

The case of a hydrophobia / By Dr. Fothergill. Reprinted from the fifth volume of Medical observations and inquiries. By a a [sic] society of physicians in London. With additions.

Contributors

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THE
C A S E
OF A
HYDROPHOBIA.

By Dr. FOTHERGILL.

Reprinted from the Fifth Volume of

Medical Observations and Inquiries.

BY A

A Society of Physicians in *London*.

With ADDITIONS.



LONDON:
Printed for T. CADEL, in the *Strand*.
M.DCC.LXXVIII.

THE
CLASSICAL
OF A
HYDROPHOBIA
By Dr. FOTHERGILL
Reprinted from the 1st Volume of
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With ADDITIONS
LONDON:
Printed for T. Cadell, in the Strand.
1795.

P R E F A C E.

I Have been solicited to reprint the following Case, that it might pass into many hands where the work in which it was first inserted may never come. I yielded to this solicitation the more easily when I found that neither the Society to which it was presented, nor the Bookseller whose property it is, had any objection to its being published in this manner.

The reader must not expect to find in it a cure for the Canine Madness. He will find, perhaps, nothing more of certainty in this respect than that *all* the remedies hitherto proposed, either as preventatives, or cures, are found by experience to be altogether ineffectual.

To

To rely on any popular means of preventing the fatal effects of this poison, whether known and generally divulged, or preserved as secrets, which, as the Tonquin medicine, are found to be incompetent and ineffectual, is a dangerous deception.

Were it only to give one incontrovertible fact in evidence against such pretensions, and of course to stimulate the faculty to make a farther search after more effectual relief in this distemper it would be doing some service to society.

Dr. *Vaughan* of *Leicester* has lately published some cases of the Hydrophobia which in divers respects confirm the intimations given in the cure referred to. And the very rational, though unsuccessful, efforts he made to assist his patients under this calamity, are proofs of his attention, and of the hitherto untameable nature of this singular poison.

Let

Let not, however, these difficulties discourage us from observing every case that occurs with attention, and faithfully noting every incident that arises in the progress of the disease, perhaps, the united labours of the faculty, Providence permitting, may, at length, discover some effectual remedy.

To this Case are subjoined some Remarks on the Canine Madness and Hydrophobia, with a view to assist those who are called in upon these occasions, to perform their duty with satisfaction to themselves, and advantage to their patients.

J. FOTHERGILL.

I have not yet, this difference dis-
cussing as from ordinary law, and
that seems with attention, and I
fully noting every instance that arises in
the progress of the subject, perhaps, the
united efforts of the faculty, I have
permeating, may, at length, direct, some
effective remedy.

For this cause, I have not been able
to make on the same subjects, and I
doubtless, with a view to that, I
who are called in upon these occasions,
to perform their duty with freedom
to themselves, and advantage to their
patients.

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THE
C A S E
OF A
HYDROPHOBIA.

From the *Medical Observations and
Inquiries.**

I Shall introduce what I have to say upon this case by an account of what happened before I saw the patient, as it was drawn up by W. French, his apothecary.

“ MR. CHARLES BELLAMY of
“ Holborn, aged forty years, on the 14th
“ of February 1774, was bit by a cat,
“ which was killed the same morning.
“ The day after, viz. February 15th,
“ he took the celebrated Ormskirk me-
“ dicine, sold by Hill and Berry, in
B “ Hill-

* Vol. 5. p. 195.

“ Hill-Street, Berkley-Square, and con-
 “ formed to the directions given by the
 “ vender in every respect.

“ A servant maid, who was bit in the
 “ leg by the same cat, just before her
 “ master was bitten, took the same re-
 “ medy.

“ About the middle of April he com-
 “ plained of a pain in his right knee,
 “ which he supposed was affected with
 “ the rheumatism ; he had felt the like
 “ pain at times during the last two years,
 “ and had procured himself ease by
 “ pumping cold water on the part. On
 “ the 7th of June, this complaint in-
 “ creasing, he desired me to attempt
 “ something for his relief. I according-
 “ ly sent him a box of pills, two of
 “ which were to be taken every night,
 “ containing about one grain of calo-
 “ mel, of camph. ipecac. and pill.
 “ Sapon. two grains each, and two tea-
 “ spoonfuls of Huxham's Tincture of the
 “ bark in buck-bean tea twice a-day.

