Elements of medical jurisprudence, or, A succinct and compendious description of such tokens in the human body as are requisite to determine the judgment of a coroner, and of courts of law, in cases of divorce, rape, murder, &c.; : To which are added, directions for preserving the public health.

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ELEMENTS

OF

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

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MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE:

O Ra

A fuccinct and compendious Description of such Tokens in the Human Body as are requisite to determine the Judgment of a Coroner, and of Courts of Law, in Cases of Divorce, Rape, Murder, &c.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

DIRECTIONS FOR PRESERVING THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

LONDON:

BRINTED FOR T. BECKET, PALL-MALL,

BOOKSELLER TO H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF

WALES, H. R. H. THE DUKE OF YORK,

AND THEIR R. H'S. THE PRINCES.

M,DCC,LXXXVIII.

IN EMENTS TUBING MEALTH. A - HOCKON A STERNATION OF CONTRACTOR

PREFACE.

THE foundation of this little Work is taken from a Publication made at Geneva in the year 1767, called, 'Joh. Fred. Fafelii Elementa Medicinæ Forensis.' This was a class-book of a learned Professor, but I imagined such a form, and the endless divisions which he has adopted, would appear tedious to an English reader, who generally admires works more in detail. I have therefore admitted only the materials of that publication, and have digested them into regular chapters, in which I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to follow the order of nature, beginning with births, and ending with the dissolution of our frame.

By altering the form too, I have not been obliged to adhere strictly to the text, but have varied from it very considerably, and some chapters I have entirely added, as that upon Madness, &c. whilst others I

have omitted as useless in this Country, as particularly one on Tortures, &c. But I hope, I have neither added what is tedious, nor omitted what is necessary to be known. As nothing of the kind bath ever been published in this Country, I was willing to take the assistance of a learned foreigner, rather than travel a tract unbeaten, by myself. I need say nothing concerning the utility of such a Work: it will readily be pointed out to every serious mind. Life and death are objects too important to be sported with in the manner they are sometimes: nor should the valuable connections of our fellow-citizens be ever facrificed to the ignorance of the faculty, the caprice of a court, or the artifices of revenge and difappointment.

SAMUEL FARR.

Curry-Rivel, Nov. 22, 1787.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION - P	age r
CHAP. I.	
On Pregnancy	3
CHAP. II.	
Of Parturition, or Child-birth -	10
CHAP. III.	
On Divorces	32
CHAP. IV.	
On Rapes	41
CHAP. V.	
Of the Murder of Infants -	48
CHAP. VI.	
On Homicide -	72
CHAP. VII.	
Of Idiotism and Insanity -	115
CHAP. VIII.	
Of Impostors	120
CHAP. IX.	
On the Means of preserving the Public	April .
Health -	125

MEROBUCTION . Page 1 CHAP. IV.

INSTITUTES, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is a kind of medical What part knowledge, which is not so of the study of physic. much concerned in the cure of diseases, as in the detection of error and the conviction of guilt. A physician, a whomemfurgeon, or a coroner, is often called ployed. upon to make a deposition of what he knows concerning fome particular transactions in a court of judicature. Where ex-Such perfons then should be well acquainted with the animal economy. and with those views of the science which, in foreign countries, have been dignified with a peculiar name, as the medicine of the courts, legal medicine, Name. or medical jurisprudence.

This

How divided.

Judicial causes.

Health of community

vision.

This knowledge, in its more extenfive fense, is divided into two different kinds, in one of which is explained those rules by which a judge may form in a court of judicature, an accurate opinion of the cause which comes before him: in the other, an acquaintance is acquired with the best methods of preserving the health of our fellow-citizens. The first part is again divided into three, as the deposition is made in the civil courts, in the criminal courts, or in the ecclefiaftical courts. But as the courts of foreign countries are constituted upon different principles from those of this kingdom, I shall not follow the example of our learned professor, in Natural di- arranging the rules of this business in that division, but shall give them in different chapters, according to the order of Nature, and let the reader apply them as he shall think proper.

