

**Salivation exploded, or, A practical essay on the venereal disease ... To which is subjoined, a dissertation on gleans and weaknesses ... / By Charles Swift.**

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SALIVATION EXPLODED:

OR, A

PRACTICAL ESSAY

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE,

FULLY DEMONSTRATING THE

Inefficacy of SALIVATION, and recommending an approved SUCCEDANEUM.

ILLUSTRATED

With some remarkable CASES, which had withstood Three, Four, or Five Salivations, and were afterwards cured, by that safe, easy and certain Method, the Alterative One, of which a particular Account is given, and the Medicines used therein.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,

A Dissertation on Gleets and Weaknesses, Seminal as well as Venereal, in both Sexes; with the Remedies best adapted to each.

Herein are described, not only the most eligible Medicines for the Cure of the Venereal Disease, but the most powerful Ones to prevent it also.

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By CHARLES SWIFT, SURGEON.

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Opprime dum nova sunt, subiti mala semina morbi,  
nam mora dat vires.

OVID.

L O N D O N:

Printed for S. BLADON, No. 13, Pater-Noster Row,

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

*N*otwithstanding the number and variety of publications upon the present subject, the Author flatters himself that his observations (the result of much experience) will not be unacceptable to the Faculty; especially the junior part of it, to whose perusal this Essay is particularly recommended.

Common cases, or such as daily occur, and are not attended with any unusual symptoms, are purposely omitted; and to avoid prolixity, a few only of the other kind are inserted, they being thought sufficient to elucidate the subject.

Recent cases are likewise pretermitted, in order to obviate the idea of relapses, which even the most impartial reader might otherwise have suggested.

Parliament Street,  
June 26th, 1780.



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have suggested.

Perkins Street,  
Jan. 20th, 1782.



A  
P R A C T I C A L   E S S A Y  
O N   T H E  
V E N E R E A L   D I S E A S E ,   &c.

**T**HE Venereal Disease, beyond all others, having, by its peculiar virulence and frequent attacks upon the human body, made the most alarming depredations therein, no temporal subject I presume ought sooner to claim our attention, than the thorough investigation and speedy subjection of so formidable an enemy.—Many and various have been the opinions of the learned, relative to the time and place of its first appearance—this circumstance has afforded an ample field for disputation to both ancients and moderns; of whom some the most eminent, at different periods, have very ingeniously and candidly treated upon the subject: notwithstanding which, the matter is yet doubtful and likely to remain so. A knowledge of the precise origin of the disease must however appear of but little importance, when put in competition with that of the most effectual remedy for the radical cure of it.

B



it. I shall therefore leave such controversies to those who are fonder of, or may be better qualified to adjust them than myself, and rest contented with recommending the most rational and easy method of removing so loathsome a disease. This mode of cure is the most gentle and efficacious, as will appear in the following pages: it will stand the test of the strictest scrutiny, being founded on the broad basis of long experience and uninterrupted success. In support of this assertion, I shall produce some very remarkable cases, selected from many hundreds, where the usual or general modes of cure had proved abortive.

It has been frequently observed, that the knowledge of a disease is half its cure; in no instance can I suppose this adage to have been more fully verified than in the Venereal Disease; which, Proteus like, appears in so many different forms, that very often it will require no small share of judgment and experience to distinguish it from some other distemper, whose symptoms it may resemble in many respects, or with which it may in reality



reality be combined. This being the case, we must not wonder at the many errors daily committed by the ignorant, or inexperienced in the profession. Almost innumerable have been the instances of reputed rheumatisms, nervous head-achs, wandering gouts, scurvies, declines, consumptions, &c. &c. which, upon a minute investigation, have been proved to be venereal. A happy circumstance, when this discovery is made early enough to save the patient from an untimely grave; but alas! how frequently does the reverse happen? This melancholy observation is particularly corroborated in the great number of atrophies, or consumptions, by which the inhabitants of this island are many of them supposed to be destroyed. This fatality has generally been ascribed to the climate, but I am firmly persuaded, that, upon a strict and impartial enquiry, many other causes may be assigned; and amongst them, Venus will be found to have had no small share. I am induced to be of this opinion from the many instances that have fallen under my own immediate inspection, where patients, after having been pronounced to be



in the last stages of a consumption, and given over as lost, have been perfectly restored by the use of anti-venereals. A circumstance of such importance, most certainly merits the attention of every medical practitioner. Should this admonition take the desired effect, I shall experience the greatest satisfaction in having rendered such an essential service to the community. In the following sheets it will evidently appear, that the Venereal Disease, in every state or stage, from the mildest to the most inveterate, may be perfectly, easily, and safely cured, without salivation: and that the patient, although labouring under a confirmed pox, will not be confined within doors a single day during the whole time he may be taking such medicines as will effect a radical cure. I shall likewise demonstrate that gleets of every denomination are curable, provided the origin of each be duly investigated, and in consequence thereof, a suitable remedy not only applied, but regularly persevered in for a length of time, proportionable to the cause: to the want of that perseverance, in my opinion, may often be ascribed the want of success in the general treatment



treatment of gleans; for I do not recollect (amongst the great number and variety of my patients for several years past) three cases which did not give way, or were not cured, by properly and strictly persisting in the use of injections or bougies, and some internal alteratives. To prove not only the inexpediency, but the inefficacy of salivation in venereal maladies, I shall produce several cases, in which its effects were merely palliative; in other words, afforded only a temporary relief, although repeated even to a fourth or fifth time; after which the same patients (notwithstanding the violent shock, and manifest injury their constitutions had thereby sustained) were perfectly and radically cured by that easy gentle method, which I mean to recommend, namely, the alterative one. For argument sake only, suppose we admit that salivation is efficient and might be depended upon; what man in his senses but would give the preference to the method here proposed? When he considers how extremely disgusting and painful the process of salivation is universally allowed to be, the consequent confinement indispensably necessary therein,



therein, and the many other disagreeables that generally or frequently succeed it; such as destruction of teeth and gums, and the foetid or stinking breath thereby occasioned; the great relaxation of the salivary glands, or an erosion of their excretory ducts, producing a copious troublesome flow of saliva, perhaps for the remainder of life; together with the derangement of the whole frame, in such a degree as seldom to be got the better of, even by those who may have been originally possessed of the best stamina, or strongest constitutions. All these circumstances duly considered, it is rather surprising that salivation has not long since been universally exploded; the only assignable reason must be the want of a proper succedaneum; that, however, very happily for mankind, can no longer be pleaded in excuse, as the alterative method is daily gaining ground, from the following very cogent reasons, viz. the operation of proper alteratives being so extremely mild and gentle as to admit of being safely administered at any time or season, to persons of all ages, and of each sex: to pregnant women almost the whole time of gestation,



gestation, even to the last month, from which happy circumstance, the fœtus and its mother both receive a cure at the same time.

Two other very material advantages are to be derived from the use of alteratives, first, the certainty of cure, even in the worst, the most inveterate cases, where many repeated salivations have proved ineffectual; secondly, not the least confinement being requisite throughout the whole course; which to the mercantile part of the world is a circumstance of no little importance. The patient being able to transact business as well in the open air as elsewhere, and there being no other restriction or alteration respecting his diet, than the omission of acids, he will not be under any apprehension of a discovery taking place in the family. Another particular in favour of these medicines, is, that contrary to the effects of most others, they will encrease the appetite, and thereby accelerate the cure, during the performance of which, the patient's food cannot be of too nutritious a nature, insomuch that meat may be allowed twice or thrice per day, in preference



ference to gruels, ptyfans, or flops of any kind. The only disadvantage that attends the alterative method, is this; patients being at large the whole time, and capable of pursuing either business or pleasure, some are apt to prefer the latter, and very frequently not only neglect taking the medicine, but commit various excesses, and sometimes contract fresh infections, while we are endeavouring to remove the old one. Indeed some have been frank enough to confess, that a species of œconomy had given rise to these irregularities; from a supposition that no additional expence would be incurred, they thought it therefore the properest time to gratify such inclinations: not considering that violent exertions of the parts affected must certainly procrastinate the cure, should they even be fortunate enough to escape an increase of the venereal virus.

SALIVATION has none of these obstacles to combat with: for when once a man has completely immersed himself into that delightful state, it will seldom, if ever happen, that he will, so circumstanced, be pos-  
 3 sessed



fessed of either ability or inclination to deviate  
 from the most rigid injunctions that may be  
 imposed by his doctors, medicinal or divine.  
 In support of this opinion, nothing more  
 will be necessary than a recital of some few  
 of the concomitant symptoms or constant  
 attendants on a perfect salivation; namely, a  
 tumefaction of the head, face and throat,  
 to a great degree, with much pain and in-  
 flammation therein: the tongue frequently  
 becomes too large for the mouth, which by  
 this time is excoriated and extremely tender,  
 together with the gums, tonsils, and all the  
 neighbouring parts: in fine, the whole mouth  
 and its appendages becomes one foul ulcer,  
 from which issues a stench that may be better  
 conceived than described, accompanied with  
 a ptyalism or spitting, in quantity from two  
 to six pints in the twenty-four hours; which  
 agreeable process is to be continued some  
 weeks, and in the course of a few months,  
 perhaps, repeated again and again. The same  
 advantage as the foregoing, has the old me-  
 thod of curing claps by mercurials and draf-  
 tic purges, which were generally repeated  
 every two or three days for a considerable



length of time, till the discharge put on a more benign aspect; or the patience, or strength of the patient being exhausted, occasioned a discontinuance thereof. From these premises we must readily infer, that a person thus constantly harassed by strong, rough medicines, could have little relish or inclination to transgress the laws of sobriety. *Consideratis considerandis*, every impartial man most certainly will prefer the alterative mode of cure, to that by salivation.

HAVING premised thus much, now let us turn our thoughts to the most eligible means of obtaining a radical cure for this prevalent disease; it having often with great truth been observed, that as nothing can be done with greater facility, than to cavil or find fault, therefore no merit will be derived from such a procedure, unless at the same time it shall be accompanied with some plan or scheme more likely to effect the purpose in question. To obviate this reflection, I shall not only propose such a remedy as will be most likely to answer, but shall also produce, in support of it, some cases which (from the peculiar  
success



success attending them) will go near to call in question the veracity of the man who records them: be that as it may, such an idea shall not prevent my giving a faithful relation of them. Before however we enter upon that part of the business, I shall make some observations on the means by which those events took place. Very numerous and different are the prescriptions which at various periods have been recommended, as fully competent to subdue the venereal poison; amongst the great variety offered for this salutary purpose, many were diametrically opposite to each other, advocates however were not wanting to extol their manifold virtues: on these occasions, both the vegetable and mineral kingdoms were thoroughly ransacked and attentively examined, and many of their properties ascertained by a series of ingenious experiments: and even at the present period, we are sometimes under the necessity of having recourse to both, in the reduction of so powerful an opponent as the venereal disease. Be it remembered however, that vegetables alone, when properly prepared, will effect a cure in many cases,



although in others it must be acknowledged that minerals will likewise be required. The gums will some of them be found of singular use, particularly camphor, in every stage of the disease, from a gonorrhœa to a confirmed lues; in the former it will greatly contribute to alleviate the heat of urine, as well as correct the virulence; and in the latter it ought never to be omitted, for several reasons; in the first place, it is a most powerful alterative; in the next, it strengthens the nerves, exhilarates the spirits, and when joined with minerals, fortifies the stomach and bowels against any of their disagreeable or pernicious effects. It diffuses a general warmth throughout the body, and greatly assists in conducting other medicines towards the cuticular and renal glands. As to the choice of alterative medicines best adapted to the cure of the venereal disease, I believe none will be found more efficacious than a composition of the following, viz. camphor, antimony and sulphur: in some cases it may be necessary to add both mercury and opium. These must be assisted with decoctions of the

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woods



woods\* in quantities sufficient to attenuate and saturate the whole mass of contaminated juices. Any particular recipe or prescription of the above, would be of very little use, as not only the doses, but the quantity of each ingredient must so frequently be either increased or diminished agreeable to the variation of symptoms and circumstances; which sometimes require even the omission of one or more of those ingredients. The age, sex, temperament or constitution of the patient, as well as the degree of infection, must render it indispensably necessary to make the alterations above mentioned. Another material circumstance frequently occurs, namely, the addition of other acrimonious humours; to which, particular attention must be paid, or we shall not succeed in our endeavours to remove the venereal one. From hence it must evidently appear, that no particular recipe can be invariably relied upon, in this or any other disease.