“ After having taken these medicines
 “ about six days, he discovered an unu-
 fual

“ fual titilation in the *urethra*, a con-
 “ traction of the *scrotum* and *penis* to a
 “ degree of pain, and an emission of *se-*
 “ *men* after making water, to which he
 “ had frequent calls.

“ Alarmed at these symptoms, which
 “ he attributed to his medicines, he
 “ was desired to discontinue them, and
 “ to live as temperately in every respect
 “ as possible.

“ On Thursday the 16th of June,
 “ he sent for me in the morning, com-
 “ plained much of having had a restless
 “ night, and told me, though he had
 “ eat some bread and butter as usual for
 “ his breakfast, yet he found he could
 “ not swallow his tea without difficulty;
 “ he attempted it before me, and threw
 “ a little into his mouth, but with the
 “ utmost agitation.

“ Recollecting the accident of the
 “ bite, and apprehending the most seri-
 “ ous consequences, but without disco-
 “ vering my apprehensions to the pati-
 “ ent, I proposed a physician might be
 “ sent for. Dr. Fothergill was menti-

“ oned by the patient. I met the Doc-
 “ tor in a few minutes after, and inform-
 “ ed him of the preceding circumstan-
 “ ces, and attended him to the place.

Theobald's Road, W. FRENCH,”

June 20, 1774.

I saw the patient above-mentioned the 16th in the morning: he was sitting in his dining-room, without any other appearance of indisposition than a little paleness; his countenance cheerful; nothing that discovered uneasiness or anxiety. He recited very distinctly the complaints which he called rheumatic, and which had induced him to apply for help; mentioned his opinion, that his disorder had been increased by the pills, &c. but upon being informed, they could have no such effects, he readily gave up the point. I have had, says he, a very restless night, my head has been much out of order, I have sweated a great deal, was very faint with it, and have had little or no sleep; I was extremely thirsty in the night, and intended to have regaled myself this morning

morning with a large draught of balm-tea, which stands there ready-made; but you shall see the difficulty I am under, and which induces me to ask your assistance. He then took up a tea-cupful of common green-tea with milk in it, as he drank it commonly for breakfast, and brought it within a few inches of his lips with great composure; he then threw the liquor into his mouth, and swallowed it with uncommon haste and perturbation. You see, says he, I can force it down; shall I do this very frequently, or will you allow me to omit it a while?

It may be proper in this place to mention, that our patient was a person of a good understanding, active, diligent, and sensible, much esteemed for his probity; and during his illness, he gave proofs of a capacity and resolution superior to most men in the middle stations of life.

I desired him to forbear the attempt, while it continued to affect him with extreme uneasiness, but to endeavour to get down bread moistened with any liquor he chose as often as possible. The
thought

thought pleased him, and he got down bits of bread moistened with wine without much difficulty, whilst I staid, and continued so to do frequently during the day; and this was the only kind of nourishment he got down.

He had naturally a lively, penetrating eye; but his aspect varied frequently and remarkably during our conversation. His pulse was generally about ninety, and rather hard, but changed almost every minute, both in frequency and hardness. His flesh felt moderate, his tongue dry; he made very little urine, and complained much of the contraction of the *scrotum*; the emissions had almost ceased, and his bowels had been sufficiently emptied the preceding morning.

He took not the least notice of his having been bit to me, nor did he appear to have recollected it during the course of his illness.

We forbore, on this account, to inquire after the state of the wounded part, or to say any thing that might lead him to

to suspect his present complaints arose from that fatal accident.

To gain a little time for reflection on a case so sudden and so dangerous, and that nothing which seemed reasonable to be done might in the mean time be omitted, I ordered six ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, that a scruple of native cinnabar, and half a scruple of musk made into a bolus, might be given every four hours, and that as much nourishment, fruit, or any thing he chose, might be got down, as possible.

The family were apprised of the dangerous situation he was in, and a consultation requested as early in the evening as might be convenient. Dr. Watson was pitched upon; we met at five in the evening, the 16th, and received the following account:

He had taken two of the boluses, had got down several bits of bread moistened with wine, some strawberries, a few bits of pudding, but had not attempted to drink any liquor. We requested he would then, for our satisfaction, endeavour

your

your to swallow a little liquor; he readily assented; it was brought to him; he threw it hastily into his mouth, and swallowed it with difficulty and extreme perturbation. The moment the liquor touch'd the *gula*, all the muscles concern'd in deglutition appearing to be convulsed.