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

OF PREGNANCY.

HERE are so many decisions, both in civil and criminal courts Many decidependent upon pregnancy, that an pend on a accurate knowledge of this affection of it. is absolutely necessary to be acquired before a determination is made. And notwithstanding there may be an apparent indecency in the exposition, yet truth, property, and perhaps a life, are not to be facrificed to a false delicacy, a mistaken modesty, or a love of eafe.

A greater expansion of the abdo- Marks of men than common, as it creates in a Pregnancy. female the idea of pregnancy, may depend upon a fœtus, or any other Diffinbody, filling up the womb, or parts from other adjacent. If it be any foreign body, appearanit is called a mole, or false concep-

Mole what.

B 2

tion;

Ordinary.

nary.

ary.

tion; if a fœtus, true pregnancy. This too is of two kinds, ordinary and extraordinary. The first, when one or more fœtuses are lodged in the hollow of the womb itself; the latter, when they are deposited in the ovarium, the fallopian tube, or the general cavity of the abdomen. The ovarium is that substance in the female body, which answers to the testicle in that of the male, and is supposed to contain the germen of the future animal. The fallopian tube is a duct which conveys the male femen from the womb to the ovarium, and is supposed to embrace the uterus in the time of

It is not uncommon for women of abandoned characters, or even married women, to conceal and deny their state of pregnancy; and in such cases, no

conception. It is natural to suppose

then, that sometimes the fœtus may

be lodged in these bodies, and seek an

accurate judgment can be formed till a proper examination be made by a medical person, and those signs of true pregnancy be discovered which are generally acknowledged. These signs are various, and they may be distin- signs. guished into certain, uncertain, and false.

The certain and most common, and certain. which may be taken about the time when half the gestation is compleated, are,

1st. A swelling of the abdomen, swelling of which arises from no morbid cause, which continues to increase so, that it extends from the lower part even to the fummit, which has a shining appearance, and which is peculiarly sharpened about the navel. At the fame time a troublesome sensation, peculiar to fuch a fituation, is perceived, and other figns of pregnancy occur.

2d. The orifice of the womb is Orifice of thicker, more spongy, soft, and wis the womb

B 3

dened ;

dened; is shorter, and exhibits neither a conical nor cylindrical figure.

Motion of fœtus.

3d. A motion of the fœtus is perceived in the womb.

Suppression of menfes. 4th. There is a suppression of the menstrual flux, when it cannot be accounted for from some evident disease, and when the symptoms which accompany it do not remit, as is the case when it arises from some other cause.

Swelling of breafts.

5th. A fwelling and hardness of the breasts, with an inflation of the nipple, and the veins of the breasts assuming a blue colour. The disk round the nipple is of a dusky brown colour, and the little eminences are much enlarged.

Milk in breafts.

6th. A lymph flows from the breast upon pressure, which are streaks of true milk.

Uncertain figns of pregnancy. The uncertain figns of pregnancy, are frequent vomitings, especially in a morning; a constipation of the belly; an incontinence or suppression

of urine, difficult/respiration, irregular appetite, a fondness or aversion to particular kinds of food, head-ach, vertigo, pain of the teeth, yellow spots in the face, the belly growing flat, a descent of the orifice of the womb, enlargement of the veins, swelling of the legs and feet, and pains in the loins, &c.

The false signs of pregnancy have False signs. arisen from some superstitious notions which are now exploded, and therefore we shall omit to mention them in this place.

It appears, however, that no accu- How to rate judgment can be formed, but form a judgment. from the certain figns; and a knowledge of these can only be acquired by a minute examination and immediate inspection of the parts. This, upon account of decency, is generally committed to midwives, ignorant persons, who have no knowledge of the animal œconomy, and may eafily be de-B 4 ceived.

ceived. It would be much better then, that this office should be en. trusted to the more regular practitioner, who being a person of education, would add the influence of his judgment to his examination, and would not be content with a fingle enquiry, which may be uncertain, but would frequently repeat it, till he had perfectly ascertained the truth.