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\* Guaiacum, sarsaparilla, china, saffrafras, santalum glycyrrhiza, &c.



THE symptoms of a virulent gonorrhœa (commonly termed a clap) are too well known to require any description in this place: let us therefore consider upon the means most eligible for its removal. The cure may be easily and speedily effected, if undertaken when the first symptoms are perceived; particularly that gentle irritation, or trickling sensation in the urinary passage, which so frequently precedes the discharge: the disease, when taken at this stage, may be very safely removed in the space of two days, by applying medicine immediately to the part affected; this cannot be conveniently done in any other form than that of an injection, which should be composed of some gentle detergent that will stop the further progress of the venereal virus, by preventing its absorption. Chancres may likewise be almost as speedily removed, provided the remedy be applied at their very first appearance.

SHOULD this precaution be omitted, the acrid matter will corrode the parts, and produce ulcerations; consequently a longer time will



will be required to effect a cure; and it may be necessary to administer internals to prevent a flow of humours to the part which might retard the cure, if not entirely frustrate our intentions.

If the complaint be not removed in the early stages, it will soon become confirmed; and then due regard must be paid to the patient's habit of body, mode of living, &c.

It is with me a matter of surprise, that injections have not been in more general practice; as nothing certainly can be more rational, than to apply the remedy to the part affected. The advantages or the reverse, attending the use of them, must evidently arise from the ingredients of which they are composed: no man sure can be so prejudiced as to declare that his objection is merely to that particular mode of conveying a medicine: to speak impartially; if crude, corrosive, indigested ulcers in every other part of the body require topical applications, why, in the name of common sense, should they be neglected or omitted in parts naturally



rally so very delicate and sensible, as the organs of generation are incontestably allowed to be? neglects of this kind are frequently productive of the most disagreeable consequences; they may, independent of the injuries from absorption, give rise to gleet and obstructions in the urethra, which if not attended to, may terminate fatally. The stillicidium, or running, is very uncertain as to the time of its appearance; sometimes it will happen in six hours after the embrace, at others, twice as many weeks have elapsed before it has been perceived; these, I must acknowledge, are not very common cases, but such as have really fallen under my inspection, as will be seen in the sequel: in general however, it appears in less than ten days. Chancres likewise vary as much in this particular. In the treatment of a confirmed clap, a great deal will depend upon its being simple or compound; in other words, whether it originated from a person who had only a gonorrhœa, or who at the same time was poxed likewise. In the latter case, powerful internals will be absolutely necessary; in the former, a cure may frequently be accomplished



plished by injection only. Claps and Chancres are often contracted at the same time, but do not always make their first appearance together; I have seen instances even where some weeks have intervened.

As the composition of injection, like that of every other remedy, must vary according to circumstances, I shall decline giving any particular recipe; one general ingredient however I will venture to recommend, namely, Armenian bole, which from its absorbent and other good qualities will prove highly beneficial both in correcting the venereal acrimony, and defending the sound parts of the urethra therefrom.

IN the cure of claps, some practitioners have attended too much to the colour of the discharge, others to the consistence of it; both are fallacious, particularly the former; as it will sometimes be of a deep yellow, even to the last day, especially in bilious habits: frequently it is equally high coloured in old gleans of seven or ten years standing, where the party has been entirely free from infection



tion all that time, as in some cases has been sufficiently manifested by the healthy state of wives and children. A discharge of similar colour and consistence is often to be found attending the fluor albus, as it is called. From hence will follow the indispensable necessity of examining further, than just the state of the running: the best criterion will be the aspect of the urethral orifice, and the sensations throughout that tube.

MANY families have been rendered unhappy from the length of time this disease sometimes requires to make its first appearance: for a man, after performing a kind of quarantine of three weeks or a month, and no symptom of infection having shewn itself during that time, would naturally conclude himself entirely free from it, and proceed accordingly; but how great his astonishment, as well as chagrin, to discover (perhaps a month or two afterwards) the most indisputable signs of his being infected: several instances of this kind have fallen under my inspection, some of which, I must confess, I should not have credited, had not they



they been accompanied with proofs not to be contested. From this we may infer, that although the virus very often makes the most rapid progress, at other times its operations are as sluggish: this may arise from the degree of infection, or the patient's habit of body, or from both.

### C A S E I.

A MERCHANT in the city of London, four years since, applied to me in consequence of great heat in making urine, painful erections, and a discharge of matter from the urethra, so acrid, as to threaten a phymosis, it having already excoriated the greatest part of the glans penis. Thus situated, he desired to know if I did not call his disorder a clap; to which I replied in the affirmative, and that it was not of the mildest kind: "Then sir, said he, I shall mention a circumstance, that I think will surprize you, which is, that not a single symptom of the disease appeared until two months and three days after it was contracted:" upon this account he deemed it not venereal, I assured him however that it was so, and



could be removed only by treating it as such. My patient was not of a bad habit of body, nor had his blood been previously heated by intemperance, the chordee was notwithstanding so troublesome, that I expected to have been obliged to use opiates, which I am very seldom under the necessity of doing; injections generally answering the purpose, by speedily removing the inflammation and its consequences: my only objection to opium in these cases, is, the constipation which mostly attends the use of it; although I am not an advocate for the old method by cathartics, yet I would not be understood to recommend absolutely the reverse; which must indubitably tend to encrease, rather than alleviate symptoms arising from inflammation. It will be found fully sufficient, that the intestinal evacuations be the same as at the time of perfect health.—Now to return to my patient; he was much alarmed at the high degree of pain and inflammation, which however was considerably lessened in the space of two days, by means of injection and internal alteratives; three weeks continuance of which perfectly cured him, without any confinement

or



or alteration in his usual mode of living, except abstinence from acids and spirituous liquors.

## C A S E II.

A GENTLEMAN of Dorsetshire, in the month of February, 1778, came to town on purpose to be under my care; his symptoms at that time were a discharge of yellow matter from the urethra, chancres on the glans penis, a large bubo in the left groin, and a smaller one in the right. Upon my enquiring into particulars, he solemnly declared that he had not the least reason to think himself infected, till upwards of nine weeks after coition, when he was attacked with a trickling sensation in the urethra, which was followed by a running and heat of urine; chancres soon afterwards appeared, and were succeeded in a short time by tumefaction of the inguinal glands, which thereupon became extremely painful. He was at first attended by a surgeon in his own neighbourhood, who bled him very freely, gave strong mercurial purges repeatedly, and ordered him to dilute plentifully with barley water, &c. Fomentations



tations and cataplasms were applied to the buboes till suppuration took place, when he proposed to discharge their contents by means of caustic or incision, but the patient not consenting to either, immediately left the country, and soon after applied to me, requesting that I would remove them without opening or suffering them to break, as he had the greatest aversion to sores of every kind, and much dreaded all chirurgical operations: I told him, that considering the very forward state in which the buboes at that time were, (the fluctuation of matter being readily felt upon the slightest pressure) I could make no other promise, than to exert my best abilities in endeavouring to effect what he so ardently desired; observing likewise, that I frequently had been fortunate enough to render those painful operations unnecessary by the use of internal medicines alone; which, in my opinion, are the only ones that can safely be relied upon.

As to the repelling of buboes (in the vulgar phrase, putting them back) I never make the least hesitation of attempting to effect it, for this obvious reason, that a bubo is not  
a critical



a critical abscess, of which I am well convinced from daily experience, notwithstanding the general received opinion to the contrary: I have seen many instances where buboes have been carefully brought forward to the most perfect suppuration, liberally opened, and a copious discharge very industriously encouraged for the space of four, five, or six months; notwithstanding which the parties have remained completely pocked; as the nocturnal pains, foul ulcers, and eruptions sufficiently manifested a few months afterwards, when they became my patients, and were radically cured by the alterative method in half that time. This being a fact not to be controverted, why should suppuration be encouraged, as it must be attended with great pain, filthiness and inconvenience? And after all, not being critical, a regular course of medicines will be indispensably necessary: the cicatrix or scar is likewise a circumstance not the most agreeable, especially to the fair sex.—Without apologizing for this digression, I will hasten to my Dorsetshire friend. Entertaining these sentiments, I immediately sat about the discussion of his

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buboes;



buboes; for which purpose alteratives were administered internally, and detergent injections and dressings applied to the urethra and the chancres on the penis: by these means the symptoms gradually abated, and at the end of a month he thought himself cured; but I advised a continuance of the medicines three or four weeks longer, on account of the high degree of virulence we had had to encounter with: he readily consented to persevere in the use of them, having already experienced such salutary effects; and to shew that he did not think the decoction at all nauseous, he generally drank it at meals in lieu of any other liquor. Thus, in less than two months, without being confined to the house a single day during the whole course, he was perfectly re-established in health, and has remained well ever since. He was highly pleased at the removal of the buboes without opening, and very generously rewarded my services.

C A S E



## C A S E III.

IN the month of July, 1777, a gentleman requested my advice upon the following symptoms; an unusual (though not painful) sensation in the urethra, a discharge therefrom very small in quantity, and of colour so light as scarce to tinge his linen. I was of opinion that these symptoms were the harbingers or forerunners of a clap; but he strongly insisted that his disorder could be nothing more than weakness, or a strain, as he had had no venereal connection for eleven weeks previous to this indisposition. I informed him, that should the cure of his disease be undertaken in this early stage, I believed it might be removed in less than a week, if he would strictly adhere to my instructions, but as he seemed so firmly persuaded that his disorder was not infectious, I advised him to wait only a short time, and he would then be perfectly sensible of the real nature and tendency of it. Three days only had elapsed, before he paid me a second visit, when I found my prognostick sufficiently verified; the urethra and glans penis being highly inflamed,



great heat in making water, some pain in erection, and a discharge of yellow matter issuing from the urinary canal; he was by this time fully convinced of his error, and requested that I would relieve him as expeditiously as possible.—I told him that his delay of three days would procrastinate the cure more than a week, and in the present state of the disease I judged that it would at least require a fortnight, should even his temperance and regularity not be called in question. However, by the use of injection and a few alterative pills, he was perfectly cured in thirteen days.

#### C A S E IV.

A GENTLEMAN in Westminster sent for me two years since, to give an opinion upon a stillicidium, or discharge from the urethra, which had first made its appearance two days before I saw him; he was quite at a loss to account for it, not having copulated for upwards of two months prior to that period. I enquired whether he felt any irritation or trickling in the urinary passage, he answered  
in



in the affirmative, upon which I pronounced the case to be venereal, although the running was perfectly clear, and the parts entirely free from any external inflammation. My patient, however, seemed to think that I had formed an erroneous opinion; I therefore desired him to defer using medicine of any kind for a day or two, in which time I made no doubt of an alteration in his sentiments. The next morning I was again sent for, and informed, that the parts did not look quite so cool as on the preceding day, and that his urine felt rather warmer than usual, these symptoms he attributed to some things he had ate and drank the day before. I replied, that in twenty-four hours I was fully persuaded he would assign another cause. Before breakfast the next day, he sent for me again, and said that he no longer entertained the least doubt of the disease being infectious, having lately perceived some symptoms of an approaching chordee; the running was now become yellow, the parts were inflamed externally as well as within, and he could not make urine without some degree of pain. I prepared for him a cooling injection, of



which he used a syringeful night and morning, and as he was very subject to the gout, I administered no other medicines internally, than decoctions of the woods and camphor, by which means, in the space of seventeen days, the cure was very easily completed.