He repeated to Dr. Watson very intelligibly and fully the account which he had given me in the morning. His countenance was pale, and he seemed much agitated and distressed, complained of extreme thirst, and of the impossibility of swallowing any liquid. His tongue was white, but did not appear dry. He was perpetually endeavouring with great efforts to bring up and discharge the viscid, tenacious phlegm which lined the *fauces*.

The heat of his flesh was moderate; but his pulse was quick, hard, and irregular; strong palpitations of the heart, which he made us feel by pressing our hands to the part.

He was perfectly sensible; and when his endeavours to discharge the viscid
phlegm

phlegm would allow him to speak, gave us pertinent answers. He had made but little urine since the morning, the dragging, as he called it, of the *scrotum* still continued, and the uneasy sensation and emission.

The blood which was taken away in the morning had some slight appearance of inflammation; the crassamentum firm, with slight traces of size but the serum remarkably yellow. No evacuation by stool to-day. Upon the whole it was evident, that the disorder had increased since morning.

Upon maturely considering this very hazardous state of things, we agreed upon the following process:

To procure a stool or two by means of a clyster.

That he should then be carried to the warm bath, and remain in it so long, and to such a degree of heat as was most agreeable to himself.

That at his return a clyster should be given of a pint of milk and water, and

this to be repeated as often as it could be conveniently administered.

That in the last of these clysters a drachm of Dover's powder should be exhibited.

That two drachms of strong mercurial unctiōn should be rubbed by himself on his legs and thighs as soon as he returned from the bath, and that he should endeavour to get down all the sustenance he could.

We saw him early next morning, the 17th, when we received the following account:

The laxative clyster had produced a proper effect.

The warm bath relieved him greatly whilst he was in it, so that for a time, as he expressed it, his sufferings were suspended. They returned, and with more violence, during the night. The clysters had been repeated several times, and the unctiōn applied.

We found he had passed a most restless night, totally without sleep, and in
much

much agitation; not being able to lie still a moment.

His countenance bespoke much distress, though accompanied with endeavours to conceal it; sometimes he was calm, then agitated, talked much, but sensibly. He had now a copious flow of saliva less viscid, his tongue white and moist, but foul. His pulse was very quick, small, hard, and irregular, his hands rather cold than hot. He had made water in the night with less difficulty, and without its usual consequences; the dragging pain, or spasmodic affection of the cremaster was gone off. In general, his strength and faculties seemed less impaired than might have been expected, where so little sustenance had been taken in, constant restlessness, and no sleep.

On considering these circumstances, and observing there was a more copious flow of saliva, the tongue more moist, the thirst less, the spasm of the cremaster gone, yet that his difficulty in swallow-

ing was not less, still no sleep, but his head still clear.

That his pulse continued hard and quick, that there was some appearances of an inflammatory density yesterday, that he had found relief from the bath, at least, a temporary suspension. We agreed,

That he should be blooded standing, according as his strength would bear.

That he should be conveyed to the warm bath, and remain in it as long as he found it agreeable to himself.

A clyster of milk and water to be thrown up at his return from the bath, with a drachm of Dover's powder, and

Half an ounce of mercurial unction to be rubbed on his legs and thighs as soon after as might be done conveniently.

One scruple of *thebaic. extr.* was ordered to be made into twenty pills, three of these to be given when he came out of the bath, and two every hour, till he seemed disposed to sleep.

At five in the evening we visited him again, when he received us with the utmost transport and joy ; and describing in very strong terms the pleasure and the benefit he received from the warm bath, and the hopes he now conceived of a speedy recovery.

A vast quantity of viscid phlegm was continually flowing into his mouth, which he was as constantly employed in discharging ; for it seemed to have the same effect upon the organs of deglutition, as if he attempted to swallow any other liquor, and gave him extreme uneasiness. To get rid of this defluction, the moment he felt it in the *fauces*, he exerted a sudden and vehement expiration, as if it was with a design to blow away the moisture so offensive to him with the utmost force and expedition. This occasioned a sound, which did not seem very remote from the hollow barking of a dog.

