER III.

*Containing several Observations communicated by other Physicians.*

THE very learned Dr. Peter ab Armis, a physician at Trent, in his friendly letter  
O ad-



addressed to me in August, 1760, expresses himself in the following manner :

“ A most agreeable young woman, whom I happily cured of a schir in her left breast, by means of your medicine, the hemlock, desires me to return you her thanks.”

The celebrated Dr. Joseph Baader, professor of physic at Friburg, writes concerning the hemlock in these terms : “ By means of the hemlock, which I have now made to be kept in the shops here, I have cured in seven weeks a real ulcerated cancer in a woman’s breast.

“ In another woman, whose case I formerly mentioned, those painful schirs under the tongue are now in such a state, that the one on the left side can hardly be perceived, the other on the right side is much smaller than it was, and is attended with little pain, tho the woman has been afflicted with it for fourteen years past.

“ In five months, by means of the extract and fomentation of the hemlock, I discussed a schir in a young man’s neck, which, for above ten years, had resisted the efficacy of all kinds of medicine.”

The eminent Dr. Martin vander Belen, first professor of physic in the university of Lovain, &c. writes thus : “ Tho those observations in your book sufficiently prove its efficacy, nevertheless, I hope it will not be disagreeable to you to be briefly informed of the success of a cure I performed, by means of the hemlock.

“ A maiden gentlewoman, aged forty, about three years ago, without any obvious external cause, was seized with a scirrhus in her left breast,



breast, for which, at first, she did nothing; afterwards, however, she applied a variety of such remedies as were recommended to her by old women; at length, on the swelling growing larger, and the pain becoming every day more violent, in May, 1760, she called on a surgeon, who, ignorant of the nature of the case, ordered pultices to be applied thrice a day, in order to bring the tumor to suppurate, by which means the symptoms grew worse.

“In the mean time, without requiring any further advice, with a most inconsiderate rashness, he proceeded to open the swelling, by which the malignity was augmented, and a discharge of blood, at times, issued from the wound.

“Being sent for in the month of July, I beheld a most shocking spectacle, a cancerous swelling so extremely large as to cover the whole left side, from the collar-bone down to the last of the true ribs, and from the edge of the breast-bone to the large curvature of the ribs backwards, and firmly adhering to the parts underneath it.

“On the external surface, the veins appeared near an inch broad, and the arteries were dilated to such a degree, that the whole heavy bulky swelling was raised up by every pulsation.

“The weak and emaciated patient had also a continual hectic fever; she was regular, however, with regard to her menstrual discharge, and indeed, had been so all along.

“Things being thus circumstanced, I placed my only hope in the hemlock, which I exhibited according to your directions, gradually en-



creasing the dose, till the patient took twenty-four pills, of two grains each, every day; applying, at the same time, a cataplasm composed of proper antiseptics, and a quantity of hemlock equal to all the rest of the ingredients.

“ By which means, in a few weeks, the whole substance of the swelling mortified; so that it became necessary to dissect it away at different times, preserving as much of the skin as remained sound.

“ The parts underneath appeared sound, and afforded good matter; the smell of which, however, resembled that which usually exhales from gangrenous sores.

“ I therefore ordered the parts to be dressed with digestives and antiseptics; the hemlock-pills, in a smaller dose, to be continued; and, at the same time, three drams of the peruvian bark to be taken every day.

“ In a short time, every circumstance seemed to promise a speedy cure; and then, by proper dressing only, the sore was so far healed up, that, at present, there scarcely any aperture remains: during the whole time of the cure, no fungous flesh was generated; so that now she seems to be entirely certain of a cure, and follows her ordinary business, &c.”

I must here publickly pay my acknowledgements to this very eminent and learned professor, for having been pleased to favor me with such a curious case.

From the whole history of this ailment, practitioners are admirably instructed in what manner the healing art ought to be practised.

For, from hence it appears, we ought not al-



ways to depend on any single remedy ; but, in order to obtain the desired effect, should, sometimes, have recourse to topical applications, as well as internal medicines; and should add to, or diminish, the dose of these, as occasion may require.

It is therefore necessary, a physician should duly weigh every circumstance.

Sometimes too the art of surgery must lend its assistance.

The very learned Dr. John Kolman, one of the physicians of the army, favored me with the following case :

“ I cannot (says he) sufficiently commend the virtues of the extract of hemlock.

“ I had, among my other patients, a soldier, who, for a long time, had complained of a large, very hard, heavy, painful swelling in the left hypochondrium.

“ At length, he began to throw up whatever he took into the stomach ; felt a sharp and continual pain, and became much emaciated.

“ He had a strong and feverish pulse ; I therefore ordered him immediately to be bled ; the most emollient pultices to be applied externally, and oily injection to be given : I likewise prescribed resolvent decoctions, with nitre and honey ; and anodynes to be taken occasionally.

“ By these means, I at least stopped the further progress of the inflammation, abated the fever, and lessened the pain ; but the swelling, instead of diminishing, rather grew larger and harder ; upon which, I gave him whey, with  
fal



sal polychrest and honey; and pills made of venice soap and attenuating gums.

“ But, by a course of these, he received still no benefit.

“ I had recourse, at length, to the extract of hemlock, which he took, every day, to the quantity of two drams, in the form of a mixture; by which means, the swelling gradually became less, and, in a month's time, there was not the smallest degree of it remaining; the patient found himself extremely well, and recovered his strength and health.

“ All those who had seen this patient, and were witnesses of so remarkable a cure, greatly admired the speedy, and almost unexpected, good effects of the hemlock.

“ I have very frequently cured inveterate schirs, in different parts of the body, which had resisted the efficacy of all other medicines, by the internal use of the hemlock alone.”

The celebrated Dr. Crampagna, counsellor and first physician to his serene highness prince Charles of Lorrain, made a great many experiments with the hemlock at Brussels, and almost always with success.

A journey, however, which this learned gentleman was obliged to make to Vienna, prevented him from completing all the cures himself.

He was pleased, however, with his accustomed politeness, to communicate to me, while at Vienna, the following cases:

“ A woman, forty-five years of age, had been for a long time afflicted with a schir in her right breast, about as large as an hen's egg.

“ Ex-



“ External applications, as well as internal medicines, ordered by physicians and surgeons, did her not the least service ; at length, I prescribed the hemlock-pills, gradually increasing the dose to half a dram a day ; a pultice of hemlock, prepared with milk, was applied externally.

“ In three weeks time the pains went off, and the schir separated into several small lumps.

“ In this state I left the patient when I set out for Vienna ; by the same journey I was prevented from finishing the following cure :

“ A woman, aged fifty, came to ask my advice for an ulcerated cancer which she had in her right breast ; she had also a schir under the arm-pit, on the same side, about as big as a walnut.

“ I immediately prescribed the hemlock-pills and fomentation : I applied to the schir under the arm-pit the plaster of hemlock, and dressed the cancerous ulcer with pledgets of lint, dipped in a decoction of the same plant.

“ On visiting the patient at the end of fifteen days, I was exceedingly surprized at the great and sudden alteration that had happened.

“ For the patient had now a good appetite, slept soundly, nor felt any further pain ; she even of her own accord observed, that, from the taking of this medicine, she could not only more easily perform every necessary function, and had acquired bodily strength, but that even her mind became more vigorous.

“ The schir under the arm-pit was, by this time, perfectly resolved.

“ The cancerous sore discharged a laudable matter,

“ By



“ By means of the pills and plaster of hemlock, by frictions, and the repeated application of the steams of vinegar to the part affected, I entirely disscussed a very large and obstinate schir, with which a girl, of thirteen, was afflicted, near her left ear.

“ For a schir in the breast, I advised a woman, thirty years of age, to receive the steams of vinegar upon the part; and then to apply the hemlock-plaster: internally, I prescribed an ounce of the extract to be made into pills of two grains each; of which the patient was to take fifteen every day.

“ I imagined, when these should be finished, another box of them would be necessary; instead of which, the woman returned me thanks, informing me, that by the use of the medicine, in a very short time she had been perfectly cured.