. Feigned pregnancy.

vered.

Signs.

Women sometimes likewise feign themselves to be pregnant when they How disco. are not so. The absence of those figns before-described, would be sufficient to confute them; but, as much artifice is often used upon such occafions, it may be necessary to examine a little further, and here the following figns present themselves: An improper age, either too tender or too perfect; a preternatural defect of the menses, even in those of a fit age; too great a flow of them; a copious and inveterate fluor albus; various difeafes diseases of the vagina, as the orifice of it being entirely shut, or a junction of its sides, so as not to admit an entrance; various diseases likewise of the womb, such as a schirrus, or sleshy excresences growing up in it, or its mouth being entirely closed.

CHAP. II.

OF PARTURITION OR CHILD,
BIRTH.

Parturition what.

PARTURITION may be received in several senses. At one time it means the action of bringing a child into the world: at another the child itself, which is received into being.

Ordinary.

When taken in the first sense, it is divided into ordinary and extraordinary. The ordinary is, when the delivery is made in the common and usual manner, or rather by the common passages, notwithstanding any difficulties which may occur in the operation: for this is again divided into natural and preternatural, or artificial. The extraordinary delivery is when it is performed by the Cæsarean operation, which is an extraction of the

Extraordinary.

Cæfarean
operation.

the child, by making an incision thro' the abdominal muscles into the uterus. This is feldom performed upon the living mother, but may be, and is indeed always adviseable, should the mother die before she can be delivered, and life is perceived in the child. In this way some great personages, and particularly our Edward VI. is faid to have been born. Another method lately proposed in France, and absolutely put in practice upon living subjects, is, by dividing the cartilage which binds together the bones that furround the womb, and thus enlarging the opening. This may likewise be called extraordinary, though the delivery be made by the natural paffages; yet the strictness of terms confines it to those labours which are made by passages different from the common.

When the word parturition relates when parto the child itself, it may denote the turition retime when it is born, the conforma-child.

tion of its parts, or the external figure which it presents, the state of its life, and the number which are brought into the world.

Time of birth.

Perfect.

When it relates to the time in which it is born, it may be confidered either as perfect or mature, or immature and imperfect. The former, when

Imperfect.

gestation has been carried on at least nine months: the latter, when it is completed before that time; and in this last case, another division may be

Abortions. made into abortions, where the delivery is made before the feventh

Premature. month; and premature births, where the child is born between the feventh and the end of the ninth. To this

head also belong too late deliveries.

Signs of immature child.

The figns of an immature child are taken from the following particulars.

Length.

1st. From its length, for if it be not one foot long, we may be nearly certain that it is not completely formed.

2d. From

2d. From its weight, which should weight. exceed five pounds.

3d. From the figure of the head, Figure of Parts, &c. An incomplete child has a deformed face refembling an old perfon, with a wide mouth and slender ears like membranes; its eyes are shut; the hair of its head is of a whitish cast; the division between the bones of the skull, called the rhomfoidal suture, gapes wide; the bones themselves are moveable; and the lips of the mouth resemble pieces of bloody slesh.

4. From its habit of body, which Habit of is for the most part thin and tender, and covered with a short down, and is of a reddish hue, particularly on the extremities and the face. If it be a male, the scrotum is of a round figure, and the testicles are not contained in it.

5th. From its limbs, which are Limbs. thin and weak, and the nails upon its fingers

fingers are foft, short, not extending beyond the singers; nay, if it be very small, as of one or two months, the nails are by no means perceptible, either upon the singers or the toes.

Conformation of bones. 6th. From the conformation or constitution of its bones; for it is evident from experience, that in every month of gestation, there is some alteration in this respect; ex. gr. in a feetus of sive months, the orbits of the eyes are entirely formed into bony sockets, and in one of seven months, the small bones, subservient to the organ of hearing are so perfect, as scarcely to differ from those of a complete child.

Umbilical cord.