### C A S E V.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Kent, put himself under my care on the ninth day of December, 1779; he had enjoyed a very good state of health for some years, till within three days of his application to me, when he discovered a yellow running from the urethra, attended with a heat of urine, and an inflammation of the glans penis and præputium. There was likewise a small chancre on the frænum. After ocular demonstration, I assured him that his disease was venereal, my patient was not of a different opinion (having been frequently infected before) but he expressed great astonishment at its being so; from the circumstance of not having had any venereal intercourse since the fifth day of the preceding September, and having been entirely free  
of



of every symptom of the disease till the sixth day of December; an interval of thirteen weeks and upwards from the time of contracting the disease, to that of its appearance. Upon my interrogating him very closely as to the commencement of this affair, his answer was, that he could have no interest in deceiving me, and that it was impossible he should be mistaken, having a memorandum in his pocket-book of some particular occurrences of that day, relative to this business, which with him reduced the matter to an absolute certainty. I observed, that probably sometime subsequent to that period he might have been too free in his libations to Bacchus, and be thereby deprived of recollecting his last engagement with Venus. This supposition he obviated, by declaring upon his honour that he had not been inebriated for several months past, on the contrary, he had rather lived abstemiously than otherwise. This gentleman's health was perfectly re-established in three weeks, by the use of internal alterants and external detergents. The foregoing cases having been selected from many similar ones, to shew what great length of time the

venereal



venereal disease sometimes requires to manifest itself; let us now advert to others diametrically the reverse in point of time.

## C A S E VI.

A MERCHANT in the city, who several years ago had been my patient, consulted me in January last; he complained of an irritation in the urethra, and some heat in the glans penis, which appeared rather inflamed externally. He informed me, that his last connexion had been only on the preceding evening, at about eleven o'clock, and antecedent to that, he had not committed an act of venery for more than five months, during which time his health had been remarkably good. At six o'clock that morning he was awakened by a sharp pain in the yard, which soon abated, but did not entirely go off, a disagreeable heat and irritation still remaining. From the symptoms coming on so early as within seven hours after the embrace, he could not believe his complaint to be venereal, but supposed that it arose from friction, and the bad wine he had that night drank; I therefore declined  
to



to prescribe any medicines, but advised that he should live after his usual manner, and think no more of the disease till it might become more worthy of his attention; which happened two nights afterward, by the pain he experienced from a chordee; there was likewise a yellow running from the urethra, accompanied with a heat of urine; his doubts by this time being perfectly removed, he immediately entered upon the use of injection and pills, by which he obtained a cure in less than three weeks.

## C A S E VII.

A NAVAL officer in the month of March, 1778, was attacked with an unusual warmth in the urinary passage, in less than six hours after coition, and it gradually encreased for three days, when a copious running came on, attended with a smarting of urine: in this stage of the disease, he placed himself under my care, informing me that he was lately returned from a long voyage, and for several months past had not had an opportunity of getting the infection, he could therefore  
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be very certain as to the date of his disorder, having been entirely free from venereal complaints for two years before. In effecting this gentleman's cure, near a month was required, by reason of the high degree of scurvy with which he was at that time infected.]

## C A S E VIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Essex, about six months since, paid me a visit on the following account; having taken a night's lodging with a lady of his acquaintance, the very next morning at breakfast he felt some uneasiness in the urethra, which in the course of a few hours encreased, and at the end of five days terminated in the symptoms of both clap and pox, viz. a discharge of virulent matter from the urethra, with heat of urine, &c. and three chancres externally; two on the præputium, and one on the glans penis. He was not much surpris'd at the early appearance of the disease, as with him it generally happened so; he neglected however to use medicine of any kind, till it had arrived at the state above-mentioned, when,



he became my patient; and without further delay began upon a course of alteratives and detergents, which effected his cure in less than a month.

To the peculiarities of constitution, as well as degrees of infection, must be attributed the different periods in which particular diseases make their appearance. This circumstance may depend on the disproportion of one or more of the ingredients or materials which compose the human body. Some men are naturally so irritable and inflammable both in body and mind, as instantly to take fire like tinder or touchwood, from the smallest spark; while others of cold phlegmatic habits, are (as is to be expected) quite the reverse.

## C A S E IX.

FOUR years since, a gentleman in the county of Northampton, made a journey to town, to consult me upon what he called a weakness of a particular kind, as it was accompanied with great inflammation; I im-

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mediately



mediately suspected what the case was, and upon examination, found it to be a most virulent clap, with an incipient phymosis; he complained likewise of a chordee. I was much surpris'd when he told me that his apothecary had not deemed it venereal, but treated it as arising merely from relaxation, giving large doses of Peruvian bark and elixir of vitriol. My patient said that the only reason why his disorder had not been judged infectious was, that it did not discover itself till more than six weeks after coition; from which circumstance the apothecary had declared, that it could not possibly be venereal. By the use of deterfive injections and alterative pills, he returned home in perfect health at the expiration of about three weeks,

## C A S E X.

IN the month of December, 1778, a tradesman in Westminster commenced my patient, in consequence of a virulent gonorrhœa which he had contracted more than a month before his application to me, and of which he gave the following account; that  
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in six hours after copulation, he perceived an unusual sensation in the yard, a kind of trickling or itching in the urinary canal, which for upwards of three weeks had been a little troublesome, but by no means painful, until the 26th day, when a clear colourless discharge issued from the urethra, which now began to be much inflamed, and felt very sore whenever the urine passed through it; on the 28th day, the running was quite yellow and rather copious; and upon the twenty-ninth he was attacked with a chordee, which induced him to be under my care the next morning; he said he should certainly have applied sooner, but the inconvenience he experienced previous to the 26th day was so trifling, that he had not entertained the least idea of his complaint being venereal; it was however entirely removed in fifteen days, by the same means as were used in some of the preceding cases.



## C A S E XI.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Surry sent for me in the month of August, 1778, I found him labouring under a confirmed pox, of which the following were his symptoms, a violent head-ach, nocturnal pains in the shin bones, with nodes thereon, a large foul ulcer in his throat, upon the left tonsil, a heat in the urethra, and an obstruction therein: upon my requesting to know every particular relative to the rise and progress of the disease; he informed me, that it was contracted about ten months before, and one thing appeared very strange to him, namely, his knowing himself to be infected in less than twelve hours after the connection, from a very troublesome irritation in the urinary passage, which seized him about that time, and for some days encreased notwithstanding his immediate application to a surgeon, who ordered almond emulsions with nitre, manna and salts; and to dilute freely with barley water, in which gum arabic had been dissolved, partial warm baths and venesection were not omitted; in the course of a week or ten days, mercurial



rial ointment was used very liberally for at least a month, with brisk purges at intervals. The running, he said, was very plentiful for the space of five or six weeks; he then too balsamics for three weeks, and was thought to be cured; however, in about seven or eight weeks afterwards, he perceived his health to be gradually on the decline, a diminution of appetite, strength and spirits, and sleep interrupted by wandering pains in his head and limbs:—nodes soon after formed on the shins and an ulcer in the throat. On the appearance of these symptoms, another surgeon was employed, who administered large quantities of the sublimated solution for a considerable time, when finding that the disease did not give way, he put himself under my care, and was perfectly cured in two months, by the alteratives recommended in the 12th page, and a few bougies to remove the urethral obstructions.

BE it observed, that no injections had been used in this gentleman's case; to which circumstance, in my opinion, may be attributed the want of success, for had a proper detergent



gent one been applied in the beginning, the venereal matter would not have been absorbed, and consequently the pox with its disagreeable attendants been thereby prevented.

## C A S E XII.

A GENTLEMAN in Westminster, eighteen months since, consulted me in consequence of a boil (as he termed it) seated amongst the hair on the pubes very near the penis. This ulcer had resisted every application his surgeon had made to it for three or four weeks. From the hard edges and other appearances, I pronounced it to be a chancre; this my patient did not at that time credit, however, not long after he altered his opinion upon the appearance of a bubo in the left groin, which in a few days became very painful, when he paid me a second visit, and requested to have it repelled: that was performed, and a cure effected by an alterative course in about thirty days.



## C A S E XIII.

IN the month of November, 1778, a gentleman in the county of Middlesex labouring under a confirmed lues venerea, applied to me for its cure; the symptoms at that time were, a small node on the right shin bone, an ulcer in the nose, nocturnal pains, and a copper coloured eruption overspreading a great part of his body. He informed me, that, till within the last twelve months, he had never experienced a single symptom of the venereal disease, and that his present afflictions, if they were venereal, must arise from a clap contracted a year before, which denoted a high degree of malignity, the inflammation being very considerable and of long duration, attended with heat of urine, chordee, &c. the running he said was copious, and continued upwards of five weeks, in which time he had been purged every three or four days, had rubbed in a large quantity of mercurial ointment, and afterwards taken electaries and pills in abundance: in consequence of this process the symptoms had disappeared, and at

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the



the end of two months his cure was pronounced. Some few months after, however, he perceived his health to be gradually on the decline, without being able to assign the real cause, not having the least suspicion of venereal matter; his appetite and strength daily decreased, his sleeps were short, interrupted, and afforded little or no refreshment, and at length colliquative sweats ensued: thus circumstanced, he consulted a physician, who, judging his case to be a consumption, put him under a course of ass's milk, &c. &c. for a considerable time, but growing every day worse and worse, he was ordered a change of air, and removed into another county. Finding however no greater relief from the alteration of air, than he had before experienced from medicine; he began to despair, and most earnestly wished for his dissolution. Fortunately, an old acquaintance from town called to see him, and upon hearing some of his symptoms strongly urged him to become my patient, he accordingly did so, and was perfectly cured in the space of three months, merely by the use of alteratives.



## C A S E XIV.

A GIRL on the town applied to me upon the tenth of November, 1778, and said she supposed it would be necessary for her to undergo a thorough repair, not having been free from infection for a considerable time; her symptoms then were, an ulcer in the throat, a foul eruption on the abdomen, a brace of small buboes, and a great discharge of acrid matter from the pudendum. As she was extremely anxious to have the buboes dispersed, I told her that no time should be lost, and consequently advised the immediate use of medicine; she replied that it must be deferred till next day, as her mistress expected much company that evening, and had engaged her to one gentleman in particular, with whom she was to sleep that night, his name having been entered in the book for that purpose some days since; and for which he had paid the usual retaining fee.---I was not surprised at this account, similar ones having occurred before, and particularly this instance; a friend of mine, an officer in the army, made application to a lady Abbess to know on what

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night



night a particular nymph would be disengaged; after inspecting her ledger, she informed him that the lady was disposed of for twenty-two nights, and if he pleased she would take down his name for the twenty-third, upon paying the usual compliment.--- But to return to my patient; she called upon me again the next day, and without any further delay entered upon a course of alteratives, by means of which her health was perfectly re-established in less than seven weeks. She was under great apprehensions lest the buboes should suppurate and occasion scars, but was soon made easy on that head, as they dispersed very kindly in a few days, the other symptoms gradually disappeared, and in little more than three weeks she thought herself well, it was therefore with some difficulty that she could be persuaded to continue the medicines a short time longer, in order to confirm the cure.

## C A S E XV.

A MECHANIC in Westminster, being employed in the house of a nobleman, became acquainted



acquainted with the lady's woman, and after many entreaties, persuaded her to grant him the last favour; in the space of a fortnight however, he was fully convinced of the impropriety of the connection, being at that time obliged to commence my patient, on account of a large chancre seated on the anterior part of the scrotum; it was the most malign that ever came under my inspection, being in size equal to a shilling, and had the appearance of an eschar, produced by some potential cautery; the edges were hard and thick, and the scrotum around it much inflamed. The urethra, and every other part of the penis had entirely escaped the infection; from which circumstance he did not suspect the nature of his complaint, till the inguinal glands enlarged and became painful. Proper externals and a course of anti-venereals effected a cure in thirty-two days.