“ A woman, aged forty-six, had an ulcerated cancer in her breast; the progress of which I stopped for some time, by giving her the peruvian bark in powder.

“ Besides this, the breast was entirely schirrous, and adhered firmly to the parts underneath.

“ The very eminent Dr. Manderlier, counsellor and principal physician, my colleague, likewise saw this patient.

“ We immediately gave her the hemlock-pills, which Dr. Manderlier had received from Vienna; we also applied a pultice of hemlock over the whole breast, and caused the sore to be dressed with pledgets of lint dipped in a strong decoction of the same plant.

“ In a few days, we perceived a laudable  
suppuration



suppuration come on; the scir of the breast grew also less; and the patient scarce felt any farther pain.

“ Before I set out from Brussels to Vienna, I saw this woman in a good way, and likely to get well.

“ The learned Dr. Manderlier, in a letter I received from him a few days ago, informs me, that the cancerous ulcer was entirely healed up, and the scirrrous cancerous swelling of the breast quite dispersed.

“ A woman, forty-five years old, consulted me concerning a swelling on the false ribs, larger than a man's fist.

“ I examined this swelling with great attention; and plainly perceived that there was matter formed in it.

“ Moreover, one of the false ribs was thick, enlarged and prominent.

“ The good effects which I had often seen attend the exhibition of the hemlock, determined me likewise to try it in this case.

“ Besides this, I ordered gentle frictions, the steams of vinegar to be applied twice a day, and the swelling to be covered with hemlock-plaster.

“ By these means, I saw, with great joy, the swelling disappear, and the rib restored to its natural state.

“ A man, whom I had sometime before cured of a very bad scurvy by the means of antiscorbutic medicines, relapsed again into the same disease.

“ The antiscorbutic medicines did now no service;



vice; the disease gained ground; and the man's life became in danger.

“ In these circumstances the extract of hemlock was exhibited; and the patient perfectly recovered from this desperate situation.”

Mr. Cambon, counsellor and first surgeon to his serene highness prince Charles of Lorrain, favored me with two cases.

“ A man, aged fifty, had for six years an ulcer in the middle and internal part of his right leg.

“ A great many physicians and surgeons tried a variety of means to effect a cure of this ulcer, without doing it the least service.

“ He came at length, in the month of March, 1760, to ask my advice.

“ I soon discovered the ulcer to be cancerous.

“ In the space of three months, I prescribed various external and internal remedies to this patient; and I cleaned and dressed the ulcer myself.

“ But my labor and my skill, tho applied with diligence and care, were all to no kind of purpose.

“ The lips of the ulcer remained fungous, livid, callous; the veins thereabouts were all distended; nor was there any thing altered for the better.

“ I therefore extracted the borders, and indeed the whole substance of the ulcer pretty deeply; that a clean and fresh wound might be thus produced, which would soon heal in the ordinary way.

“ But this operation was as vain as the remedies



medies that had been tried; for the former evil, notwithstanding every precaution that was taken, appeared a-new.

“ I then considered this ulcer as incurable; and should have dismissed the patient, without hopes as without relief, had I not heard that experiments had been made lately at Vienna, which shewed that hemlock was productive, in similar cases, of wonderful effects.

“ I therefore immediately prescribed the extract of this plant; which was attended with the most happy success.

“ In a few days, I was rejoiced to see very sudden alterations for the better.

“ Nor did any bad symptoms supervene; and the cancerous ulcer, hitherto so obstinate, was now perfectly cured in three weeks time.

“ Before this man had employed the hemlock, he complained always of a sharp, salt, corroding spittle; which immediately vanished on the administration of the hemlock; and the spittle became natural, insipid.

“ A man, aged upwards of thirty, had a monstrous swelling in his neck.

“ The most penetrating vegetable and mineral medicines, tho exhibited in very considerable quantities, and for a long continuance, were found to be of no benefit.

“ The use of hemlock alone, inwardly given in large doses, softened, and at length dispersed, this obdurate swelling.

“ Outwardly, nothing was applied except a plaster of the same plant.”



Doctor Kaifin, who practises physic with great reputation at Liege, mentions, in his learned letter to me, the following particulars:

“ I have followed exactly the method you have prescribed, and always begun the treatment with a small dose. I am inclined to think your question, whether purgatives are proper during the administration of the hemlock, ought to be answered in the affirmative.

“ For I gave to my patients, every week, a purge; which was of benefit to them.

“ I have made the same observations, during the use of the hemlock, which you have described; I have seen the skin change to red from livid, and from livid to the natural color; the pains were abated in the beginning; and at length, by the means of this plant alone, they entirely ceased.

“ The worst ichor became good pus; the ichirrous hardnesses were divided into lesser lumps, which gradually subsided by resolution; or, as it sometimes happened also, were consumed by suppuration.

“ A man, seventy-seven years old, had a hardness in the scrotum for thirty years past, without pain; it increased by degrees; and a hydrocele supervened.

“ I was called, and found that the symptoms, considering the patient's age, strongly threatened death.

“ I desired the assistance of Mr. Falise, a most expert surgeon; and we determined to administer the hemlock immediately, and outwardly to apply a plaster of galbanum.

“ In



“ In a fortnight’s time, every thing was altered for the better ; the patient’s countenance, which had hitherto been of a leaden cast, now recovered its natural color ; his strength increased ; his appetite returned ; and the schirrous swelling began to suppurate.

“ We made no opening, but waited that the skin should break of its own accord.

“ The pus issued out in plenty ; but the water remained behind.

“ We then resolved upon the puncture, in order to discharge the water.

“ Finally, the whole swelling suppurated in the most benign manner ; and the broken skin joined itself to the right testicle.

“ This man enjoys at present perfect health in proportion to his age.

“ He had been greatly troubled from his youth with nephritic pains.

“ I had prescribed to him, for the space of thirteen years, the remedies usually administered in such cases, which enabled him to live with ease ; but his urine was never better than common pus and mucous matter.

“ But now since he took the hemlock, his urine is returned to the natural state, and comes away without the least inconvenience ; sometimes indeed a little purulent sediment is observed.

“ As I found that hemlock never hurt the health, and thinking that there might be some analogy between fistulas of the anus and those in other parts of the body, I resolved to try this plant in a fistula of the anus, which I was called to cure.



“ A man, of fifty, who laboured under this complaint these four years past, and to whom I had persuaded the necessity of an operation, which, however, he neglected, has now taken hemlock these three months : the pains are much abated ; and the flow of matter is considerably diminished.”

That accurate physician, John vander Belen, writes thus from Brussels :

“ I can now relate what is of greater consequence than all the rest : I have seen excellent effects from this remedy in several gouty cases.

“ Outwardly I have applied the hemlock boiled in milk ; and inwardly I have given sufficient doses of the extract, diluted in some mixture.

“ By the means of this plant I have cured many persons infected with the itch ; but the cure was always very slow. I observed the same in rheumatic complaints.

“ With regard to a beginning cataract in both eyes, I have administered this remedy to a country woman thus affected, whom I perfectly cured.

“ But this was the great point : I increased the dose of hemlock even to six drams of the extract every twenty-four hours, upon this condition, however, only ; that the patient should drink after it considerable quantities of an infusion of the tops of eye-bright, with the seeds of sweet fennel and liquorice.

“ This woman, from the twenty-second of April,



April, to the third of November, 1760, took of the extract of hemlock, the quantity of sixty-eight ounces.

“ In consumptions, I have often seen the surprising efficacy of the hemlock; and have restored persons by its means, who had been entirely despaired of.

“ In the worst cachectics, in whose stomachs too great quantities of mucous and glary matter was separated, this extract, joined with stomachic elixirs, has been often of great benefit; where other medicines, tho continued for a long time, were not productive of the least good effect.”

Herman Gleisner, a celebrated greek physician, expresses himself in the following manner:

“ I shall now relate the history of a cancer which I have cured by the means of hemlock.