7th. From the umbilical cord, which is very slender.

Other cir-

8th. From other curious circumfrances which attend this little embryo, fuch as a constant indulgence in sleep, an abstaining from crying, an intolerance of cold, an indisposition to

fuck,

fuck, or to use its limbs, or the muscles of other parts, fuch as those which are fubfervient to the evacuation of urine, or the depositing of the meconium.

The figns by which we distinguish Signs of a perfect child are taken,

perfect

ist. From its fize, its length be- size, ing at least one foot fix inches.

2d. From its weight, which weight. should be at least fix pounds.

3d. From the formation of its Formation bones, which is known only by experience. But in general a child can hardly be called complete, all whose bones and every part are not entirely formed, though age may give fome addition to their fubftance.

> 4th. From the umbilical cord, Umbilical cord.

which is thick and firm, 5th. From other circumstances, Other ciropposite to those in that which was imperfect, fuch as that he cries, moves his limbs, opens his eyes, fucks

at the breast, is not always asleep, can bear cold, has a white skin, can evacuate urine and the fæces, has long nails, and his head covered with hair.

That which relates to the con-

Monsters what, formation of a child, after it is brought into the world, is distinguished into monstrous, and not monstrous: the former including all deviations from the ordinary figure of man. Monsters are again divided into perfect and imperfect. A perfect monster is that which absolutely differs in all its parts, from the human appearance, as when it refembles any brute animals, as a dog, an ape, &c. An imperfect monster is where only a partial alteration is made in its figure; and this may again differ, according as this partial alteration is made in the head, or other parts; and this as it may be born without a head, or with the head of a beast, &c. Where a monster differs

from a complete child, in other parts

befides

Perfect:

Imperfect.

besides the head, it is distinguished into two forts, as any parts in general are affected, or as more particularly the change is wrought in the genitals only, and then it is called an herma-Hermaphrodite, which is likewise perfect or phrodite. imperfect.

In an enquiry into the nature of monsters in general, three objects of confideration present themselves. 1st. What is the cause of Monsters? 2d. Whether they are possessed of life? 3d. Whether a perfect monster can be confidered as a human being?

Ist. The cause of monsters is vari-Monsters. ous, as depending on fuch changes in the constitution of the mother, as can hardly be accounted for.

Whatever view we take of the Theory of theory of generation, whether a ger-generation. men be formed in the ovarium of the female, which is only impregnated by the femen of the male, or whether the homunculus is contained in that semen,

and the female affords a nidus for its formation; still we see a strong refemblance to both parents in their offspring: and accidents, or other causes, contribute to make an entire alteration in the form of the fœtus, and produce monsters. We will not suppose unnatural connections, or that any impregnation can arise from that fource; but imagination has a great power over the body of a female, especially during gestation; and the fluid in which the fœtus swims, or the womb itself may be disordered, so as to occasion great changes. Neither need we have recourse to the theory of the ingenious Buffon to explain how these are brought about; or suppose that every part of the human body has a representation in the fecundating quality of both parents, to form its construction. The first rudiments or germen of the human body is not a human creature, if it be even a living

a living one; it is a foundation only upon which the human superstructure is raised. This is evident to anatomical observation. Were a child to be born of the shape which it presents in the first stages of pregnancy, it would be a monster indeed, as great as any which was ever brought to light. How easy then is it for disorder to prevent the exertion of that plastic force, which is necessary to form a complete animal.

2d. Monsters may live, but it de- Whether pends on what parts are affected, how month long life shall be continued to them. Where the monstrous parts are confined to the extremities, or even to those places which distinguish hermaphrodites, we find from experience, that the vital powers are strong and vigorous; and were it not that fuch beings often fly from fociety, lead fedantary lives, and are deprived of fome wholesome exercises to the hu-

man constitution, life might be enjoyed by them, and to as great an extent as by any other persons.

Are there perfect monsters?