## C A S E XVI.

A B O U T two years ago, a lady applied to me in consequence of a sore throat, which had for some weeks been extremely



troublesome, notwithstanding the variety of gargarisms, &c. that had been used in expectation of its removal. Upon inspecting her throat, I pronounced the ulceration there to be venereal, and was confirmed in that opinion, when she informed me, that her rest of late had been greatly disturbed by nocturnal head-achs; she however was at the same time entirely at a loss to account for these symptoms, the pudendum having never been diseased. The infection, I said, had in this case most probably been conveyed by the tongue, and therefore I desired to know whether she had kissed columbatim; to which she answered in the affirmative, and jocosely observed, that such consequences might be added to the many other cogent reasons for keeping that member within its proper limits. She then entered upon a course of alterants, and was cured in about five weeks.

THE infection may be communicated likewise by contaminated semen, without injuring the pudendum in its passage to the uterus, from whence its poisonous particles may be absorbed, and by means of the lymphatics conveyed



conveyed to the blood, and thereby to every part of the body.

## C A S E      XVII.

A GENTLEMAN in the vicinity of London, about five years since, consulted me upon the ill-state of health which himself and lady at that time laboured under. He informed me of his having led a very irregular life for some years previous to matrimony, that he had been frequently diseased, and recollected having had chancres a few weeks before his marriage, which being removed by mercurial ointment and cathartics, at length he was supposed to be cured, and soon after entered into the holy state: in about five months his wife was thought to be pregnant from the suppression of the menstrual evacuation, and the family felicitated themselves thereupon; but the other concomitant symptoms not attending in proper time, the parties were greatly disappointed, and particularly so, to find that in lieu thereof, the lady's health as well as that of her husband, was evidently on the decline. A slow fever, want of appetite,



vite, strength, and spirits soon after succeeded, together with that of sleep in the night, being generally drowsy in the day time. Medicines of various kinds had been administered without producing the desired effect; the gentleman had an eruption upon his breast and other parts of the body, which was encouraged by the faculty, in expectation of its being critical; they were however, greatly mistaken, as none of the other symptoms disappeared in consequence of it. The lady still continued in a very languid state, notwithstanding the number and variety of medical prescriptions. In this unhappy situation they remained for some weeks, when an old bottle companion paid the gentleman a visit, and observing some of the eruption on his forehead, said, "I'll be d--m--d if you've not got a corona veneris, your case has been most egregiously mistaken; pray lose no more time, and give me leave to send my surgeon to you;" he acquiesced, and I waited upon him the next morning, when I found that his disease was most evidently venereal from many other symptoms, as well as the eruption which was of the true copper colour.



Upon examining the lady, her skin in some places appeared rather discoloured, (as if nature was labouring to throw off part of the noxious humour that way, but wanted strength to effect it) and she had likewise every symptom of a pocky hectick. The disease had been communicated to her entirely by the contaminated semen of the man, without its having done the least injury to the vagina, or any other part of the pudendum. After having made the necessary enquiries, I recommended a course of alteratives to both man and wife, by the use of which, in less than two months they were perfectly cured, as appears at this time by the healthiness of their offspring. The lady became pregnant about two months after leaving off the medicines, and has borne several children since. Had this gentleman adopted the salutary plan pursued by some of our modern debauchees, prior to entering into the connubial state, all the foregoing disagreeables would have been prevented. This prudent plan or measure, is nothing more than going through a short course of alteratives; which in many instances must be highly necessary, particularly  
after



after a series of irregularities, and a variety of infections, which through neglect or improper treatment, may be productive of great mischief in future.

THE inefficacy of a first or second salivation occurring so very frequently, I do not think those cases worthy of insertion here, I shall therefore immediately proceed to the relation of such as have withstood three, four or five repetitions of that foul process.

### C A S E XVIII.

IN the year 1775, a gentleman in the city of London put himself under my care, on account of a confirmed pox, with which he had been infected some years, notwithstanding three salivations, and long courses of the solution of corrosive sublimate and sarsaparilla decoctions.—He gave the following particulars of his case; that he contracted the infection in the year 1769, which at that time manifested itself in a clap and chancres; his surgeon administered medicines for eight or nine weeks, and then dismissed him as cured.

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In the course of a few months a foul eruption overspread his body, and ulcers formed in his throat; he again applied to the surgeon, who advised salivation, and soon after put him in a course of spitting for some weeks, and then pronounced his cure to be radical. In less than six months the disease re-appeared, but with much greater malignity than before: the ulcer in the throat broke out afresh, with the addition of two in the nose, which soon swelled to such a degree, as to obstruct in some measure the sight of the left eye, and he was deprived of rest by nocturnal pains. Thus circumstanced, he employed another surgeon, who also salivated him; the spitting he said was continued above three weeks longer than in the preceding salivation, after which he was assured by his medical friend, that the disease was perfectly removed. Business some months afterwards required his taking a journey into the North, where he was alarmed with the return of some of his former symptoms, nocturnal pains, &c. During his residence in the country, he took a great deal of mercury in various forms and preparations for several weeks;

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which



which proving to be merely palliative, he returned to town and consulted another surgeon, who recommended a third salivation; this he did not very readily agree to, having experienced its inefficacy twice before. However, being informed that it was the dernier ressource, and at the same time entertaining a very high opinion of the abilities and integrity of his surgeon, he at length consented to be salivated a third time; when a copious spitting was continued for a considerable time, as long as it could with any degree of either safety or propriety be pursued.

HE was attended likewise by a physician, who, with the surgeon, declared that the disease was entirely vanquished, and that nothing more was necessary than pure air and nutritious diet to recruit his strength, and finally complete the cure. Indeed they were, he said, quite positive as to the success of this last salivation, the symptoms having given way so readily, and the process in every respect been so satisfactorily conducted throughout. The patient acquiesced in the prognostic, and without further delay removed  
into



into the country for the benefit of air, &c. This pleasing delusion lasted not many months, for he had the mortification to perceive that some of the symptoms of his old disorder were gradually coming forward again; he thereupon consulted his physician once more, by whose direction he took sublimate solution and sarsaparilla for some months; these medicines afforded him only a temporary relief, and were not attended with better success than the three salivations which had preceded them, as evidently appeared not many months after by a return of the disease. His patience as well as constitution was by this time nearly exhausted; insomuch that he frequently declared, no one should ever persuade him to make any further trial of medicine, it having so repeatedly proved fallacious. The disease however becoming almost insupportable, he was prevailed upon to make one effort more for its removal: in consequence of which he became my patient at the time above-mentioned, when he had several foul ulcers on the back, two in his nose, one on the cheek, and another behind the right ear; his head was almost covered



with scabs, as was likewise the scrotum: from all these issued such nauseous effluvia, that his nearest relations and friends could not remain in the same room with him long at a time. Pains in his head and limbs prevented him from sleeping, except towards morning or in the day. His appetite, strength and spirits were so much reduced, that he despaired of relief from any thing but a total dissolution. After having attentively given ear to this melancholy detail of repeated disappointments, and examined the ulcers, &c. and made the proper enquiries relative to his former habit of body, or natural temperament previous to the disease, I declared as my opinion, that he might be cured by alteratives, if of the most powerful kind, and regularly persevered in for some weeks. He assented, though not without first observing, that by this time he had entirely lost all faith in medicine. I prepared for him strong decoctions of the woods, and likewise alterative pills, and desired him to take them in such doses, and as repeatedly as the strength of his stomach would admit of. Relying solely on the effects of internals, I applied no other dressing



dressing to the ulcers than dry lint throughout the whole time. I recommended diet of the most nutritious kind, and that it should be taken in small quantities, frequently repeated, by reason of the very weak state to which the disease and reiterated salivations had reduced him. In little better than a week, the nocturnal pains entirely left him, the scabs soon after fell off, and the ulcers were in good condition; his appetite and spirits daily encreased, insomuch that he thought himself well in less than a month, the ulcers being all healed, and every symptom of the disease having by that time disappeared.—Notwithstanding which, I judged it necessary to continue the medicines a month longer, to prevent a relapse. My patient had no objection to persevere in the use of them for any length of time, having already experienced such salutary effects; which, with great pleasure he contrasted to those of the methods he had formerly pursued; instead of being confined to his chamber, and undergoing one of the greatest punishments (as he expressed it) in the power of the faculty to inflict, namely, that nauseous process a salivation, he had enjoyed



enjoyed moderate exercise in the open air every day the whole time he was under cure, and experienced an encrease of appetite, strength and spirits in proportion to the time of using the medicines; and as a proof of their not being unpleasant, he constantly drank the apozem at meals, and at other times when thirsty. Thus was he radically cured in the space of two months, having never experienced any return of the complaint, as he not long since informed me.

## C A S E      XIX.

THREE years since, a merchant in Westminster employed me to extricate him from the following disagreeables; nodes on the shins, an ulcer in the throat, nocturnal pains, and a scabby eruption on his body, which from its stench was extremely offensive. He was much emaciated, and had little or no appetite. I desired to be informed of particulars, the date of the disease, in what manner it first appeared, and what methods had been used for its removal. To which he replied, that in the year 1772 he caught the infection,  
which



which made its first appearance in a bubo on the right groin, and was not preceded by either chancre or clap, nor had he ever been infected before. The tumor encreased very fast and was extremely painful, his surgeon encouraged suppuration, and when that was complete, opened it by caustic. The discharge continued upwards of three months, during which time he rubbed in large quantities of mercurial ointment, and was purged at intervals to prevent a fore mouth; and at the end of about fourteen weeks his cure was pronounced. In a few months however, the disease returned; ulcers having formed in the throat, accompanied with nocturnal pains in his head and limbs, for which he underwent a salivation, and was again supposed to have received a cure; but in less than six months he was obliged to apply once more to his surgeon, the disease having re-appeared with the addition of a node on the left shin-bone; he was salivated a second time, and was said to be perfectly cured. After some months the disease again appeared, when he employed another surgeon who persuaded him to make trial of salivation for the third time,

which



which affording only a temporary relief, he consulted a phyfician, by whose direction he took medicines for feveral months, until the difeafe was thought to be removed; being reduced by this procefs to a very languid ftate, country air and afs's milk was recommended, but they had not the defired effect; for foon after the difcontinuance of anti-venereals, he gradually relapsed into his former fituation. His medical friends being again confulted, they ftrongly urged the neceffity of a fourth falivation, as the only probable means of fucceeding; by this time he entertained no very high opinion of falivation, but being almoft worn out with pain and difappointment, he agreed to it with this provifo, that it fhould be carried to fuch a degree, as to terminate in the perfect re-eftablifhment of his health, or in the grand cure of all mortal complaints. To humour him they acquiefced in the propofal, and he was falivated for the fourth time; the fputting they affured him was continued as long, and to as great a degree as his ftrength poffibly could admit of; and every circumftance confidered, they had not the leaft reafon to doubt but a radical cure would be the confequence.



sequence. This desirable prediction however, was by no means verified, as evidently appeared in the course of a few months, the disease returning with seemingly accumulated virulence, which he observed to be the case after each of the preceding salivations. Having finished the narrative, he desired to be informed whether I could render him any service, which he was induced to believe might happen, from some accounts he had lately heard of my having effected cures after the failure of repeated salivations. I told him that I had been successful in that line, and notwithstanding the obstinacy of his disease, I entertained some hopes of relieving him. After some further conversation, he desired me to administer what I thought proper, and that he would strictly observe my directions in every respect. Accordingly, I recommended a course of alteratives; and at the same time the most nutritious diet, with moderate exercise in the open air, to be frequently repeated, proportionably to his increase of strength. Within the first fortnight I sent him three times to a bagnio, in order both to cleanse the skin and promote perspiration.



ration. By these means he obtained a perfect cure in the space of ten weeks, and has remained healthy ever since.