“ A man upwards of forty, of a choleric constitution, had for some time past the glands of the groin swelled, and afterwards painful: these his barber boldly cut away; and from the wound pure blood flowed, without the least mixture of pus; a great pain now was felt; and by the application of various corrosives, and much lapis infernalis, it turned to a filthy ulcer.

“ After an entire twelvemonth spent in applying remedies of every kind, the patient, now confined to his bed in a wretched situation, called at length for my assistance.

“ I found an ulcer in the right groin, extending itself downwards near the anus, and  
towards



towards the navel upwards, and attacking already the scrotum and the yard.

“ The retorted lips, the cadaverous ichor, the great pain, the frequent bleeding, and the evil continually spreading beyond the power of every remedy hitherto administered, proved the existence of a cancer.

“ I consulted with Mr. Buck, a very dextrous surgeon, and instructor to the midwives of this place, who acknowledged at once the ulcer to be cancerous.

“ I therefore prescribed the hemlock externally and internally ; and ordered milk and water as a common drink for this patient, already so exhausted.

“ The first alteration I perceived was the bad smell gone off in some days, and at length pus, instead of ichor, in the ulcer.

“ Near the lips several small ulcers afterwards appeared ; and the lips themselves were gradually dissolved in a surprizing manner ; the whole ulcer was softened more and more, till at last it bore every appearance of a fresh and simple wound. In four months time it was perfectly cured.”

The diligent and dextrous surgeon Koller wrote me the following letter from Bohemia :

“ A woman of six and thirty perceived, about a year ago, a lump on her lower lip, about the bigness of a lentile.

“ This lump gradually encreased ; and when it came to the size of a filberd, the menses ceased, the skin about the swelling broke, and



a sharp humor was continually discharged from it.

“ Various external remedies were applied; but things, notwithstanding, grew worse and worse every day.

“ This patient was brought to me in the month of November, 1760; I found the ulcer cancerous and filthy; the orbicular muscle of the lower lip, even to the middle of the square muscle of the chin, was eaten away by the cancerous exulceration.

“ Each corner of the mouth, and especially the right, was exceded pretty deeply, to the breadth of one inch.

“ It was really disagreeable and nauseous to behold this terrible ulcer; its lips were callous and retorted.

“ I now thought seriously of the amputation; but, every thing considered, I saw, that the wound would in consequence be great, which, from the necessary motion of the neighboring muscles, could never afterwards be healed; or, if even closed, a most disagreeable hollow should still appear, which it would be impossible ever to repair.

“ I therefore omitted the operation, and prescribed the hemlock in the following manner.

“ From the beginning, I administered every day thirty-two grains of the extract diluted in a mixture.

“ And tho I observed, that in the first eight days the pains were much abated, I continued, however, the same quantity of hemlock for a month.



“ Outwardly I applied some lint steeped in the following liquid :

“ Take, of the extract of hemlock, two drams.

“ Dissolve them in a pound of lime-water of the first infusion.

“ I dressed the ulcer in this manner as often as I found the lint was penetrated by the sharp serum which proceeded from the cancerous ulcer.

“ In the beginning it was necessary to dress the wound several times in the same night.

“ This external remedy I applied during the whole treatment ; with this difference only, that in the last month, when I saw the flesh had grown, and the ulcer was almost healed, I decreased the quantity of the extract dissolved in the lime-water from two to one dram.

“ Before the conclusion of the first month, things were already in much a better state ; the discharge of spittle, which had been hitherto so copious and so constant, was ended ; the sanious matter was changed to pus of the best kind ; every callosity by degrees was softened and dispersed, and sound flesh grew up in every part ; the patient slept well ; had a good stomach ; and, what was of the greatest consequence, the monthly terms returned to her.

“ I then diminished the dose of the hemlock-extract ; and, in the room of thirty-two grains a day, I now contented myself with giving four and twenty ; and this quantity I continued also for a month.

“ I administered but twelve grains daily of the extract during the third and last month of the  
treat-



treatment of this patient, as things were then in the most pleasing situation; and this proved sufficient to produce a perfect cure.

“ In the course of the treatment, I ordered this patient to be purged five times, with the following ingredients:

“ Take, of jalap-root, half a dram,  
of cream of tartar, ten grains.

“ Mix, and make a powder for one dose.

“ She was always worked five or six times by the means of this purgative.

“ The woman was extremely poor; so that it is easy to conjecture the diet she observed, which, indeed, consisted in whatever the pity of others inclined them to bestow upon her.

“ As, on account of the vehement and continual pains, the great loss of spittle, before the use of the hemlock, she was become entirely cachectic and emaciated; on the contrary, after being cured, she was fat, firm, lusty, strong.

“ And, what was indeed wonderful, all the parts, which had been eaten and consumed by the cancerous ulcer, were totally renewed.

“ The cicatrices near each angle of the mouth were so neat and natural, that they could hardly be observed.

“ The lower lip recovered a proper height, and joined itself to the upper with the utmost ease; but it was somewhat narrower than in the natural state.”

This was really a great cure; and Mr. Koller deserves much praise for having so well fulfilled the employment both of an excellent surgeon and physician.



Experience, judgment, industry, are three great points in the healing art.

Surgeon Sebastian Kaim communicated to me a case of a girl of fourteen, who had a cancerous ulcer in her left breast.

“ This ulcer extended from the ear to the middle of the chin, as well as two inches below it, and upwards ascended beyond the cheek-bone.

“ It was dreadful to behold this ulcer ; for all the parts were corrupted by a most putrid sanious matter, and were exed to the very bone.

“ Decoctions of various kinds, fomentations, plasters, and even mercurials and antimonials, were administered to no effect ; and the evil persisted spreading wide and deep.

“ But, by the means of the hemlock taken inwardly, and a fomentation of the same plant outwardly applied, a perfect cure ensued.”

The learned George Hasenöhrl, physician to the spanish military hospital at Vienna, expresses himself in the following terms :

“ I have had frequent occasion of making experiments on patients whom I attended in the hospital ; and I have found, that hemlock completely dispelled hard and ancient swellings of the neck.

“ Among others, a soldier, whose neck was absolutely stiffened by large schirs, against which all remedies were found vain, took at last the hemlock, and left the hospital perfectly cured.

“ I have cured, by the means of a long continued



nued course of hemlock, a hidden cancer on the left breast, which had arisen from an external cause, and was remarkable both in hardness and in size.

“ In six weeks time, by the means of hemlock, I checked the progress of a manifest cancer near the left corner of the mouth, which had been continually spreading forward; and in three months, by persevering in the same treatment, the cancer was entirely healed.

“ I have seen this plant more than once of considerable efficacy in the *spina ventosa*.

“ In malignant ulcers, and in the worst, inveterate, and most obstinate itch, I have applied this remedy with full success.”

Joseph Quarin, an excellent physician belonging to the Brothers of the Mercy, and counselor to their Sacred Majesties, relates the following facts.

“ With the hemlock alone I have completely cured several persons afflicted with gout of a long standing, or with rheumatisms, who had tried several other remedies without any kind of benefit.

“ In gouty swellings a decoction of this plant is of infinite use, if the part affected be bathed in it.

“ The most obstinate schirs of the parotids, glands of the neck, and those under the arm-pits, I have very often, by the means of the hemlock-extract, dispelled with ease and expedition.

“ But I generally gave large doses to those patients



tients from the beginning, which sometimes purged them, but without any inconvenience; and outwardly I applied to some a plaster of hemlock.

“ Among the rest, a deaf man, two and thirty years old, had the parotids schirrous and almost of a stony hardness; the glands, also, of the neck were schirrous, and so large and penetrating, that the respiration was rendered difficult by it.

“ By the sole use of the extract, and the fermentation of hemlock, he was restored to perfect health; all his swellings disappeared, his hearing returned, and respiration became easy; and this man, hitherto emaciated, recovered flesh and force during the administration of this medicine.

“ I have found the hemlock also of great efficacy in an obstinate cough, attended with a slight ulcer of the lungs.