When he was not employed in these efforts, he was talking constantly but coherently. His eyes had a particular keeness,

keenness, and all his motions were quick, and vehement. His pulse was also quick, hard, sometimes trembling and irregular. His hands were rather cold and clammy, but the general heat of his body not intemperate.

He told us he had taken a great deal of nourishment during the day. On inquiry, we found it amounted to no more than on the preceding; a few bits of bread moistened with wine, a little pudding, two or three pieces of china orange, which pleased him much. He had taken none of the pills.

Previous to his going into the bath, he desired to be shaved; it was readily assented to, but proved a more troublesome operation than he was aware of. The moment the lather touched his face, he fell back with surprise; but the part being once wetted, he bore the repetition easily; every fresh part that was lathered gave him considerable emotion; the application of the razor had in a degree a similar effect: in short, every new movement about him gave him some fresh

fresh alarm, some degree of agitation and anxiety. He took notice of this himself; but, says he, I am naturally hasty and choleric; and when I am got better of these complaints, I hope you will assist me in correcting it.

Whilst he was in the bath, the person who attended him, without any particular intention, took up some of the warm water in his hand, and poured it on the patient's head and face: this confused him much; he described to us the distress it gave him at the time very emphatically; and added, with much apparent satisfaction, that he had so far conquered his aversion to it, that he had poured water on himself with his own hand in the same manner.

It was in speaking of this affair, he mentioned the term *Hydrophobia*; observing, that his complaints resembled it; yet without giving us any reason to apprehend he had the least idea of his actually labouring under this fatal distemper.

He had not slept a moment from the time he was seized with the dread of liquids. He repeatedly expressed the satisfaction he received from the bath, and wished to go into it again. We consented, and desired that he might be carried thither again, and to stay in it as long as he chose it.

Every new operation now became an extreme difficulty to him; dressing, undressing at the bath, going into the water, which he now did with much intreaty, putting one foot in, and hastily withdrawing it. He was at length prevailed on to go into it. A recollection of the ease he had enjoyed in it before, aided by a manly resolution that never forsook him, subdued his fears, and he remained in it near half an hour. He was brought home about nine o'clock. He refused to take the pills, and every other medicine. He grew fretful and restless, soon became delirious, but offered no violence.

After remaining in this condition about two hours, the powers of nature sunk,
he

he reclined his head gently on the pillow, and expired at half past twelve.

Endeavours were used to observe the condition of the part that was bit, when he was dressing after bathing, as far as could be done without alarming him; but ineffectually. After death it was examined with attention, but without perceiving the least morbid appearance.

For this account of his last hours, and his behaviour at the bath, I am obliged to my friend, William French, his apothecary, who attended him with the utmost constancy and humanity.

During our attendance, we learned that this accident happened in the following manner:

The servant maid having occasion to wash, rose earlier than was usual; upon her entering the wash-house, a cat attacked her, and fixed upon her leg. Her screams brought her master to her assistance; he aimed a blow at the cat, but missed it; the cat then seized his leg, but he soon disengaged himself from her; a chairman passing by was called in, who soon killed her.

Both the master and maid took the Ormskirk medicine as speedily as possible, and observed the directions given with it. The master's leg soon healed, and he seems to have thought no more of it. Perhaps fortunately for the girl, her leg did not heal; it grew worse, and baffled the skill of a young surgeon to whom she applied. We were told she afterwards got into one of the city hospitals, on this account, and we have no doubt but she is still living. Our endeavours to find her out, and to know in what situation she is, have not yet been successful*.

It is here worth observing, that two persons are bit by a mad cat, at the same time; the first who was bit, and the most severely, escapes; the second loses his life. The wounds of one healed presently, the other become a sore, notwithstanding endeavours to the contrary. Both used the same preventive means.

May not then the happy escape of the girl be owing to the sore which followed
from

* I have since learned that her leg continued long in a sore state, but that she is now perfectly well, *Aug. 29, 1774.*

from the bite? It seems probable; and affords a very forcible argument for enlarging the wounds made by the bite of mad animals, and promoting a discharge from them as long as possible. Perhaps this is the only sure preservative against the direful effects of this malignant venom we are yet acquainted with.