## C A S E XX.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Cornwall, four years ago, put himself under my care, his case was a confirmed pox, under which he had laboured near eight years, the symptoms at times having been palliated by five salivations, and a variety of medicines. Upon my requesting to be informed of every particular relative to his complaint, he told me, that being a man of few words, he never dealt in long narrations, of which his case would prove one if given in detail; he should therefore mention a few of the most material circumstances, and wrap them up in very small compass. He said, "That about eight years before, he contracted a small chancre on the penis near the frænum, which his surgeon healed in a few days by the use of mercurials both externally and internally. A short time after, a bubo formed in the groin; it suppurated, was opened by caustic, and, after



after discharging some weeks, healed; he took medicines six or eight weeks, and was said to be cured. In the course of a few months he was visited by an ulcer in the throat, nodes, and nocturnal pains. In fine, the inveteracy of his disease was such, that, from the time above-mentioned, to that in which he was speaking, it had withstood five salivations, and great quantities of different medicines administered between each of them: and (as he expressed it) had he not had the constitution of a horse, the disease or the methods used for its removal, must in that length of time have destroyed him; but thanks to heaven, his stamina were naturally of the strongest kind. He was now quite emaciated and worn down with nocturnal pains in his head, limbs, &c. There were three nodes on his ribs, and a large ulcer on the head, from whence several pieces of bone had exfoliated, and many more were so loose as to require extraction soon after he became my patient; this opening had been made by a caustic, for the purpose of discharging a large collection of matter. These were his symptoms at the time he made ap-



plication to me; and notwithstanding the measures hitherto adopted had succeeded no better than as mere palliatives, I despaired not of removing the disease; having so frequently experienced the powerful effects of alterants in the most confirmed cases, where many repeated salivations had proved abortive. This gentleman acquired a radical cure in three months by the use of alteratives: had the exfoliations been completed sooner, I should not have given him the medicines so long.

## C A S E XXI.

IN the year 1777, a gentleman from the county of York, came up to town to be under my care. He had been afflicted with a venereal complaint almost ever since his birth, by means of an infected nurse, whose foul milk so gradually affected him, that some weeks elapsed before his parents were able to account for his declining state of health; happily however, the cause was discovered, and a check put to the rapid progress of the disease, by means of anti-venereals. The growth however of the child was much impeded,



impeded, as the medicines though continued a long time had only palliated the symptoms, and saved the life of the patient. When he consulted me, his age did not exceed twenty years, he carried but little flesh, and was low in stature, although his parents were the reverse. Foul eruptions frequently infested many parts of his body, and sometimes afforded a temporary relief from the aches and pains which he generally at other times experienced. His eyes were extremely weak, and often so much effected by this acrid humour, as to be threatened with a loss of sight. The infection having been thus deeply rooted in the constitution, and in a manner interwoven with it from his infancy, I entertained very slender hopes of totally eradicating it; this opinion I communicated to my patient, who, nevertheless, entered very chearfully upon a course of my medicines, which some of his acquaintance had frequently given him a very favourable account of. In the space of three weeks he acquired a good appetite; the cutaneous eruptions gradually gave way, as did likewise the pains in his limbs, &c. he daily improved in strength and spirits, and at  
the



the end of three months appeared to be in high health, and was grown fat. By my advice he continued the medicines three months longer, and was then perfectly cured. Let this, amongst many other similar instances, serve as a caution to parents how they entrust their infant offspring to mercenaries. Other acrid humours may often be derived from the same unhappy source.

### C A S E XXII.

A TRADESMAN in Westminster, about two years and a half since, became my patient, together with his wife and child, who, at that time, were all infected with the venereal disease: the man had a copper-coloured eruption on his body, and an ulcer in the throat; the woman a bubo in the right groin, and nocturnal pains; and the child a venereal eruption which overspread the greatest part of its body. This complicated scene of distress took its rise from the husband, who informed me, that nine or ten months before, he had made an imprudent connection; twelve days after which, a small ulceration  
(a com-



(a common excoriation he supposed it to be, though in reality a chancre \*) made its appearance on the glans penis, near the frænum; not suspecting it to be venereal, he applied a piece of dry lint or cotton, which healed it in a few days. On examining the part, I found, that notwithstanding it had skinned over so readily, there yet remained a small collosity, from which all this mischief had originated. In the course of a few months he had reason to suspect himself to be infected, and a short time after the mortification to find that he had communicated the disease to his wife, from whose milk it was conveyed to the child also. An enlargement of the inguinal gland was the first venereal symptom that attacked the woman, none of the neighbouring parts having been at all affected; we may therefore conclude, that she received the infection from the contaminated semen of the man. The family surgeon and apothecary having for some time administered medicines without the desired effect; I was

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\* By the patient's account not much larger than a pin's head.

thereupon



thereupon called in, and found the parties in the situation as above described. The child at this time was not more than twelve months old, consequently very little success could be expected from the application of medicine immediately to the infant itself, for, let the preparation be ever so palatable to the taste, or gentle in its effects, a sufficient quantity would not be taken to eradicate a disease of this kind. Therefore, I desired the mother to continue suckling her child, that the remedy might be conveyed to it through the same channel that had communicated the disease; for this purpose, I immediately put her under a course of alteratives, of which she could take only small doses on account of the infant, whereby the cure was protracted to near four months, at which period I had the satisfaction of seeing both mother and child perfectly freed from this loathsome disease. The man's health was re-established in half the time that had been requisite for the cure of his wife and child, by reason of his taking the medicines in their full doses.

I COULD mention several cases similar to the foregoing ones, was I not of opinion,  
 3 that



that they will elucidate the subject as well as ten times their number.

N. B. IN the treatment of chancres, their callosity should be removed as expeditiously as possible, to prevent the ill effects of absorption which will otherwise ensue.

EXCORIATIONS on the glans penis and præputium of men, and on the labia pudendi, vagina, &c. of women, have very frequently been treated in the most erroneous manner; some that were truly venereal, have been totally neglected, whilst others that arose from very different causes, have been so carefully attended to, as almost to endanger the life of the patient; by the application of strong mercurials, drastic purges, &c. Nor are instances wanting, of persons having been salivated on the like occasion.

## PROPHYLACTICS.

HAVING treated hitherto on curatives only, let us now bestow a few thoughts upon preventives. The doctrine of prevention, altho'



it may not be coeval with the disease, is nevertheless of considerable antiquity: for the accomplishment of so desirable a purpose, a great variety of methods have been proposed; many of them are to the highest degree absurd, and a few only that bear even the semblance of probability, particularly amongst those recommended by the ancients. During my attendance at the lectures of medical professors several years since, I have frequently been much entertained at the ingenuity with which this subject has been handled. One of these gentlemen has strongly contended, that a mucilaginous or oleaginous application is the only topical one that can be depended upon; and in support of this opinion, expatiated on the power of emollient, and unctuous remedies in correcting or counteracting the most acrid and corrosive substances, by blunting their spicula, and sheathing the acute angles, &c. thereof. Another professor perhaps equally learned, and probably, not inferior to the former in experience, insists, that a strong alkali is the only thing which can effect this grand desideratum, and for this reason, that in order to expel the venereal



nereal virus as expeditiously as possible, nothing will be so likely to answer that purpose, as a medicine of this kind, which immediately stimulates the glands to such a degree, as to produce a very copious secretion of their fluids, and thereby dislodge the enemy without either impediment or delay. With equal plausibility, acids have been recommended by some, and spirits by others; not considering that the pain, &c. arising therefrom, would frequently injure as much, and perhaps sometimes more, than the disease which they were intended to guard against.

VERY numerous have been the advocates for mercurial preparations, whilst several have given the preference to those of lead. Every man of experience, however, must acknowledge that theories in general (how specious soever they may appear) are, the major part of them, extremely defective, when put to the test. I have myself seen a number of various experiments made on the present subject; indeed, the line of practice in which for many years I have been materially engaged, has enabled me to prosecute an enquiry of



this kind to as great an extent as most men; and after all, I am persuaded that very gentle stimulants will answer the purpose more effectually than applications of any other sort: I am led to be of such an opinion from the very great success that has attended this mode of preservation for several years past; those of my patients who have made the proper and timely use of a composition of this kind, have not been infected, I believe, once in fifty times upon an average: which, considering all circumstances, is as much as can be reasonably expected. Were I to assert that any medicine or preparation is infallible, I should pay no great compliment to the understanding of my readers, by advancing so palpable a falsehood; suffice it to observe, that some of my friends entertain the highest opinion of this composition, from the great and repeated risks they have ran for many months successively, without receiving the least injury; notwithstanding their sometimes copulating with such as they knew to be infected at the time of action.

To guard against the infection, some practitioners have thought it sufficient to advise  
the



the application of unctuous or other substances to the glans penis, in order to obstruct or close up the absorbent vessels or pores thereof, being of opinion, that the enemy always gets admission that way: in opposition to such doctrine, be it remembered, that chancres frequently fix upon other parts of the penis, and sometimes attack the scrotum and its vicinities, from which buboes have ensued, as appears in some of the foregoing cases.

## G L E E T S.

OF gleet's issuing from the urethra, there are two species upon which I propose making some observations; namely, the venereal gleet, and the seminal one. The former is the discharge which succeeds a clap; in other words, the running that continues after the removal of infection; this disease arises from the urethral ulcerations not having been healed in proper time, which may be occasioned by various means; for instance, by too frequent repetitions of strong cathartics; by unctuous applications long continued; by acrimonious humours; in fine, by any thing which relaxes



to too great a degree, or for too long a continuance. The cure is often protracted by the irregularity of the patient, who sometimes is kind enough to impute it to the mismanagement of his surgeon; and on the other hand, it may so happen, as to be really the case. Some of the reasons assigned for the difficulty of curing ulcers on the legs, will hold good in those of the urethra: the situation of both affording a depending orifice, or drain to the humours, which consequently will very readily flow down thereto; and when Nature has been accustomed for a length of time to any particular evacuation, or the outlet thereof, the flux of humours will there be very considerable, and the task of diverting them to any other channel will be proportionably difficult. Another disagreeable circumstance attending ulcerations of the urethra, is, the frequent flows of urine over them, which at times being highly acrimonious, must interrupt the digestion of the ulcers; and a part of it lodging in them, may corrode in some degree, unless prevented by proper topical applications, which cannot here be conveyed in a more suitable form than that of injection.

And



And even after the ulcers are healed, it will generally be found expedient to continue injection a week or ten days longer, to confirm the parts, and defend them from the urinous salts, which (should this precaution be omitted) are sometimes so acrid as to abrade the new skin, and make the sores discharge afresh. The same thing may happen when the urine is loaded with coarse gravel or stones, which will soon destroy the tender cicatrix; and if neglected but for a few days, a fluxion of humours to the part may ensue, and must consequently retard the cure.