“ I have checked the progress of cataracts in two persons, by the means of hemlock; but I did not observe that it caused any decrease in either.”

Leopold Auenbrugger, a most vigilant physician of the hospital of the nations in Vienna, thus acquaints me with his success.

“ I have completely cured several scrophulous complaints with the extract of hemlock: nor do I think it necessary to detail these cases, as the excellence of this remedy in such distempers has been so fully proved by your experiments, and so satisfactorily confirmed by those of others.

“ One



“ One history, however, of a scrophulous disorder, well deserves, I think, to be related.

“ A soldier having a hard swelling in the glands under the jaw, I administered to him the extract of hemlock, according to the method you have proposed.

“ From whence the patient having soon received considerable relief, I persisted in the treatment.

“ The patient, willing quickly to recover health, considered in himself that this might be very easily effected, by taking oftener a greater number of the pills.

“ Ignorant of this man's intention, I ordered an ounce of the extract to be formed into pills, that there might be enough for several days.

“ But he, eager and inconsiderate, swallowed the whole box of pills in one day, without any other pain or inconvenience than that of going to stool above fifty times in the space of three days; after which the swelling was so lessened, that, except very small traces of hardened glands, nothing remained behind.

“ This stout young man had not as yet attained his six and twentieth year.

“ In cancerous, malignant, gangrenous ulcers, I have often administered the hemlock-extract with the greatest success.

“ I have observed mortified flesh separated from the sound much sooner by its means than by the peruvian bark.

“ I have completely cured a manifest cancer in the breast of a woman with child, who was delivered soon after of a very healthy infant.

“ The



“ The breast, however, from the smallness of its size, and the inconvenience of the cicatrice, was rendered incapable of being given to the child.

“ But it sucked heartily the opposite breast, and became vigorous and healthy.”

The learned Joseph Henry Collin, my colleague in the Pazmarian hospital at Vienna, besides many experiments on various vegetables, seldom hitherto administered, which he has tried with great and surprising success in the most difficult cases, a candid account of which he intends to communicate to the public in the third volume of the *medical year*; has also made the following observations concerning hemlock.

—— “ Large, ancient, painful schirs about the parotids, under the arm-pits, in the neck, the breasts, and other parts, by the use alone, inwardly and outwardly, of hemlock, I have dissolved, dispelled.

“ I have seen many sanious, spreading, cancerous, obstinate ulcers perfectly healed by it; as well as several very penetrating fistulas completely closed.

“ Large swellings about the knees, which other physicians and surgeons declared incurable, Mr. Haffner and I have, by the means of hemlock, totally dispersed.

“ The motion of the joint, as well as the use of the foot, returned with full freedom; and even the feet, which had been before emaciated, upon the absence of the swelling, recovered their former strength and size.

“ When



“ When we found matter fluctuating in the swelling, we laid it open with the knife.

“ We washed, several times a day, the fistulas and sinuses in these swellings, with a strong infusion of the hemlock, and constantly applied a warm pultice of the same plant.

“ A purge was likewise ordered in these circumstances.

“ In this manner we have cured the most desperate disorders.

“ But if the bones about these joints were corrupted and totally corroded, we could not restore them to their natural condition; so that, upon the dispersion of the swelling, every patient did not recover the motion of the joint, tho, as to all other symptoms, he received infinite relief, and found his strength encreased.

“ Several of these patients were cachectic, and began to waste away remarkably, when the hemlock was administered, which in a short time put an end also to these complaints.

“ Some of our most famous surgeons were unwilling to open the swellings, thinking the patient would die before the operation was over.

“ They contented themselves, therefore, with recommending such swellings to be covered with a hare's skin, and thus abandoned these patients to their fate.

“ But the fact is this; that from swellings opened in this manner, lymph issued out in considerable quantities; a continuance of which might certainly prove fatal to the patient.

“ The surgeons found hitherto no method of



stopping this discharge, and healing the wound they had made.

“ But Mr. Haffner and I applied to the wound pledgets of lint moistened in an infusion of hemlock; and inwardly, I gave the extract with new milk; and thus we preserved every patient.

“ Among other cases, one is particularly worthy to be remarked, of a young girl eight years old, who had a large lymphatic swelling in the right thigh for three years past.

“ This swelling continually encreased; the girl fell into a hectic fever, became emaciated, languid, and on the point of death.

“ The physicians had abandoned her; and the oldest, most experienced surgeons were absolutely against opening the swelling.

“ Nevertheless, the learned Mr. Haffner and I, to whom great success had inspired great confidence, resolved to try the hazardous experiment.

“ Mr. Haffner performed the operation in my presence; and four quarts of sharp serum were discharged.

“ We discovered many deep sinuses and fistulas, which rendered the case still more difficult.

“ By the inward use of hemlock, by injections made with the infusion of this plant, and pledgets of lint applied which were moistened in the same infusion, we cured this girl completely in a few weeks.

“ From this instance it appears how much the ignorance of physicians, or of surgeons, may con-



contribute sometimes towards abridging a patient's life ; as well as how much true medical knowledge may conduce to lengthen it.

“ If we had not laid open the swelling, if proper remedies had not been administered, this girl would most certainly have died in a few days.

“ Many scabby, gouty, rheumatic complaints, which no other remedies could alleviate, I have happily cured by hemlock inwardly and outwardly applied ; and, in this manner, to stiffened rigid limbs I have restored their ancient liberty of motion.

“ A woman, quite emaciated, had her left breast much encreased in size, and hardened to a schir, which gradually changed into fungous, cancerous, penetrating ulcers ; an excessive sharp, sanious, cadaverous, copious matter issued from them ; and gnawing shooting pains rendered both day and night anxious and uneasy to her.

“ The symptoms were all so bad, and the patient's state so very weak, that scarce any hope of cure remained.

“ Nevertheless, by the extract given inwardly, and the outward application of the pultice, this patient was entirely freed both from the schirrous swelling, and from the running cancer.

“ The glands, also, under the arm-pits of the left side, were also become schirrous and painful.

“ This patient drank, during the treatment, considerable quantities of milk diluted with pure water, or some emollient decoction.



“ Laurence Gaffer, a celebrated professor of anatomy, Dr. Crampagna, physician to the Duke of Lorrain, the dextrous surgeon Cambon, Mr. Leber, and others, saw this person, at first almost desperately disordered, and afterwards completely cured.

“ I was greatly rejoiced to see men so eminent in their profession do me the honor sometime to pay a visit to my hospital, and express themselves in terms which marked their satisfaction at the many surprising cases, happily cured, which they had an opportunity of observing there.”

That diligent, perspicuous surgeon, and excellent operator, Mr. Ferdinand Leber, has taken considerable care in trying experiments concerning hemlock; and these are his remarks:

“ A woman of five and thirty had, in consequence of a bruise, her right breast very much swelled and hard.

“ She took various remedies without effect; a great pain at last tormented her; and the nipple mortified, and fell off.

“ This woman, besides, was pregnant.

“ As soon as she came to me, I gave her hemlock-pills, and outwardly I applied a plaster of diachylon; the pains soon afterwards abated.

“ In a month the breast was better; but the patient complained of a giddiness of the head, oppression of the breast, and want of sleep; but as these symptoms proceeded from a plethora, so they were greatly mitigated by a single bleeding.

“ The ninth week after she first took the pills, she was delivered of a healthy child.

“ During



“ During her lying-in she constantly took the pills, and had the plaster of diachilon outwardly applied; the infant continued healthy, and sucked the breast that was found; the one which was swollen decreased in size at the end of the third month; and the ulcer about the nipple tended to suppuration.

“ The fourth month, a quantity of blood issued from the nipple; the discharge was stopped by applying agaric of oak to the fungus.

“ Things were continually growing better.

“ The fifth month, I applied externally a fomentation of equal parts of hemlock and the flowers of elder.

“ The eighth month, this woman was completely cured.

“ A man, sixty-one years old, of a scorbutic constitution, had, in consequence of a bruise, a swelling in the right cheek, which I disaffected by antiscorbutic medicines, together with hemlock-pills.