3d. With regard to perfect monsters, most of the authorities which assert that any thing of that kind can
exist, seem to be of no credit. But
should any ever appear, we should
consider that it is not form or shape,
but reason and intelligence, which
distinguish human creatures from brute
animals.

Hermaphrodites what. We are next to consider the nature of hermaphrodites; and as these are living beings, and sometimes capable of all the functions of society, such distinctions ought to be made relating to them, as will place their situation in the most proper light, and the most favourable to their happiness. They are great objects of our pity and complacency, for they are not only deprived of the common pleasures of mankind, but are subject to disorders which

which are painful, uncomfortable, and inconvenient. A perfect hermaphro- Perfect. dite or a being partaking of the diftinguishing marks of both sexes, with a power of enjoyment from each, is not believed by any one ever to have existed. Imperfect hermaphrodites, Impersect. or monsters whose organs of generation are affected, are frequently prefented to us. They may be divided, according to the fexes, into what are called androgynus, and androgyna. Androgy. The first is the male, who has in general his own organs tolerably perfect, but has some division in the flesh above, below, on or in the fcrotum, which puts on the appearance of the female pudendum. The penis likewife may be so obliterated, as to give no external appearance of the male, but the beard, and the constitution of his body, confirm him to be of that fex. The androgyna is a woman, Androgyna who has the parts of generation nearly nogu

like another, but at the fame time the clitoris grows to a great fize, and gives the form of the male penis. This is a very inconvenient disorder, as she is fometimes deprived of the pleafures peculiar to her fex, and fuffers much from disorders of the part. From her breafts, and the deficiency of beard however, the is distinguished from the male; though it frequently and unfortunately happens, that fuch women are more subject than others to robust and masculine constitutions. It is evident that the fexes here are as completely marked as in other perfons, and to all legal intents and purposes, they are man and woman.

Hermaphrodites, how far impotent.

Should theymarry?

Some important enquiries may arise upon this subject. As 1st. How far they are to be considered as impotent. This is, I believe, generally the case, but not always, and must depend upon proof. 2d. Whether they should be permitted to marry? This depends

upon the former, but must, I should think, be left to their own choice. 3d. Whether change of the fexes May they might be allowed? This is certainly change fex? contradicted in the terms, and will admit of no dispute.

With regard to the state of life of a child, the following question requires to be decided: At what time may a fœtus be supposed to begin to live? To answer this we must consider, that conception is made in the ovarium of a female after coition with a male, concepwhen the fubtile aura of the femen hath fo far penetrated into the germen, which may be supposed to contain the outline of the future man, as to produce a turgescence and motion of its circulating humours. At this time it may be faid, that life begins, i. e. immediately after conception. Hence those seem to err, 1st. who would perfuade us, that the fœtus acquires life when it is so particularly active,

a fœtus begin to live?

that

that the mother becomes sensible of its motions. 2d. Those who think that life does not begin till the feventh or fourteenth day, or even till a month after conception. And 3d. Those who suppose that a fœtus, as long as it continues in the womb, where it does not breathe, cannot be called a living animal. The whole depends on our ideas of life and animation, and the act of generation to create it. If generation be the cause of animating the rudiments of the future being, and if that animation be construed to be understood by what is meant by life, then it must certainly begin immediately after conception, and nothing but the arbitrary forms of human institutions can make it otherwise.

Seat of the foul.

On this occasion we may enquire, what part of the human body is the feat of animation, or the foul? To which we answer, that evidently it re-

fides

fides most conspicuously in the brain, because that substance being hurt, all the faculties of the foul become difordered; and because all the nerves of the body, which are the great instruments of action, are derived from it as a fountain. But it cannot be fupposed that the whole of the brain is the immediate feat of the foul; it is probably confined to what is called the sensorium commune, or a small part from whence the nerves, destined to fense and voluntary motions, draw their origin; as they do likewise from an appendix to it, called the medulla oblongata.

The next thing to be confidered is, what what kind of children, when born into have the the world, are to be deemed endued power of with life, or have a prospect of living; for a fœtus cannot live out of the womb of its mother?