So high an opinion do I entertain of injections, that I will venture to affirm, that almost every gleet (unaccompanied with caruncles, or callous edges of those ulcers from whence it proceeds) may be cured by injection, provided the redundant acrimony (if there happened to be any) shall have been previously corrected. Innumerable almost are the instances which might be produced in support of this opinion; a few only of the most remarkable ones will be here introduced to elucidate that point.—Gleets, attended with  
great



great obstructions in the urethra, occasioned by carnosities, caruncles, callosities, funguses, &c. (call them by what names you please) will generally require medicated bougies to remove them before we can expect a radical cure of the gleet. They will likewise be necessary in the removal of strictures, and the callous edges of old obstinate ulcers in this part. As to the composition of bougies, great care must be had that nothing corrosive or very stimulating be introduced therein; on the contrary, it must consist of the mildest digestives; and when formed into bougies, must have a very even polished surface, and be of such temper or consistence as readily to adapt themselves to the curvatures, &c. of the urethra, and yet at the same time be endued with sufficient strength to make the necessary pressure. The foregoing caution relative to the composition of bougies, cannot be too much inculcated, when we consider the delicate texture of the urethra and its extreme irritability: no two parts of the body, I presume, bear greater analogy in point of sensibility, than the urethra to the eye. In the management of bougies, more attention is



necessary than people in general imagine; for instance, if too large a one be introduced, or too much force used, either an hæmorrhage (that very much alarms the patient, though in other respects not prejudicial) or an inflammation ensues, which must retard the cure, should it produce no other disagreeable effect. The distention of these parts ought to be made very gradually for the reasons above assigned, as well as to avoid the pain that must otherwise be occasioned. If the end of the bougie be suffered to press against the neck of the bladder, it generally stimulates to such a degree, as to produce a stranguery.

A LIGATURE of some kind should always be affixed to a bougie, previous to, or immediately after its introduction, both to prevent it from slipping into the bladder, and to retain it exactly in the proper situation. How long each bougie may be worn, will depend upon the irritation it occasions; it must not remain in the urethra after it becomes painful, for reasons very obvious. When the urethra has been habituated to them, they may be



retained the whole night, provided sleep be not thereby prevented, or much interrupted. Antecedent to a course of bougies, it will frequently be necessary to prepare the parts with a cooling injection, and to repeat it during the use of them, as soon as the least symptom of inflammation makes its appearance. Gentle aperients at this time may likewise be serviceable, such as lenitive electary, sulphur, magnesia, &c. Moderate exercise, and a total abstinence from acids and strong liquors must also be enjoined. As to the length of time which may be proper to continue the use of bougies, that must depend upon the degree of obstruction in the passage, and the irritability thereof, together with the patient's habit of body, and many other circumstances. It will not I believe be disputed, that there may be the abuse, as well as proper use of bougies, for should they be continued long after the disappearance of discharge, a fresh running will be produced, by the very means employed to remove the old one; they are not, however, to be left off abruptly; it must be done *gradatim*, lest the cicatrix should exceed its due bounds, and thereby lessen the diameter



diameter of the urethra. Men sometimes want patience under a course of bougie; but the time may be greatly shortened by the assistance of proper injections. Many instances indeed have occurred, where injection has performed a cure after bougie, and every other remedy has proved ineffectual. Such improvement has of late been made in this respect, that I do not find it necessary to use half the number of bougies which I formerly did, cures now being effected in so much less time.

## C A S E XXIII.

IN the month of March, 1777, I was applied to by a gentleman of fortune in the county of Derby, who had laboured under a venereal gleet for more than six years; in the course of which time he had employed several of the faculty in his own neighbourhood, and had made journies to town for the opinions and prescriptions of some eminent ones in the metropolis, in consequence whereof, he had used a variety of medicines both external and internal, which afforded him only a temporary relief; the discharge gene-



rally returning in ten days or a fortnight afterwards. The disease commenced, he said, in the year 1770, when he contracted a clap, for the cure of which, his surgeon had purged him pretty briskly, and used a considerable quantity of mercurial ointment, until the infection was supposed to be removed; then, balsamics, astringents, &c. &c. were administered; and he afterwards used the cold bath for several weeks successively. All these expedients however proved merely palliative, as the complaint constantly returned soon after their discontinuance. The discharge was copious and of a deep yellow colour; I desired permission to examine the urethra with a bougie, he readily assented, but observed that bougies would be of no service to him, having used them upwards of eleven months without any good effect; I informed him that I did not propose his wearing them, unless there should be a very material obstruction in the passage; which upon examination not being the case, I recommended alteratives and an astringent injection, the former to be continued three weeks or a month, and the latter, double that time—  
with



with moderate exercise, and a strict abstinence from acids of every kind: and at the same time to keep his body solutive with sulphur or magnesia alba. By these means he was radically cured in the space of two months, and has remained well ever since, as he personally informed me in the month of January, 1780.

## C A S E XXIV.

ABOUT two years since, a gentleman in Westminster applied to me for the removal of a gleet, which had troubled him twelve years; during that time, he had at intervals taken a great deal of medicine, and of various kinds. One remarkable circumstance attending this case, was, that notwithstanding the very long continuance of the running, no carnosities or obstructions of any sort had formed in the urethra, which I ascertained by the introduction of a bougie, previous to delivering any opinion upon it; when finding the passage perfectly clear, I told my patient that his complaint in all probability might be removed without much difficulty, provided



vided he would live temperately, and adhere strictly to the rules I should prescribe; namely, to avoid acids, strong liquors, and violent exercise; and regularly to use every night and morning a syringeful of injection. These he did; and was perfectly cured in the course of three months.

## C A S E XXV.

A NOBLE Lord, in the month of May, 1778, sent for me, on account of a gleet attended with a small obstruction in the urethra: he informed me that his disorder was of four years standing, and had resisted every means prescribed for its removal; that he had taken a variety of medicines, been once salivated, and had used bougies. The discharge was thin, yellow, and copious, unaccompanied with either pain or inflammation. As his Lordship was of a good habit of body, I did not prescribe any internal remedies, but trusted wholly to injection, which in the space of six weeks effected a radical cure.

N. B. THE



N. B. THE same regimen was observed as in the preceding case, and the injection was used three times each day.

## C A S E XXVI.

A STATIONER in Westminster, three years ago, applied to me, in consequence of a gleet with a small caruncle in the urinary canal, which complaint he had laboured under upwards of five years, and during that time had used various medicines, but they had all proved ineffectual: he was however, perfectly cured in less than two months, merely by the use of injection.

## C A S E XXVII.

I was consulted about two years since by a coal-merchant in the county of Middlesex, who had then contracted a virulent gonorrhæa, in addition to an old gleet with which he had been troubled for some years. He expressed much concern at this accident, imagining that the gleet would be a great impediment to the cure of the gonorrhæa; but I soon made



made him easy on that head, by observing, that probably both complaints would be removed at the same time, as I had very frequently been fortunate enough to cure clap and gleet both together: and indeed it so happened in this case, at the end of five weeks, by means of injection and an alterative apozem.

### C A S E XXVIII.

ABOUT seventeen months ago, an Irish Peer became my patient; his case was a venereal gleet, with which he had been afflicted many years: bougies as well as internal medicines had been repeatedly used without success. Upon examination I found a small carnosity in the urethra, from which issued a moderate quantity of yellow matter. I proposed injection, but he at first objected to it, alledging his having tried it without effect; not considering (as I observed to him) that the composition of injections were as likely to vary as that of any other remedy. I likewise related to him some instances wherein that mode of cure had been particularly successful



after every other had proved the reverse. He thereupon agreed to put it once more to the test, but was obliged to defer it for a few weeks on account of a long journey he was the next day to set out upon. In the course of a month his lordship returned, and then informed me that my attendance was doubly necessary to him; having, on the journey, added a clap to the old disorder. The running was plentiful, and accompanied with a heat of urine and chordee.

I IMMEDIATELY recommended the use of injection and a few alterative pills, which, with a proper regimen, perfectly cured him of both clap and gleet in the space of thirty-two days.

FROM the number of cases that I have seen similar to the preceding ones, where a fresh infection has been engrafted upon an old gleet, and the little difficulty generally experienced in removing both together, I am led to believe, that in many instances, the stimulus produced by the venereal virus, has frequently contributed to accelerate the cure of the gleet; and particularly so, when it fixes



immediately upon the old ulcer ; whose cal-  
lous edges may thus be removed more speedily  
perhaps than by any other means.

A VERY striking instance of this kind will  
be found in the subsequent case :

### C A S E      XXIX.

FOUR years since, a linen-draper in the  
city, after having ineffectually employed se-  
veral gentlemen of the faculty for the re-  
moval of a venereal gleet which had troubled  
him eight years, made application to me for  
the same purpose. I examined the urethra  
with a bougie, and found very little obstruc-  
tion therein ; I then enquired into the dif-  
ferent methods of cure that had been adopted  
by his other surgeons, to which he replied,  
that after going through several mercurial  
courses, taking a great quantity of balsamics,  
and using a variety of astringents internally as  
well as topically, bougies were at last recom-  
mended ; and notwithstanding the uninter-  
rupted application of them for some months,  
and the strictest regimen at the same time



being observed, the disease still maintained its ground. Upon further enquiry, I found that my patient was a very temperate man, and rather of a cold phlegmatic habit; I therefore judged that an alteration in his mode of living might be of use, and accordingly prescribed half a pint of good port wine to be taken every day after dinner, and twice or thrice that quantity after supper. I likewise ordered an injection to be used night and morning, and a few internal alteratives. This plan was pursued for a fortnight or three weeks without producing any very material alteration in the disease; his spirits and appetite however were greatly benefitted, inasmuch, that in the course of a week or ten days longer perseverance therein, he was induced once more to pay his devoirs at the shrine of Venus, and there again became a burnt-offering, having then acquired both clap and chancres. His reward for stealing fire (if it may be deemed a theft) differed widely from that which Prometheus experienced: for to his great joy and surprise, the old inveterate gleet was radically cured by the means used to remove the gonorrhœa and chancres, in the course of



twenty-nine days. It may be asked, whether no succedaneum can be invented to answer the purpose as well as venereal matter? To which I should only give this answer, let future experiments and observations ascertain that point. It may likewise be suggested, that the supposed advantages accruing from this fresh infection, do not absolutely arise therefrom, but from the medicines used in consequence of it, which may so correct the latent acrimony of the blood and juices, as to effect a cure merely by that circumstance. My reply to this will be, that I have administered the same kind of medicines, and for a longer time in some of these cases, previous to the new infection. It may then perhaps be said, that they were not continued long enough: be it so; or at this rate we might go on *ad infinitum*, and never put a period to our suppositions; we will therefore leave to practice instead of theory, the determination of this matter.

## C A S E XXX.

I WAS consulted a few years ago by the captain of a marching regiment, who had  
been



been afflicted many years with obstructions in the urethra—they were particularly distressing to him during the late war, occasioning repeated suppressions of urine, which at length became so frequent, as to oblige him to carry a small catheter or a bougie generally in his pocket; unluckily, however, he was unprovided in that respect once upon a forced march, when being attacked with a total suppression of urine, and having no assistance at hand, he was under the necessity of taking a small twig from a tree, and after properly shaping, forced it through the obstructions into the bladder, made a passage for the urine, and thereby saved his life, which had often been in the most imminent danger from the same cause.

AT the time he applied to me, the urethra was so much obstructed with caruncles, that I found great difficulty in passing the smallest bougie, and therefore recommended the immediate application of them: his answer was, “That if no other means were used, he was very certain no cure would be obtained, having worn bougies at times for some years past;”

I replied,



I replied, " That internal remedies were likewise indispensably necessary in his case, by reason of the very high degree of scurvy with which he was most evidently infested; his body being almost covered with pustules, boils and scabs, the rankest of the kind that I had ever seen. Very powerful antiscorbutics were therefore liberally administered during the whole course of bougie, in order to correct that acrimony, which would otherwise have much impeded, if not entirely prevented the formation of a proper cicatrix. The discharge from the urethra was very plentiful for the first three weeks, and from its sharpness sometimes inflamed the glans penis and præputium, as well as the urinary duct, but was kept within bounds by the use of emollient and cooling injections. Thus, was the urethra entirely cleared of obstructions, the body of its acrimonious humour, and in less than four months the patient's health perfectly re-established.