“ An old woman of seventy-five, upon being affrighted felt a pain in her left breast, which soon after swelled.

“ She applied all over the breast some fresh butter, which increased the swelling and the pains.

“ Various remedies, which she afterwards tried, afforded her no relief.

“ On her desiring my assistance, I immediately administered to her eight hemlock-pills a day; and outwardly I applied a plaster of the same plant,

“ In



“ In the space of one month, the pains entirely ceased, and the swelling lessened.

“ By a continuation of the pills, encreasing gradually the dose, the breast was restored to the natural state by the sixth month.

“ I gave fifteen pills a day, for above half a year, to a young girl of eleven, whose neck was entirely scrophulous; but as she had found no benefit, she discontinued obeying my directions, and sought the advice of other surgeons and physicians.

“ Receiving, however, no relief from any of these, she returned again to me.

“ I ordered her a second time the pills, drinking after them an infusion of the flowers of elder and of mullein.

“ In consequence of this treatment she was cured in four months time.

“ Another young girl, who had for several years a cancer in the point of her nose, was perfectly cured by the pills of hemlock.

“ It is to be remarked, however, in this case, that, upon first taking the pills, she vomited frequently, and had a looseness.

“ But afterwards she became able to swallow pretty large doses of the pills without the least inconvenience.

“ A woman, sixty years of age, who had a cataract in each eye, recovered perfect sight by the means of the hemlock in five months.

“ A man of forty was afflicted with a gutta serena



serena after an acute disease ; no remedies were found of service.

“ I then prescribed to him hemlock-pills ; he began to perceive the light in three months time, and to have some little glimmering of sight.

“ The tenth month, he already went a journey of about a dozen miles without a guide ; but he could not, however yet, see things distinctly.

“ The sixteenth month, by the use of hemlock alone, he was restored to perfect sight.

“ A woman, aged forty, had a running cancer, for two years, in the lower eye-lid of the right eye.

“ I administered to her the hemlock-pills ; and, in the day-time, I applied to the part a fomentation of the same plant.

“ In the fourth month she was entirely cured.

“ A man of four and forty was troubled, for four years past, with a very virulent gonorrhea ; lost his strength, and wanted rest as well as sleep, on account of a hectic fever which grew worse every evening.

“ The most efficacious remedies in similar cases were tried to no purpose in the present instance ; even such as are deemed specifics in this disorder, only contributed, by being long administered, to bring on a slow consumption.

“ I therefore prescribed the extract of hemlock, and the infusion of elder-flowers with milk.

“ In a few days the complaints abated ; the strength



strength encreased; the appetite returned; and rest was obtained at night.

“ In the sixth month, in consequence of this simple treatment, the patient recovered; was plump and strong.

“ A woman of thirty felt, immediately after a sudden fright in her lying-in, a violent pain in her right breast, which afterwards red-dened and became hard.

“ She was always growing worse, notwithstanding a multitude of medicines that were administered to her.

“ When she came to me, I found the breast entirely schirrous; and a little below the nipple I perceived a softer spot, where, from the fluctuation, I judged the purulent matter to lie concealed.

“ I then applied a fomentation of equal parts of hemlock, flowers of elder, and mullein.

“ In a few days, that part broke which I had found soft; and a considerable quantity of pus issued from it.

“ The rest of the breast, however, remained hard and painful.

“ Nevertheless, the same fomentation having been diligently applied, and the pills prescribed, regularly swallowed, the breast entirely softened, and was cured.

“ This woman had also, for three years past, a swelling in the left hypochondrium, which became so painful when the monthly terms were approaching, that the patient, extremely weakened, was obliged to keep her bed for some days.

“ But



“ But by the pills being continued for the space of half a year, she was totally freed from this pain, and swelling; her menses flow at present unaccompanied with the least inconvenience; and she appears to be in excellent health.

“ A man of two and thirty, was absolutely emaciated, weak, cachectic, in consequence of swelled and schirrous testicles, and an inveterate gonorrhea.

“ I administered to this man, the hemlock-pills for five months; at the end of which time, he perfectly recovered, and was cured.

“ A woman thirty-four years old, perceived, after a fright, a hardness in her breast, which was encreasing constantly in size, and a pain that was becoming continually more violent.

“ On taking the hemlock, she found herself relieved immediately; and by a continuance of it for two months and a half she was completely cured.

“ A virgin of seventeen had a running cancer, tho not a very large one, in her left breast; and in both her feet were filthy ulcers.

“ The breast I cured, by the means of hemlock alone, in three months; but to heal the ulcers of the feet, two months more proved necessary.

“ I prescribed a purge every three weeks.

“ A woman of four and twenty had, for two years past, an ulcerated cancer in her  
S breast,



breast, for which she took many remedies, without receiving the least relief.

“ By the means of the pills taken inwardly, and the fomentation outwardly applied, of hemlock, she was entirely cured in the space of seven months.

“ A woman aged forty had, for many years past, her left breast hard and swollen; and several round and very painful schirs were about the nipple.

“ Plasters, fomentations, ointments, were outwardly applied for a long continuance; a variety of medicines, prescribed by various physicians, were taken inwardly; and all without effect.

“ I then gave her the hemlock, which restored her in seven weeks time.

“ To a man, who had a cataract in each of his eyes for a year before, I gave, by degrees, two pounds and a half of corn spirits, with corrosive sublimate; which produced but little effect; so that the patient refused to take it any longer.

“ I therefore had recourse to the hemlock; and having now taken it about four months, he walks alone, and can distinguish colors.

“ A man forty-four years old had, from a former gout, his left breast swollen, hard, and painful.

“ Divers remedies were applied to no effect.

“ He then took some hemlock, which completely cured him in the space of six weeks.

“ A



“ A virgin of seventeen felt, in consequence of a repelled itch, a pain about the articulation of the thigh, and afterwards limped.

“ She took several different medicines, and went to the waters of Baden; but could not find relief, and was even become cachectic and emaciated.

“ I prescribed the hemlock; and the whole habit of her body was immediately altered; she felt now less pain, and was no longer lame.

“ From hence, I have some grounds to hope, she will be entirely cured in a short time.

“ A man forty-eight years old had, for a long time past, a spreading cancer in the lower eye-lid of his left eye.

“ Outwardly I applied the infusion, and inwardly I gave the pills of hemlock; and thus this cancer was completely healed.

“ An old woman of seventy had a continual pain and swelling, for above a year, in the left hypochondrium.

“ I ordered her the hemlock; and in half a year both pain and swelling ceased.

“ To a boy of eleven, in a very cachectic state, I administered eight pills daily of the hemlock-extract, which cured him in a short time.

“ I have several persons yet under cure, who are afflicted with cancers, schirs, cataracts, gutta serena, malignant ulcers, cachexy and other disorders; whom I entertain great hopes of restoring to perfect health, as relief has been already found in all.

“ Others



“ Others I have met with, to whom hemlock, tho administered for a constancy in considerable doses, had not done the least service.

“ Three women troubled with cancers in the breast, could find no real benefit from the hemlock; nor indeed from any other medicine; and, after languishing some time, died.

“ One of these was carried off by a too frequent hemorrhage; the other two died consumptive.”

Alexander Engelberg, who formerly practised physic, with great success and reputation for several years, in the abbey of Neuberg near Vienna, and is now a very celebrated medical practitioner at Constance, has sent me the following observations which he has made concerning hemlock.

“ A man of sixty had been, at different periods of his life, affected with various symptoms of the venereal distemper; till at length he was quite exhausted and decayed; his urine was fetid, purulent, and came away, for several years past, amidst violent pain and stranguities.

“ The remedies usually beneficial on such occasions, were rather hurtful in this instance.

“ I prescribed therefore to him the hemlock, beginning by small doses.

“ Two months are now elapsed since this treatment was begun; and his strength is already restored; his appetite increased; his sleep sound; and the urine natural, unattended with stranguary or pain.”



“ A woman, of forty odd years old, was for some time vastly subject to bleedings in the womb.