It is with some repugnance we point out the inefficacy of a medicine, which in this country has established a reputation of its being an infallible preservative. Perhaps it has had its use in being so esteemed by the generality; for it is undoubtedly true, that many persons have suffered almost as much as they could have done from the most poisonous bite, by representing to themselves the miseries they were exposed to. A medicine that could powerfully assuage these apprehensions, from a general opinion of its salutary effects, has certainly been beneficial to many; and so have a multitude of other famed prophylacticks.

But as this medicine, which has survived the reputation of many others, has

in this instance been found to be ineffectual ; it seems to be absolutely necessary to apprize the public of the fact, which, as far as one evidence can extend to, is decisive. The same medicine, procured by an unexceptionable hand, (the apothecary, who urged its being given, from a thorough persuasion of its affording perfect security) from the place authorised to sell it, and given precisely according to the prescriber's directions, to two persons, bit by the same animal, and at the same time : the person first bitten escapes ; the second dies of the Hydrophobia.

Was it not of the last consequence to those who may become the unhappy objects of such applications, to be informed that even this medicine had failed of success, we should not endeavour to bereave them of the comfort which the unfortunate might derive from an opinion that it was infallible ; but when there is such evidence to the contrary, it becomes necessary, for the public benefit, to endeavour to remove prejudices that
may

may be fatal to the real safety of individuals.

To enquire farther into the merits of this, or any other preservative against the poisonous bite of mad animals, would take up too much room in your collection. This, however, would be no unprofitable employment for a person of suitable leisure and abilities; and we are not less in doubt about the efficacy of all those remedies which have been urged by the several proposers, as extremely beneficial in the cure of this distemper, even in its last stages. We are confident that divers have been mentioned, as being cured of the effects of such bites, who never had one genuine symptom of the disease thence arising.

At the same time that we suggest opinions which may tend to destroy that happy confidence which has prevented much suffering to individuals, and whilst we own our apprehensions that none of the celebrated medicines hitherto proposed to the public can safely be confided in, either as prophylacticks or as curatives,

tives, we would earnestly recommend one means of preservation, which not only the present instance before us, but extensive experience seem to establish upon a solid foundation; that is, after having washed the part, and cleansed the surface as quickly as possible from the poison, to enlarge the wound immediately by actual cautery, the knife, or any other speedy and effectual method; and to promote the discharge as long as is possible. This being effectually done, affords the surest ground for a proper confidence and security against future mischief.

Two circumstances we take the liberty to suggest, as deserving some attention:

The first is, in case of a bite from a mad animal, to recollect what part was bit, and if through any, through what kind of covering. A bite through thick garments, or leather, as the teeth of the animal would probably be wiped quite clean from the venom, ought to give less uneasiness than when it happens to the naked skin.

Second, Not to kill the animals, if it can be avoided, till it is past a doubt they were mad. On both these circumstances may depend considerable satisfaction to the person bit ; and it may not be improper to add, that there is abundant reason to suspect that very few of those who are bit by mad animals are liable to be affected by the *hydrophobia*, or other fatal effects of the bite. This, however, is not intended to abate the care that is due on these occasions, but as a proper antidote to that despondency which is often the consequence of this accident.

In respect to our conduct in the present case, it is submitted to your censure. We acknowledge we despaired of our patient's recovery. If we kept partly in the track our predecessors had recommended, as circumstances admitted, so far we were justified : but we went further, we pursued such means as we thought most likely to have one of these desirable effects ; to keep up the forces of life, by conveying into the habit every
kind

kind of nourishment by the passages left open, *viz.* the bowels and the skin, and thereby enabling Nature to support the contest longer; or else, to calm and relax, and render the conflict at last less terrible to the assistants, and less painful to the sufferer.

We thought ourselves justified, from considering the state of the pulse, and other circumstances, to take away some blood, and repeatedly. That we might not reduce the strength beyond what appeared necessary, we chose to order it to be taken from the Patient standing; because, we were satisfied, he could not lose so much blood in that situation as would be detrimental without fainting, much sooner than he would have done in a sitting or decumbent posture.

*Additional Directions for the treatment of
persons bit by mad animals.*

1st, Prevent the animal supposed to be mad from being killed, if possible, till it is past a doubt that by refusing sustenance in any form, and other circumstances, usually accompanying this state, it is evident the creature is mad. Let all possible care, however, be taken, in the mean time, that he be confined in such a manner as to injure no other animal. This attention, though it does not contribute to the cure, it may to the comfort of the patient.