1st. Then, no abortion can be No aborsaid to be endued with life, for if there

be some signs of life when it is brought into the world, it cannot continue to live, for it can neither take the aliment which is necessary to its sustenance, nor if it could take it, can it change such gross food into its tender nature. Some authors have afferted, that children of sive and six months have lived, but this is probably a mistake, it being generally agreed, that infants so young cannot sustain the inclemencies to which they must be subject.

Children of feven months.

2d. Children of feven months, or one hundred and eighty-two days after marriage, may live, though generally they are puny, and continue but a short time on earth.

Children above feven months. 3d. All children above seven months are supposed to be endued with vital principles, and of consequence are allowed the privilege of life.

The next subject of consideration, is that of twins, suppositious births, and superfectation.

The

The right of primogeniture must Twinshow be determined in natural births, by that which was first born into the world, and which must be decided by the by-standers. If the delivery, however, be made by a paffage effected by art, the choice depending on the will of the furgeon, no proper determination can possibly be made.

In the affair of suppositious births, supposititwo questions occur, according as the birth is performed or not. In the

former case, a physician may judge, Ist. From those figns in the mother, Signs to which distinguish her having been de-

livered of a child. 2d. From those figns which refer to her incapacity of conception. 3d. From figns of im-

potency in the father. 4th. From the umbilical cord in the child not appearing as of one just delivered. Some

persons look upon the diffimilitude to the parents to be a fign, but this

must be very fallacious. Where the

fup-

fuppositious birth depends on the prefent state of pregnancy, either the proper figns must be examined, or we must wait the event, should those figns deceive us.

The impregnation of a woman al-Superfœta- ready pregnant, is called a superfœtation. This is either true or false; the former is when it happens in the womb itself; the latter when one fœtus is deposited in the womb, the other in the ovarium, the fallopian tube, or the cavity of the abdomen.

Requisites.

The following requifites are neceffary to a superfectation. Ift. The pregnant woman ought to bear two children, each of a distinct age. 2d. The delivery of these children should be at different times, at a confiderable distance from each other. 3d. The woman must be pregnant, and a nurse at the fame time.

There have been many doubts about the reality of this superfocation, but but there is no disputing of facts, for which see Gravel on Superfætation, Eisenman's Anatomical Tables, and the Leipsic Memoirs, 1725.

How this superfectation is accomplished, is a matter of enquiry, and depends in a great measure on the constitution, or rather the formation of the womb of the mother.

The last thing to be considered un- Legitimacy der this head of parturition, is the legitimacy or illegality of births; and this is divided into the time when a Divided child is born after conception, and the conformation of its body. With refpect to time, physically considered, (for laws may be as arbitrary as they please in this respect) all abortions, too early births, children of nine months, and those who are late born, even to ten months, may be confidered as legitimate in old marriages. Illegitimate with respect to the time of birth, are all perfect and mature children,

dren, who are born in the fixth or feventh month after the celebration of marriage; and all late births, when extended to the eleventh, twelfth, or thirteenth month, especially if the husband died of a chronic or lingering difease.

Causes of delay in delivery. There are many causes alledged to occasion a delay or prolongation of delivery, such as great care and anxiety, some severe diseases, as violent hemorrhages, a phthisical disposition, &c. but these one should imagine would rather hasten than retard such a circumstance. Experience is the only guide we can follow in such cases, and, for the sake of humanity, the longest time that can be fairly proved should be the standard to which we should refer.

Legitimacy from form. With respect to the conformation of the body, all children may be considered legitimate, who are born at or after seven months; but all abortions are illegitimate. Monsters likewise are not to be excluded for any trifling alterations; but where all appearances of human nature are obliterated, it would be wrong to take advantage of such a birth.

CHAP. III.

DIVORCES

T is generally allowed, that varil ous disorders may constitute na-Grounds of tural grounds for a divorce between two married persons; and notwithstanding the laws of particular countries are generally founded on local customs, and do not always refer to the natural reasons, yet, as no other concern the medical person, and as they are proper to be known, no furtherapology is necessary for their infertion in this place.

divorce.