“ At length, a fetid, ichorous matter issued from the womb, accompanied by a violent and continual burning, gnawing pain.

“ This matter was not seldom mixed with streaks of blood.

“ I tried several remedies, of which some promised success at first ; and the matter became less malignant ; but the pains persisted equally severe ; nor was the patient's strength increased, or appetite returned ; the matter began again to smell as ill as ever.

“ Hence I was induced to try the hemlock-extract.

“ In the beginning, the matter became much more fetid ; but the pains abated in a few days.

“ After persevering in the use of hemlock-pills for a few weeks, the pains entirely ceased ; the patient slept soundly ; ate heartily ; and finally, she fully recovered force ; and the matter proceeding from the womb was thin, limpid, and without smell.

“ Soon after a few drops only were discharged without the least inconvenience, and the woman appeared well ; she had no complaints ; her strength was good, as well as her appetite, and digestion ; she urined freely, and had proper stools without difficulty or pain.

“ I attended a young man who was struck several times in the week with a most terrible epilepsy ; the medicines most boasted to procure  
benefit



benefit in this disease were found to be inefficacious in the present instance.

“ I therefore administered to this patient considerable doses of the hemlock-extract for the space of a month ; in a little time the violence of the fits decreased ; and, at length, their return was expected in vain.

“ He has been now in perfect health for several months ; he is active, strong, and his mind, which was before disordered and confused, is now serene, and capable of conducting him in all the affairs of life.

“ A young man of four and twenty had, for several years past, such large schirs all over the neck, and the neighboring parts so stiffened, that the head could be, by no means, moved about.

“ This young man I completely cured with the plaster and the pills of hemlock.

“ Various surgeons and physicians had tried a multitude of medicines for this person without procuring him the least relief.

“ In the same manner I have completely cured, in a short time, a virgin of twenty, who had considerable schirs about the ears, under the jaw, and all around the neck.”

Sylvester ô Hara, a celebrated physician of Prague, consulted me on the following case :

“ A lady, twenty-one years of age, perceived a schir in her breast for some years past ; but, as it caused neither pain nor inconvenience, she sought no remedy against it,

“ About



“ About nine months ago she married ; went on several journeys ; and conceived with child.

“ Her breast then began to swell, grow harder, and give pain ; its color changed ; the veins became distended ; her nights were passed with little rest.

“ Outward applications only contributed to make the breast grow worse.

“ The physicians and the surgeons, who at different periods visited this patient, declared her case incurable ; and forbid, expressly, to apply any medicine whatsoever to it ; well knowing, that this hidden cancer would thus, at length, be opened, and bring on death.”

She was in this state, when doctor ô Hara was consulted.

But, as she was then with child, this prudent physician chose not to prescribe the hemlock without asking my advice.

Upon which, he wrote to me to send him my opinion.

As I had seen this plant administered to several pregnant women with the greatest success, and without the least inconvenience, I recommended to him to try it also in the present instance.

He thought proper to pursue the advice I gave him ; and, in consequence of it, he wrote to me since the following letter :

“ The importance of the subject would indeed require a more accurate and minute detail of the disorder, concerning which I wrote to you, Sir, the twenty-seventh of July last.

“ But from this I was precluded by the multitude of other patients, who have subjected themselves



themselves to my care, and by the distance at which lives from Prague the lady now in question.

“Not being able, therefore, to satisfy you entirely, by a very full and circumstantial history of the whole, I hope you will accept those observations only, which at separate intervals I had an opportunity to make.

“On receipt of your epistle about three months ago, I changed my resolution; and, according to your directions, I prescribed two pills, of two grains each, to be taken every morning and evening.

“But perceiving that this dose, administered for some time, had hitherto been productive of no effect, I ordered double the quantity to be given daily.

“This was continued for several weeks, but not as yet to any proper purpose; every thing rather became worse, and seemed more desperate; the swelling and the hardness were increased; the pain was become excessive; the livid color tended towards black; and, in a word, there was every symptom that could prove the existence of a hidden cancer.

“In so difficult and dangerous a situation, I could see nothing more expedient than an augmentation of the doses.

“I therefore ordered four and twenty grains of the hemlock-extract every day; and a fomentation of the same plant to be diligently applied to the part affected.

“All these were repeated daily, for upwards of a month.

“On my return to her house, the fifth week  
almost



almost expired, I was agreeably surpris'd to find every thing in a most promising and fair condition.

“ The size of the breast was reduced to one fourth, which, upon handling, I found was divided into several small lumps.

“ The blackish hue was changed to the natural white complexion; she scarce complained of any pain; and, what is very worthy of remark in this practice, she bore a plentiful bleeding of the piles without any loss of strength.

“ Fully now convinced of the incomparable efficacy of the hemlock, I neither added nor took away from the treatment hitherto pursued; but insisted, that, by a continuance of the same means, a perfect cure would undoubtedly be performed.

“ This lady is now preparing for a journey to Vienna, where you will hear, from herself, this account confirmed.”

The travelling and motion of the coach made her breast grow somewhat worse.

She therefore sent for my assistance as soon as she arrived.

I found the breast almost double the size of a man's fist, hard, of a purple color here and there, but not, however, very painful; the veins were distended; the patient's strength was good.

I advis'd her to apply, continually, a fomentation of the hemlock; to confine herself to her bed, in order to be quiet; and to swallow every day four and twenty grains of the hemlock-extract.

She chearfully followed my directions in every point; and the breast recovered, in a very

T

few



few days, its natural color, and was softer, smaller, and more moveable.

The best signs of pregnancy were observed; nor was there the least disturbance of any of the operations of nature.

The breast was almost every day growing better.

Her time was expired the third week after her arrival at Vienna, and she was delivered of a fat, fair, female infant.

Every body was curious and impatient to perceive whether a long continuance of the hemlock had not hurt the child.

But, as I foretold, all things were found in the most favourable state.

Soon after she was brought to bed, the breast, being handled somewhat roughly, began again to give her pain: the next day it reddened, and swelled to a great degree; was purple, afterwards grew livid; and separated into several lesser lumps, which discharged a sharp corroding serum. It was justly apprehended that the skin, which was extremely tender, should break, and a malignant running cancer be consequently formed.

A great pain was felt from the breast up to the shoulder, and all along the right arm.

The two first days of her lying-in, the hemlock was not administered either outwardly or inwardly.

The lochia flowed in proper quantities.

The third day, the symptoms in the breast being very bad, a pultice of hemlock was applied.

By this means the pains were abated in a little



the time, and the lividness of the skin disappeared that very day; the size, however, and hardness of the breast still persisted great; nor was there any alteration in the lumps, which threatened a rupture.

The hemlock-pultice was diligently applied also in the night.

The fourth day, things were still the same, except the pains, which were augmented.

The fifth, the patient began to take, morning and evening, five pills of two grains each.

The pains were decreased considerably; some of the lumps subsided; and the sharp corroding serum, which oozed out thro the skin, was no more perceived.

The sixth day, things were again somewhat better.

The seventh, she returned to four and twenty grains a day of the extract; and a pultice also was applied of hemlock, which, notwithstanding the offensive smell occasioned by it, the patient, finding its good effects, bore with great constancy and resignation.

All things relating to the lying-in proceeded prosperously; the infant was in perfect health.

Every fourth or fifth day we encreased the dose of pills.

In three weeks time, by the use of the pultice and the extract, the breast was reduced to the size of a man's fist.

The color was natural; the pain was gone; the strength was good; and the arm was freely moved.



From the beginning of the fourth week an entire dram of the extract of hemlock was given daily to the patient, who, tho very delicate and tender, perceived no inconvenience from so large a dose, and was in a good way.

In this manner the lying-in happily proceeded; and when concluded, there yet remained a schirrous hardness in the breast, about the bigness of a walnut, which was moveable up and down.

Whatever remained besides this little lump, which was not as yet restored to the natural state, was not hard, but pasty.

This lady was, at present, very well, having recovered her strength, her appetite, and sleep.