### C A S E XXXI.

A MEMBER of the House of Commons about a year ago sent for me, on account of  
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an obstruction in the urethra, which had troubled him some years, and of late produced a frequent inclination to make urine, though it could flow now only in a very small stream, and with much difficulty, from the encreased size of the carnosity. The obstruction was so great, that it would not admit the smallest bougie to pass it; I therefore contented myself with introducing one up to the caruncle, upon which it made a gentle pressure, being properly fixed with a ligature: I gave directions for its being retained in the same position as long as possible, that the bougie might gradually either insinuate itself through this fleshy substance, or else slip past it. My patient persevered in the method I had proposed for the space of near eleven hours, when he had the satisfaction of perceiving that the obstruction gave way to the bougie. A small hæmorrhage ensued, which in a few minutes ceased of itself—soon afterwards he attempted to make urine, but at first found the passage more obstructed than usual; however, upon straining, he forced out something, which he imagined was coagulated blood, but on examination it proved to be  
the



the carnosity itself---in shape and size it nearly resembled a pea, and was composed of a tough membranous substance,---the basis of it was very small, as will be readily conceived from its being so easily separated. The unusual frequency of making water immediately ceased upon the removal of the excrescence, which without doubt had so stimulated the parts as to be the occasion of it; upon the same principle I presume as any extraneous body would have done. Astringent injections now became necessary to procure a firm cicatrix; bougies were likewise frequently introduced to preserve the natural diamèter of the urethra in that particular part; and, in order to confirm the cure, these applications were continued about a week or ten days.

## C A S E XXXII.

A TRADESMAN in Westminster, was for several weeks incommoded with a frequent desire to void urine, which at length encreased to such a degree as to prevent his attendance on business: thus circumstanced, he became my patient. - Upon enquiry, I found that he  
had



had not been subject to either gravel or stone, nor was there any reason to suspect that infection had given rise to the complaint. I then proposed to examine the urethra with a bougie, but was prevented by a wart just within the orifice; that excrescence I removed with scissors, and destroyed its roots with an escharotic. The patient informed me next day that he no longer felt any irritation at the neck of his bladder, nor had any inclination to urine oftener than he usually did before the disorder took place. The parts soon healed; and he has been free from strangury ever since.

HERE we may observe, that a disease at one end of the urethra, will produce a disagreeable sensation at the other. It frequently happens that a stone in the bladder, when it presses in a particular direction, will create such an itching at the glans penis and præputium, that the patient cannot refrain from rubbing and pulling those parts.

EXCRESCENCES in the urethra sometimes affect very materially the feminal ducts, as will appear in some of the following cases.



It often occurs, even in claps, that the patient thinks his disease seated in one part of the urethra, when it happens to be in another: indeed, we cannot wonder at the many instances of very great sympathy in these parts, when we consider their exquisite sensibility.

## C A S E XXXIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Norfolk, had many years laboured under a difficulty of making urine, occasioned by excrescences in the urethra, the consequence of a long continued gleet. He had had frequent suppressions of urine after violent exercise, hard drinking, or excesses of any kind; this he deemed merely a temporary inconvenience, it having generally been soon removed by the introduction of a catheter or a bougie; which circumstance rendered him negligent as to the making of proper application for a radical cure. However, he at last suffered very severely for his inattention, as will appear in the sequel. In the month of June, 1777, being very much heated with exercise and high



high living, he was attacked by his old complaint, (the suppression of urine) and recourse was immediately had to the former expedients, but the inflammation and obstruction were so great, that no instrument could be passed into the bladder---his surgeon endeavoured to relieve him by the usual means, such as bleeding, warm bathing, terebinthinate and other clysters, anodynes, &c. but they proved ineffectual. After the suppression had continued upwards of thirty hours, he determined to come up to town, though at the distance of more than one hundred miles. The anxiety and pain that he experienced during the journey, may be better imagined than described. On his arrival in town he immediately sent for me, but half an hour before I saw him, the urine had forced its way through the perinæum, a part of which, and of the adjoining scrotum, I found in a mortified state. The mortification extended at least six inches in circumference. From the pale emaciated aspect of my patient, I could not expect any great assistance from his constitution, which by his own account had been much impaired by a long



succession of irregularities. His age did not exceed forty years; in the last ten of which, he had been frequently attacked with severe fits of the gout. All these circumstances considered, I could not form the most favourable prognosis; however, I was particularly careful, that my opinion should not be couched in such terms as might depress his spirits, being fully aware of the bad consequences that frequently ensue from the mind's influence upon the body, especially in putrid complaints. Having in these cases no time to lose, I immediately proceeded to scarify the parts as deeply as the nature of them would admit of, or as circumstances required. After stuping the wound extremely well with a spirituous fomentation, I applied warm digestives, and over them (instead of cataplasm of any kind) soft rags moistened with camphorated spirits, and ordered the nurse to dip a sponge in the same every half hour, and squeeze it over the dressings and the neighbouring parts, in order to prevent as much as possible the mortification from extending itself any further. The dressings were often renewed, on account of the urine's flowing



flowing so frequently through the wound. As internal antiseptics were likewise indispensably necessary, I prescribed an electary of Peruvian bark and Virginian snake-root, to be taken as often and in as large doses as his stomach would bear, and that it should be washed down with camphorated julep or good Port wine, of both which I allowed him to take very freely. His liquors were most of them acidulated with elixir of vitriol, to which was added the aromatic tincture, to prevent its offending the stomach, and at the same time render it more cardiac. There were likewise prepared for him strong rich soups, and what is called beef-tea, of which he drank plentifully. Opiates were administered the first twelve days, and at suitable intervals, clysters to keep his bowels in a proper state. By these means the progress of the mortification was soon impeded, and in a short time entirely stopped. The sloughs began to separate in the course of twelve days, when I thought it adviseable to attempt regaining the natural passage for the urine, the whole of which constantly flowed through the wound ever since it had first



first made an outlet that way. The caruncles in the urethra made so much resistance, that four days elapsed before the smallest bougie could be passed through them; but as soon as that point was gained, a bougie was constantly kept in the urethra both night and day. The urine by this method soon recovered the natural channel, and in less than a fortnight, not a drop of it passed through the wound, which now digested well, and in a few days incarned, and soon after cicatrised as kindly as could have been expected. By continuing the bougies six weeks longer, the urethra was entirely cleared of all its obstructions, and the parts firmly healed. Soon afterwards, my patient returned to the country in high spirits, and in a much better state of health than he had been for many preceding months.

## S E M I N A L   G L E E T.

HAVING hitherto made little or no mention of the seminal gleet, I will now offer a few observations upon the origin of that disease, and produce some particular cases, both

to



to illustrate the subject, and recommend a method of cure that has frequently succeeded after every other had proved ineffectual. That seminal gleets or weaknesſes (call them by which name you please) are of all others, the most difficult to cure, I presume, will not be controverted by any experienced practitioner; this difficulty will be encreased in proportion to the immediate cause of the disease, and the contingencies that may attend it, the habit of body, mode of living, climate, profession or occupation, &c. of the patient. The disease may arise from those excrescences in the urethra, which we term caruncles, carnosities, &c. and it is sometimes occasioned by the destruction of that natural caruncle, the *caput gallinaginis urethrae*. It originates likewise from an acrimonious state of the blood and juices. Sometimes it is produced by a general relaxation of the whole frame, from whatever cause soever that may take its rise, whether from a series of debaucheries, excessive venery, self-pollution, &c &c.

IN some of the foregoing cases, I have demonstrated that an excrescence in the urethra  
will



will stimulate the bladder (though at the distance of some inches) to such a degree as to bring on a frequent inclination to evacuate its contents: and when that stimulus happens to fix upon the feminal ducts, the reservoirs, or the testicles themselves, similar effects must naturally be expected. After the feminals have been thus stimulated for a length of time, their retentive faculties must indubitably become so much impaired and weakened, as to admit of very frequent and involuntary emissions. The same consequences may also be expected, when the blood is much impregnated with acrimony of any kind, and a considerable share of it falls upon any particular organ (a gland for instance, or its excretory duct) the irritation thereby produced must excite an unnatural secretion, as well as expulsion of that particular fluid, and will at the same time alter the quality of it. A long continued repetition of this stimulus gradually relaxes the mouths of the excretory ducts, together with their valves or sphincters, those natural obstacles to involuntary evacuations; in fine, they entirely lose their original powers of retention, and the fluid is frequently dis-

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charging



charging itself, almost as soon as secerned; or upon the least exertion in making urine or going to stool, supposing the seminal vessels to have been thus visited by the acrimonious humour.

## C A S E XXXIV.

AN officer in the navy, after having laboured under a seminal gleet for six years and upwards, put himself under my care about two years and a half since. His spirits, strength, appetite, &c. were greatly reduced, insomuch, that he was threatened with a total loss of virility. After interrogating him as to the cause of his disease, I examined the urethra with a bougie, and found it perfectly free from obstruction: I then inspected the colour and consistence of the discharge, and soon perceived that it had lost its natural texture, and seemed to abound with acrimony, which upon further enquiry proved to be scorbutic. He informed me that he had been much afflicted with the scurvy for some years previous to the appearance of his present complaint. Having now investigated the

O

cause



cause of the disease, I had but little difficulty to apprehend in performing the cure of it; as my patient, from his appearance, as well as promises, persuaded me, that nothing on his part would be wanting for the completion of it. I had not formed a wrong conjecture; for with the greatest regularity and attention he persevered in a course of antiscorbutics, which in a few months entirely removed his gleet, and at the same time perfectly re-established his health in every other respect.

## C A S E XXXV.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Middlesex, applied to me two years ago, on account of a seminal gleet, to which at times he had been for some years subject, though at intervals entirely free from it; his vigour therefore was not very much impaired thereby, but as the returns of the complaint, had of late been more frequent than usual, he began to be very apprehensive of consequences. Upon examination, I found that the cause of this gleet might be truly deemed arthritic; it was indeed sufficiently evident from the appearance



ance of the discharge, and the patient's own account of his case. The semen was loaded with a cretaceous matter, similar to the chalk stones produced by the gout; in proof of which, he informed me that he had been afflicted with the gout many years, chalk stones had appeared on his feet, but that no more of them had formed after the cretaceous matter found its way to the spermatic vessels, and (as he very rationally supposed,) discharged itself with the semen ever since that period. Being perfectly sensible that the disease originated from the gout, I recommended patience, and a resignation to his fate. This prescription not satisfying him, I promised to consider further upon his case, and exert my best abilities to serve him. After a little reflection, there occurred to my memory the case of a gentleman, who some years since employed me to cure him of the venereal disease, and as he was greatly afflicted with the gout, requested very earnestly that I would not give him the least particle of mercury; I acquiesced therewith, and in the course of a few weeks removed his complaint, merely by the use of vegetables.



SOMETIME afterwards he informed me, that these medicines had so purified his blood and juices, that the gout had not visited him so frequently as usual, and the paroxysms were much milder and of shorter duration than they formerly had been. He has therefore taken the medicine since that time as an anti-arthritic. The recollection of this circumstance induced me to administer remedies of a similar kind for the cure of this arthritic gleet; and I had soon the satisfaction of perceiving that the discharge gradually decreased, and was less and less impregnated with the chalk, 'till it entirely disappeared, which happened in about two months: I advised nevertheless a continuance of the medicines sometime longer in order to prevent a relapse. The medicines used upon this occasion were, diuretics and diaphoretics, in the composition of which, camphor was no inconsiderable ingredient. Before we dismiss the subject, it may not be improper to mention some other disorders, to which the organs of generation are liable, from this arthritic acrimony. I have been informed from very good authority, of priapisms originating from the  
same



same source; one in particular, of a gentleman in the county of Surry, which is said to have continued an incredible length of time. Instances I have myself seen, where the gout has produced tumefactions of the testicles, to as high a degree as those in venereal cases, and which, like them, have been removed by discutient fomentations, and emollient cataplasms, assisted with powerful sudorifics internally. In these cases opiates likewise may repeatedly be administered to very great advantage.