2d, Observe whether the wound is made through any covering and of what kind; as much satisfaction may be afforded to the patient if the wound was made through thick cloathing or leather.

3d, Remove the flavered cloths as soon as possible, and wash the wounded or bruised parts with water; in which if a little salt is dissolved, it can do no harm.

4th, Consider in what manner the wounded part may be treated, so as to

keep it discharging as long as possible. If in a fleshy part, and the patient will submit to it, excision of the wounded part is the best security from danger.

Where this operation cannot be admitted, the actual Cautery, the Lunar Caustic, a Vesicatory may be applied with advantage, according as the part, the age of the patient, and the situation may direct. In every case let the wound be kept open as long as it can be done conveniently. A small quantity of gunpowder, a little moistened, spread upon the part, if only scratched by the teeth of the animal, or put into the wound if large enough to receive but a little, and then kindled with a lighted paper, will, perhaps, as suddenly, as easily, yet safely enlarge the wound, as can be effected by any other means, and occasion such a kind of wound as will not instantly be closed.

The choice of these several methods must be left to the operator. Wounds in the hands, feet, or face will not admit of the injured parts being cut out
so

so safely, as might be done on the muscular parts of the arms and legs.

The time, likewise, of keeping the wounds open must in some respect depend on their situation. To keep open a running sore for a long time on the face and hands would be difficult, and productive of various inconveniencies.

Of all the prophylactics yet offered to the public, experience has proved there is not one to be depended on; it may, perhaps, be worth while to consider in this place the means of prevention principally in vogue.

When a person is bit by a mad animal, the first thing usually thought of is, Sea Bathing. The party is sent to some bathing-place, where there are commonly persons employed in this business, who, by keeping the patient long under water, and dipping him repeatedly, reduce him almost to a state of suffocation. Some of the salt water gets into the Trachea; more into the stomach, and proves sometimes a brisk purgative. Here the process ends, and the patient is

deemed to be secure from any future accidents on account of the bite.

The reader will have observed in the preceding case, that the whole of this process is founded on mistake, and it is certain that divers who have undergone the utmost severity of this discipline have died of the Hydrophobia.

The Pulvis Antilyffus of Dr. *Mead* has had no better success, and is now almost wholly forgot.

No medicine, as a preventative, seems to have maintained its credit so long as that called the Ormskirk remedy. It is called so from the name of a town in Lancashire, near which the gentleman lived in whose family the secret has been long preserved, and from thence distributed with such apparent success, as to be generally deemed infallible for preventing the Canine Madness. I am sorry there are more instances to the contrary, than that which is related in the preceding account.

The Tonquin medicine, composed of Musk and Cinnabar, has been equally

un-

unsuccessful. All these different medicines have been employed, by practitioners, and all of them have failed.

Dr. James, who had great credit amongst sportsmen, and great opportunities of observation, thought Turbith emetics and mercurials certain antidotes ; but these, likewise, have had the same fate with others ; they have been neglected, not because their promoters were no more, but because they were found to be insufficient.

His practice, however, and some other publications, turned the attention of physicians to mercurials, and they have of late been considered as the most certain antidotes to the Canine Madness. We gave them a short, tho' ineffectual trial. Others have been more bold, but not more successful. There is too much reason to distrust their efficacy in preventing or curing the Hydrophobia.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, there is one thing which ought to afford the sufferers some consolation ;

tion; which is, that it appears very evident, that if no means of prevention were used, many of those who are bit by mad animals, would never be liable to the fatal consequences of Canine Madness.

On the other hand it is more than probable, from divers accounts, which have been published, that persons of timid and anxious dispositions, who have been bit by some animal, even without any proof of its being mad, have imagined themselves affected with every symptom of canine madness they have heard of, described their complaints as such, were treated accordingly, and cured of a disease that had no real existence.

It is, therefore, a matter of no small moment to the practitioner, as well as to the patient, to have all these circumstances in contemplation, and whilst the former is neglecting no means which either the experience of others, or his own judgment, have induced him to think are conducive to security, the patient should be confirmed, by every just and rea-

reasonable argument, in an opinion of their efficacy.

After taking this short view of the means recommended to us as preservatives against the fatal effects of this poisonous bite, and have seen too much reason to conclude them ineffectual, it is with regret I acknowledge myself unacquainted with any method of treating the Hydrophobia more successfully, or even of lessening the distress with which it is accompanied farther than has been already proposed.