By degrees she took, at length, four scruples of the extract of hemlock every day; and a pultice of the same plant was constantly applied during the whole night, and in the morning, but laid aside in the afternoon, that then she might go into the open air for the sake of exercise, and enjoy the company of those who could not bear the disagreeable smell of hemlock.

I also liked this method, as it gave me an opportunity of seeing, by degrees, how the breast would be without a pultice.

But I perceived no ill accruing from it.

The tenth week, the size of the breast was very small; but the lump persisted still almost unaltered.

Even this, however, gradually became fibrous and unequal, which gave me hopes, that, in process of time, it may be totally dissolved.

Glandular schirrous portions, thus separated, are sometimes very slow in being dispersed; but,



but, by persevering in the proper use of hemlock, they are at last resolved and disappear ; or, if they are moveable and have resisted every effort, and exhausted every hope, they may be extracted by art, if necessity requires it.

This lady had her monthly terms a second time since her lying-in, without any inconvenience and in sufficient quantity ; her health was good ; she had now the perfect use of her right arm, which had been hitherto weak, and unfit for any long continuance of motion ; she went into the open air ; used divers exercises ; and found no hurt to her breast from any.

Her husband was, at this time, obliged by his employment to undertake a considerable journey in cold, rough weather.

He was desirous to have along with him his wife, who was truly worthy of esteem and love.

The friends, and the acquaintance, but above all, some weak women, who were so many doctresses, endeavored to dissuade this excellent lady from thinking of travelling on this occasion.

I thought, however, every thing considered, that the journey could not hurt her ; and without minding the objections that were made, of which to take any notice would be endless and absurd, I persuaded her to accompany her husband.

The journey was performed successfully ; they both arrived at the place designed, in perfect health.

Nothing good or evil happened to the breast ; every thing continued in the same situation.

I therefore make no doubt but that she will  
now



now return to the external and internal use of hemlock, that what still remains may be totally dispersed.

During the lying-in this patient was under the care of Doctor Kestler, a very eminent practitioner, and one of the principal physicians to the empress-queen.

But the first danger, and the first threatenings of a cancer, were overcome by the celebrated doctor Sylvester ô Hara at Prague; to him, therefore, the greatest praise is due, and the sincerest thanks deserve to be returned.

For, most undoubtedly, this distemper would have killed both the mother and the child, if attention had been paid to the advice, or application made of the remedies which vagabonds and quacks are offering every day for the cure of such complaints.

The infant is now in its seventh month, and very healthy.

Hence does it not appear, that hemlock is a most innocent medicine, which neither is hurtful to pregnant women, or to the burden which they carry?

## CHAPTER IV.

### COROLLARIES.

**C**OROLLARY I. The hemlock does not dissolve the blood into a putrid colliquation.



I have ordered several to be blooded, who had taken this plant in large doses for a long continuance; and found the blood well colored, and of the best consistence.

Dr. Kestler having blooded a lady of quality, a little before she was brought to bed, who had taken the hemlock during several months of her pregnancy; we both observed the blood perfectly resembling that of the healthiest persons.

John Van Woenfol, a celebrated practitioner at Harlem, made the same observation on a woman, to whom he had given the hemlock for several months.

I have lately prescribed a bleeding to a countess, who is my patient, and who has now taken the extract of hemlock these two months past; her blood was perfectly coherent, and in a more natural state than before this treatment was begun; for then it was fibrous, and covered with a thick, mucous, variegated coat.

I call to witness any physician or surgeon who has made the experiment, whether he has ever observed otherwise than good blood in consequence of a proper use of the hemlock-plant.

COROLLARY II. The hemlock does not bring on consumptions.

To those who have considered the cases related by others, and by me, it must clearly appear, that the patients who had taken hemlock recovered their former strength, and became fat, lusty, vigorous.

By the means of hemlock, nocturnal sweats are very often stopped, the appetite is encreased,  
the



the digestion is improved, the various functions are restored : why, therefore, should a consumption be supposed to follow ?

The excellent Leopold Erndl, counsellor of health, was very uneasy at the great number of boys and girls who died in his hospital of a scrophulous consumption.

He administered, for several years, with the greatest industry, a variety of medicines for this disorder ; but could by no means check its progress.

He therefore tried the hemlock in large doses ; things wore immediately a better aspect ; the children, who had been hitherto stupid, fearful, cachectic, emaciated, were now become hearty, fat, and strong ; and the schirs of the glands were gradually dissolved.

This learned gentleman has very often politely invited me to his hospital, where he shewed me, with great pleasure, the wonderful effects which the hemlock had produced on a multitude of boys and girls, and even on the most tender infants.

For the sake of experiment, I have administered this plant to several persons, for one, two, three years, and upwards, who are to this day healthy, strong, active, and capable of doing any business.

COROLLARY III. The hemlock does not hurt the sight.

And indeed I have often perceived the contrary effect from it on my patients.

For several among them had their eyes obscured,



scured, continually running or smarting from a perpetual flow of sharp tears, and were obliged, beside, to make use of spectacles; but, on taking hemlock for some time, these vices of the eyes were mended; and several patients were enabled to lay aside their spectacles.

COROLLARY IV. The hemlock does not take away the power of procreation.

I visited a soldier, whom I cured, in two months time, by a plentiful use of hemlock, of schirrous swellings of the glands under the jaw, as also of the king's evil in his neck.

He departed the hospital completely cured, and in perfect health; but returned in a fortnight with a most virulent gonorrhea, which he confessed that he had contracted the day after he left the hospital.

By the means of a hydragogue purgative every eight days, by a constant use of the decoction of burdock-root, and the pills of hemlock, I cured the soldier of this virulent and obstinate gonorrhea in about five weeks.

Other men, who had taken the hemlock in large quantities for a long continuance, I have scrupulously examined upon this head, requesting, as a matter of importance, that they told the truth.

But they all declared solemnly to me, that the vigor of nature was not in the least impaired; nay, even some assured me they had perceived an alteration for the better also in this article.



A man of fixty-fix years old, and paralytic, had taken hemlock for fix months, and in so great a dose, that for nine weeks he swallowed every day a dram and a half of the extract.

Among other good effects which this remedy produced, he told me, of his own accord, that nature had lain dormant in him for the twelve years preceding; but that at present, in consequence of having taken hemlock, it awakened, and returned to him with all the vigor and activity of a man of thirty.

The wives of those to whom much hemlock had been administered, I have examined on this subject, with the decency and seriousness becoming a physician; they all seemed satisfied, and confirmed me from their conscience, that they never found their husbands enfeebled by the use of hemlock.

I behaved, upon these occasions, with great gravity and circumspection.

But, in order not to rely entirely upon others in this article, I determined to try upon myself, whose constitution is not decayed, the effect of hemlock in the present instance, taken in a considerable quantity.

I perceived in consequence no other change, than somewhat a more copious discharge of urine, much a better appetite, greater activity and spirits, with a full enjoyment of my wonted vigor.

May



May the hemlock be safely given in schirs of the lower belly?

Many have, not without reason, apprehended, that a suppuration might be thus excited, to which a mortal tympany would ensue.

But I can assert from multiplied experience, that I have dispersed several schirs in the belly; that I have often cured the dropsy, which came in consequence of schirrous viscera in the abdomen; nor did a suppuration or tympany ever supervene.

In women, indeed, I have frequently seen purulent matter issue from the womb, and schirs consequently dissolved; in this case I judged that the matter dissolved by the course of nature, found out a proper passage, and sought a natural discharge.

The learned Doctor Collin has also prescribed with me the same medicine in hardnesses of the belly, which he never found to be without good effect; nor did he ever perceive, that from it, any ill arose.

But as, in other parts of the body, a suppuration is brought on by the use of hemlock, reason dictates the same may happen also in the belly; this, however, should not deter a good physician from employing it.

### C A U T I O N S.

**I** Have related several cases, in which the hemlock is beneficial; I do not, however pretend



pretend, that we are to rely always on this plant alone.

Other remedies must also sometimes accompany the hemlock.