## C A S E XXXVI.

ABOUT eighteen months since, I was consulted by an eminent artist in the vicinity of London, who had for many years been troubled with a gleet and obstructions in the urinary passage, occasioned by a clap which was contracted eleven years before. There had been, ever since that period, a discharge of yellowish matter that might be said to ebb and flow, being very copious at one time, and quite the reverse at others; excess of any kind, never failed to encrease it very considerably.



derably. Within the last three years he perceived the urethra to be materially obstructed, and from that time a new symptom made its appearance, namely, a mixture of semen with the old running; in proportion to the encrease of the caruncles, the feminal discharge became more plentiful, insomuch, that during the last four or five months, he very seldom made urine or went to stool, without a considerable quantity of seed being evacuated at the same time. He informed me of his having taken large quantities of the most bracing and strengthening medicines, but with no other effect, than a temporary palliation of the symptoms. The long continuation of the disease, added to a close attention to business, made terrible havock with his constitution, reduced him almost to a skeleton, and relaxed his nerves to such a degree, as to render life burthenfome in the extreme. The excrescences had so choaked up the urethra, that the smallest bougie could not be passed without great difficulty. I began his cure, by attempting to remove these obstructions, being fully convinced that no medicine could be of use till that was effected. I advised him



him to wear a bougie both night and day, and for as many hours together as the parts would admit of, without occasioning pain or loss of rest. His bowels were at the same time kept in proper order by the use of gentle aperients: to which circumstance it will always be found indispensably necessary to attend in every complaint of this nature, both in order to prevent inflammation, and to obviate any material exertion in the evacuation of the fæces. His diet was of the most nutritious kind, but as he at first had little or no appetite, I gave him strong decoctions of the woods, which soon procured one, and at the same time corrected any latent acrimonious humours: after which, corroborants and restoratives were administered with the greatest success. By these means, at the expiration of four months, he was so far recovered as to imagine himself cured; the medicines however were continued seven or eight weeks longer, by which time his health was perfectly re-established.



## C A S E XXXVII.

ALMOST similar to the preceding case, was that of a gentleman in the county of Cambridge, who had been afflicted for several years with a seminal gleet, and had taken a great quantity of medicines of different kinds, without receiving any material benefit—a circumstance not to be wondered at, when we consider that the cause of the disease had not hitherto been understood, no attention having been paid to a caruncle in the urethra, which at last encreased so much, as almost entirely to prevent the passing of his urine; upon this account it was that he made application to me, having long before given up all expectation of removing the seminal gleet, every effort for that purpose having so repeatedly proved abortive. Luckily however, the stoppage of urine obliged him to have recourse to the only method that could possibly remedy his old disorder. By using bougies, the urethra was cleared of obstruction in the course of a few weeks, in consequence of which, the seminal discharge gradually abated, and  
with



with the assistance of some internal bracers, a radical cure was effected in less than five months.

### C A S E XXXVIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the western part of England, became my patient three years since, in consequence of a seminal weakness or gleet, which had been his companion for thirteen years, and was at length very near putting a period to his existence, notwithstanding a long continued use of the most powerful restoratives both in medicine and diet, which had been prescribed for him by several very eminent practitioners.

HE had taken astringents, balsamics, strengtheners and bracers of almost every kind, large quantities of bark, steel, ginseng, &c. &c. nor was the cold bath omitted, which in the beginning, he said, afforded a temporary relief, but after a few months use entirely lost its effect. The disease had rendered him so weak, as to be scarce able to walk or stand upright, and his spirits were

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likewise



likewise proportionably depressed. He informed me, that his present complaints took their rise from a clap contracted upwards of thirteen years since, that it was not attended with much pain or inflammation, nor were any of the symptoms such, as indicated any high degree of virulence; his surgeon, however, had supplied him very liberally with mercurials and drastic purges, and had continued them some weeks, by which means his appetite, strength, &c. were much impaired, and a gleet ensued, which from a venereal, degenerated into a feminal one. Frequent nocturnal emissions of semen interrupted his sleep, and a discharge of the same kind generally happened whenever he made urine or went to stool. After having given this account, he requested to have my opinion upon his case. My answer was; that from the long continuance of the venereal gleet, I suspected some excrescence had formed in the urethra, and should that be the case, I doubted not of rendering him very essential service. He replied, "That he did not imagine there could be any material obstruction in the passage, as his urine flowed almost as well as ever;



ever; but that it did not pass quite so freely, which he attributed wholly to the debility of the parts. However, upon examination with a bougie, I found a caruncle about four inches up the urethra, which, in that place, diminished its diameter nearly one-third part; the rest of the canal was perfectly free from either stricture or any other obstruction: this discovery gave my patient much pleasure, and at the same time great surprise, that such a substance should have formed without his perceiving it; that was a circumstance, I told him, which frequently occurred, and might be very easily accounted for, by only reflecting upon the very slow, gradual progress of these carnosities; in the present instance above twelve years had elapsed during the formation of a very small one. I then advised him to enter upon the use of bougies; and that they should remain in the urethra as many hours as possible, both night and day, provided neither pain nor inflammation ensued, to prevent which, as well as too great efforts in discharging the fæces; his body was kept rather in a laxative state than otherwise, by taking occasionally flos sulphuris, magnesia



alba, or electarium lenitivum. In the course of a week he was able to wear the bougies twelve hours in the twenty-four; by which means a copious discharge of matter was produced, and in proportion to that, did the caruncle decrease, and the feminal evacuation abate. In less than a month the carnosity was removed, and with it the stimulus which had operated so powerfully upon the spermatic vessels, &c. At this time I thought corroborative medicines would take the desired effect, I accordingly administered them in as large doses, and as repeatedly as his stomach would bear, his diet was likewise of the most nutritious kind, and as simple as possible, all high seasoned sauces, &c. being studiously avoided, together with spirituous liquors, and vegetable acids. By the above method this gentleman was restored to perfect health in the space of eight months; he married soon after, and has got an heir to his estate.

IN these cases I always recommend animal food, or a meat diet in preference to any other; and when the stomach is too weak to admit of it in substance, strong soups or broths  
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must



must be extracted from it, and taken very liberally. After meals, a glass or two of good old Madeira or Mountain wine may be drank, and will generally prove beneficial. Moderate exercise will likewise be useful, but great care must be had that it never amounts to fatigue. The patient should be thinly clad both night and day; rise early, and go to bed the same. I fine, the same regimen may be observed in these complaints as is generally recommended in those termed nervous.

ALL excrescences or carnosities in the urethra have not a venereal origin, that, in common with every other glandulous membrane, may certainly produce them from some other causes; among which, coarse gravel and small rough or sharp stones passing through this tube may sometimes occasion them. An instance of this kind I remember to have seen in a Kentish farmer, who applied to me on account of obstructions in the urethra, which could not be supposed to arise from any venereal cause, as he solemnly declared, that he had never been so infected. He had however frequently voided gravel and stones with his urine;



urine; which, I make not the least doubt, gave rise to the excrescences, from having wounded the membrane, which afterwards healed, but not without producing these fungi.

THE glandulous membrane that lines the nose, we know will sometimes send forth excrescences named polypi, independent of any venereal matter whatever.

BEFORE we close our observations upon gleet and weakneses, let us turn our thoughts upon those which are peculiar to the fair sex.

THE leucorrhæa, fluor albus, or the disease vulgarly termed the whites, though often with very great impropriety, the discharge being at times as high coloured as that produced by the venereal virus itself. This gleet is the cause of many disorders, and as frequently the consequence of others. It sometimes arises merely from a cacochymia, at others from a *profluvium mensium*, bad labours, miscarriages, a general relaxation, immoderate venery, acrimonious humours, &c. When this discharge is very copious and of  
long



long duration, it produces many very disagreeable (if not fatal) effects: it may give rise to the whole tribe of what are called nervous complaints, hysterics, &c. and may sometimes occasion an atrophy or consumption. It is to be lamented, that they are most subject to this disorder, who apparently are the least able to sustain it, namely, those of the most delicate frames and constitutions. A sedentary mode of living, improper diet, too much cloathing, bed-warming and tea drinking, contribute greatly to encrease, if not to produce this disease: the use of strong liquors (I am afraid) may sometimes be added to the catalogue of causes. From a desire of becoming more delicate, many good constitutions have been greatly injured, (if not entirely ruined) by the too frequent repetition of phlebotomy and strong cathartics. The pudenda of each sex being generally very much benefitted by cold bathing, why, in the name of common sense, is it not more frequently practised? Women, in particular, would derive infinite advantage from washing these parts regularly night and morning with cold water, except at the time of menstruation; as I believe that  
few



few things would tend more to prevent the disease in question than these ablutions, if properly pursued. An immersion of the whole body would certainly be preferable to a partial bath, but as the former is not always practicable, and is generally attended with great trouble and inconvenience, we must content ourselves with the latter, provided it be diligently persisted in. Certain sects are strictly enjoined to make frequent ablutions, as a ceremony or duty incumbent on the professors of such religions: a custom, however, of this kind, (if viewed only in a temporal light) must be highly beneficial to society. Can any good reason be assigned, why the external parts of generation should not be as often washed as our faces, they must certainly require it as frequently, although seldom exposed to view? Courtesans (for more reasons than one) are the strictest observers of this salutary custom. The great difficulty attending the cure of the fluor albus, may in some degree be ascribed to the very lax texture and depending situation of the parts subject to this discharge.



IN the cure of female gleans, we must administer such alteratives as will remove any latent acrimony, and at the same time recommend the most nutritious diet, together with a proper regulation of the other non-naturals. After the blood and juices shall have been sufficiently purified by the means abovementioned; then may balsamics and astringents be used to great advantage. Be it remembered also, that we must not rely solely upon internals, for it will generally be found necessary to use topical applications at the same time, viz. lotions and injections, which must be composed of the most powerful astringents. The cold bath will likewise be of service, where unsound viscera or very great tenderness of lungs do not prohibit the use of it. The alteratives recommended in the former part of this Essay, will, upon trial, be allowed the most efficacious ones in the present complaint. Opiates, in many stages of the disease, may likewise be administered to very great advantage, provided they be so corrected, as to obviate any material constipation of body. Of all the non-naturals, a due regulation of the passions must be very strictly attended

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attended to ; nay, it will be found indispensably necessary, as without it no cure will ever be obtained ; indeed, it will generally prove one grand essential in the cure of many female complaints. That the vagina uteri, and its vicinities are very liable to great defluxions, is sufficiently evident from the disease just now mentioned, which in general does not make its appearance before the age of puberty : some females however, even in the infant state, experience so great a flow of humours, as to produce a discharge, in colour, not unlike the gonorrhæal one, and frequently acrimonious enough, to occasion much inflammation, pain, and tumefaction in these parts. Several instances of this kind have fallen under my inspection, and upon enquiry, I have generally found that the complaint arose from either a scorbutic or a scrophulous humour. Emollient fomentations and cataplasms, assisted with gentle purgatives, and mild alterants, will soon abate the symptoms, which generally disappear in the course of a few days ; especially if the discharge has been rather copious in the beginning.



To prevent a relapse, it will be necessary to keep the intestines in a laxative state, which may be easily effected by the use of lac sulphuris, or magnesia alba; the preference however must be given to the former, as it will at the same time prove no insignificant alterative. The most obstinate cases are such as derive their origin from a leprous humour, one of these I remember to have seen; it was attended with a very high degree of inflammation, and required venæsection, opiates and cathartics, together with the most powerful internal alteratives, and external emollients. A composition of camphor, antimony and sulphur, was in this case extremely useful; the cure indeed might with justice be wholly ascribed to it; every other medicine having proved ineffectual.

THE cure of gleans and weakneses in either sex, will generally require a considerable time, but if the methods I have recommended be put in practice, and properly pursued, I am firmly persuaded that they will very seldom fail of success.