The first symptom of the Hydrophobia, which is a dread of all liquids, cuts off in an instant a great part of the means of relief by internal means. It is with great difficulty that medicines of any kind, or in any form, after a day or two have elapsed, can be got down.

The case which Dr. Watson and myself attended, concluded like all the instances of the genuine Hydrophobia on record fatally. Had we the same ground to go over again, for my own part, I confess I know not of a more reasonable plan.

plan. I would not, however, discourage others, from pursuing their own ideas : Some fortunate event may, at length, make us better acquainted with the nature of this poison, and point out a specific remedy.

Should another accident of the like nature occur, until we are directed to a more rational and successful method, I should still be inclined to pursue a plan similar to that which we laid down in our treatment of the case before described. Its basis was, to prevent the loss of strength as much as possible, in order to gain time, and afford the best chance of relieving the patient. In this disease we are early precluded from the usual means of effecting this purpose, as the patient soon finds himself incapable of swallowing any kind of nutriment in a proper quantity, as hath been already mentioned.

Two methods, however, still remain of assisting the patient, though imperfectly. First, by clysters. By this means a large quantity of aliment may be supplied.

plied. Broth, milk, eggs, in various shapes, may be exhibited in small quantities, that they may be retained, whilst larger promote their own rejection.

Secondly, by baths. It is probable that by this method large supplies of fluids may be introduced into the habit, by means of the absorbent vessels, placed on the surface of the body every where.

Whether any useful additions can be made to warm water can be determined only by experience. Perhaps broth, moderately salted, with the addition of aromatic herbs, might be used alternately, with warm water, to which may be added a handful or two of that composition sold by the perfumers under the name of *Pot Pourrie*, and a proportion of Bay Salt, sufficient to make it nearly equal to salt water, or about twelve ounces to every four gallons.

Whatever bath is made choice of, the patient should continue in it as long as it is easy to him, and in a degree of heat that he bears with pleasure, perhaps, from 80 to 86 degrees of Fahrenheit's

Thermometer. The patient may be wiped dry, put into a warm bed, a clyster given of half a pint of broth, with a raw egg beat up in it ; and both this and bathing be most industriously repeated.

From the trials made with opium, it does not appear, that this drug has had any beneficial effects. It is difficult to get it down in any quantity at the time we most want it, in any shape. By clysters it may be given, had we any reason to conclude it would be beneficial. In regard to its external application I am persuaded from experiments, that if the skin is whole, opium never produces any soporific effects.

Applied as a plaister, or a cataplasm, it will produce the same effect as any similar plastick, semirefinous substance, and no more. In tincture, it will act as spirit would act, impregnated with such a kind of substance, void of all anodyne quality, and in no other way. Half an ounce of opium softened into the form of a pultice and applied to the belly of a healthy

healthy

healthy new-born infant did not produce the least anodyne effect. The like trial has been made with Mithridate, Venice Treacle, and Laudanum, and with the like result. In a disease so swift in its progress, it is of consequence to know what *will not be efficacious*. It compels us to look around for other auxiliaries.

If mercurials can be of use, it would seem that the steam of Cinnabar would be worth a trial. By this means it would be practicable to impregnate the air in which the patient breathes, should he be incapable of admitting the fume in the usual mode, into the Fauces, so as to produce the effects of Mercury on the parts affected the most speedily.

When the patient comes out of the warm bath, the mercurial ointment may be applied liberally. I am afraid it will be found as ineffectual as the other means hitherto made use of; but in cases like this, it is better to try a medicine of whose efficacy there may be some doubt, than none at all.

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In respect to bleeding, I have only one thing to observe. If the patient is bled standing, till he shews a disposition to faint, it may be done without hazard; it may abate a little of that inflammatory disposition, which is the consequence of continued irritation.

It would, perhaps, at length contribute to remove this uncertainty, if those who are applied to on these interesting emergencies, would consider themselves as obliged by the honour of their profession and the ties of humanity to note with all possible precision and impartiality every incident in the progress of this disease; and whether they pursue the hints here suggested, or take up more rational ones from their own store, would communicate the result to the public. By this method the field of conjecture would be contracted, and our successors directed to new objects of investigation. The result would be not less honourable to those who engage in the search, than beneficial to mankind in general.