It will be necessary for the physician judiciously to follow the respective indications.

The surgeon must alter, add, and take away, according as reason, founded on experience, dictates.

Several persons, who have read my first essay on this subject, have understood my opinion wrong, thinking I offered this remedy as universal, to the world, and alone sufficient in every case.

But this was far from my intention.

This only I affirm, that hemlock is productive of effects which the most boasted specifics are unable to perform.

That it cureth cancers, is a fact I have seen, and of which I am convinced by a multitude of experiments ; nor do I from hence assert, that it is effectual against every cancer ; nor, that from the hemlock alone is the whole cure always to be expected.

If out of an hundred patients, whom other physicians have despaired of and abandoned, I can preserve even one, I am satisfied ; but the number of persons restored to perfect health, is far, indeed, superior.

Mercury cures the venereal disorder ; but is it always proper ? does it always cure ? are there not thousands killed by this disorder ?

The peruvian bark is a specific for the ague ; and yet there are instances where it is not of service



service ; how many are there not, where even it is hurtful ?

Are, therefore, such remedies to be neglected, and accounted useless or pernicious ?

Skilful physicians will give the same account of all other supposed specifics.

If there are persons, who on account of their particular constitution, or from a complication of symptoms, cannot support the hemlock, let such refrain from taking it.

If the symptoms require, also, other medicines, why may not they be administered together with this plant ?

Purgatives are often necessary.

Sometimes it may be proper also to order a bleeding.

In plethoric dispositions, hemorrhages should not suddenly be stopped ; for to such patients they agree much better, than artificial bleedings.

In weak constitutions, on the contrary, the agaric of the oak must immediately and effectually be applied.

The agaric, however, should be only fixed to the spot from whence gushes out the blood ; extended over the entire ulcer, or the wound, it is pernicious, and often, indeed, fatal.

In some cases, cooling antiphlogistic remedies are indicated as well as the hemlock.

This happens most in the gout and rheumatism.

Sometimes emollients, digestives sometimes, and sometimes astringents, are required.

The knife must now and then also be employed



ployed, in giving the matter a discharge, which I have often observed in the spina ventosa ; in order that the carious and corrupted parts may be separated from the sound.

A fungous cancer must also be sometimes extracted with the knife.

But least, in similar cases, a relapse should happen, the hemlock ought to be employed, which is sufficient to prevent it.

It happens, in many instances, that the callous lips of cancers, or even fungous cancers themselves, are consumed by the means of the following remedy alone :

Take of the plant of hemlock, two drams  
and a half,

of honey of roses, three ounces.

These ingredients are to be spread on pledgets of lint, and being applied to the part affected, are to be renewed as often as prudence suggests to be necessary.

When a judicious physician joins with an expert surgeon, in endeavoring to cure desperate disorders, they frequently make surprizing cures.

But if they disagree, or are ignorant of the proper treatment, the patient must necessarily suffer or expire.

If women will but discover their complaints as soon as they perceive them, and physicians prescribe the hemlock a proper time ; I make no doubt, but that in some years we should meet but with very few cancers of the breast.

The



The hemlock never requires a strict regimen to be observed.

It allows every thing which the stomach easily digests, and which is capable of becoming proper nourishment.

Nor is wine forbid, or acids hurtful when taken in a moderate quantity.

And, indeed, every physician knows already what is suitable to his patient, and what pernicious.

There is no such thing as a universal law.

The E N D.



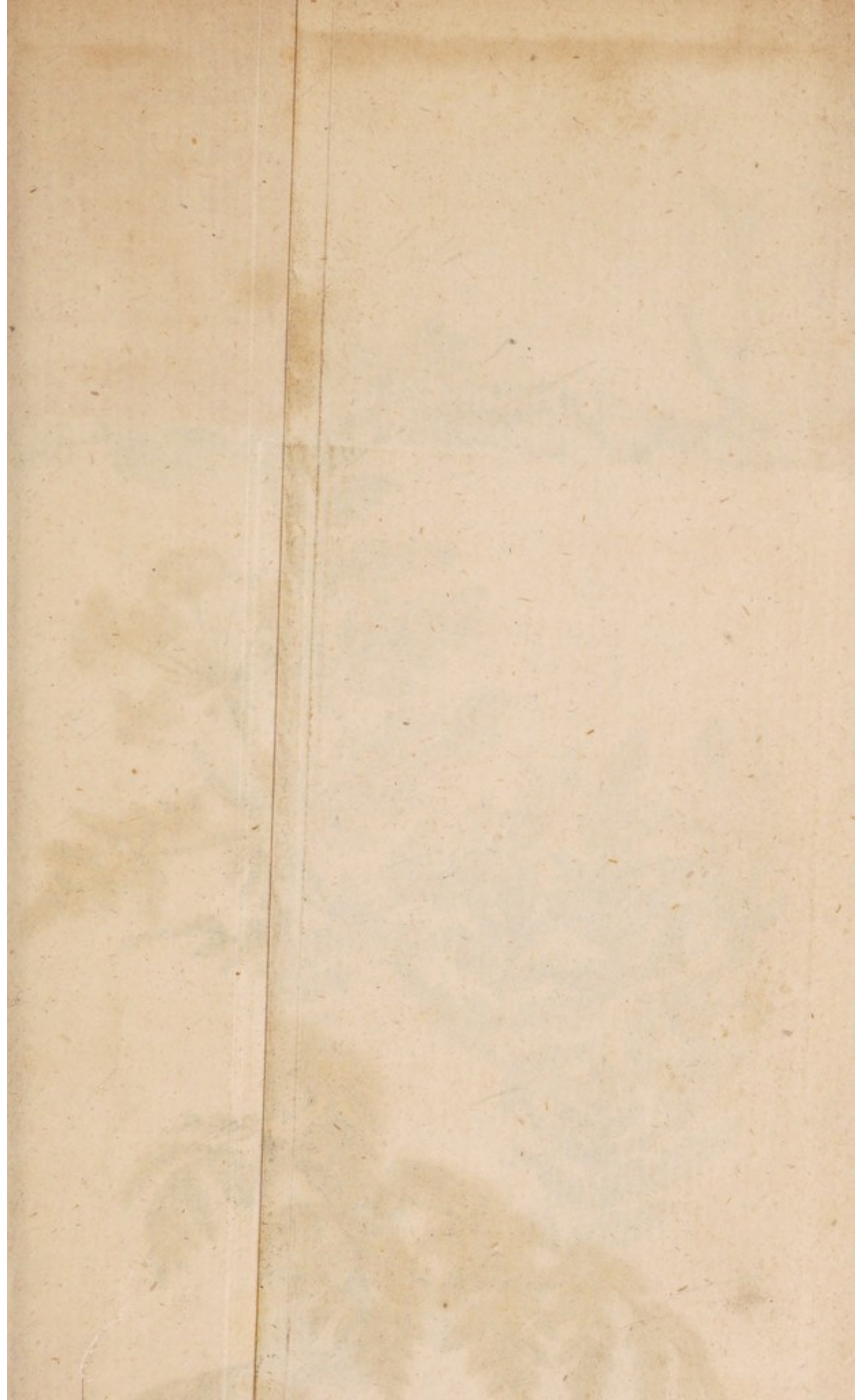


THE LANCET  
The Lancet never repeats a thing  
to be corrected.  
I believe every thing which the Lancet  
says is right, and which is capable of becoming  
proper knowledge.  
It is with regard to acids, however, when  
taken in a moderate quantity.  
And, indeed, every physician knows already  
what is suitable to his patient, and what  
is not.  
There is no such thing as a universal law.

THE R. M. D.











*Cicuta* Off. HALL. *Aliorum*  
*Cicuta* major C.B. TOUR.  
*Cicutaria* vulgaris CLUS.  
*Cicuta* vulgaris major MORIS.  
*Conium* maculatum LINN.  
 Schierling. German.  
 Cigue. French.  
 Common Hemlock. English.

Aug. Capps Med. Stud. delin. Vienna 1761.