Those disorders, or rather as they may be called defects of the human constitution, which seem to constitute the natural reasons for a divorce, are fuch as are an absolute impediment to the procreation of children.

They

They are of two kinds, according as they have for their subject the organs of generation or not. The former may be divided into impotence in men, and sterility in women, which is either absolute or continual, or such as eludes all human art to remove.

Absolute impotence in men takes Impotence. place,

are deprived of both testicles, which being receptacles of the semen, without them no generation can be performed.

2d. When they are spadones, or spadones, fuch as have the nerves or muscles leading to the parts of generation bruised, so as to deprive them of all perception of the venereal appetite.

3d. When the penis is too fhort, short penis being amputated for difease.

4th. When the penis is perforated Penis perin fuch a manner, that the semen cannot be thrown out with sufficient force.

D

This rule is to be admitted, with forme limitation, as the theory of generation is not sufficiently established to determine with accuracy this point.

Schirrous testicles. 5th. When both testicles are become schirrous, so as not to be capable of a cure.

Semen watry. 6th. When the femen is too watry, and will not admit of amendment. This too being a difease that admits of a cure, should not determine absolutely.

Penisthick. 7th. When the penis is too thick.

This is likewife only relative.

Phymofis.

8th. When the preputium is so constructed or fastened to the glans penis, as not to admit of relief by a surgical operation. This disease is called capistration.

Schirrous vehculæ feminales. 9th. When the vesiculæ seminales are become schirrous.

Difeases grounds for divorce. Those disorders, which are an impediment to the procreation of children, and which are not derived from

the

the organs of generation, are fuch as are of a highly contagious nature, or create an unconquerable aversion; such as the lues venerea, melancholy, epilepfy, feurvy, fcrophula, and a highly fætid and disagreeable breath. But it is to be hoped, for the honour of phyfic, and the benefit of humanity, that fuch diseases will meet with their proper cure: and indeed in all the cases here mentioned, as the happiness of individuals is fo much concerned, and the public good on the other hand fo much to be studied, it is necessary that the observations be made with the greatest care, and that the maturest judgment of the physician be exercifed with difcretion.

Absolute sterility in a woman, so sterility, as to unsit her for matrimonial duties, are,

aft. When the parts destined to Parts imgeneration are so imperforate as not to perforate.

D 2 admit

admit of any relief without incurring great danger of life.

Fluor albus

2d. When she is so grievously afflicted with the fluor albus, (vulgarly
called the whites) as not to admit of
any cure. Much care and attention
are here however requisite, and many
medicines are to be tried before an abfolute judgment be made: nay, I
should think much experience must
be admitted, and the husband likewife be examined carefully with regard to his own abilities.

Vagina Arait. 3d. When the vagina is too strait and narrow, upon account of schirrous tumours, or of any other kind which it is impossible to remove.

Orifice of womb 4th. When the orifice into the uterus is entirely closed. This will be known not only by the touch, but by the retention of the menstrual flux, which in time will force a passage, or from the dreadful symptoms it induces, require the hand of the surgeon

to procure it. This can hardly be called therefore an absolute impediment.

5th. When there is an ulcer in Ulcer of the uterus, or the passages to it, which womb. fometimes is of fo corroding a nature, as to penetrate the rectum and bladder of urine. There are many other Internal causes of sterility, which are derived eased. from injuries or obstructions in the internal parts destined to generation. But here all is darkness, and it would be cruel to determine by any other, than what are quite evident upon inspection and accurate examination of the parts.

Before this subject be dismissed, Defects in it may be necessary to mention some other circumstances, which, although they may not render either fex absolutely impotent, yet may be considered as defects, and some hindrance to the generative powers, but by no means constitute reasons for a divorce : ig-

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norant

norant persons may consider them as such; this error is therefore to be guarded against.

Those which occur in the male fex are, where they are,

Monorchides. only one testicle. These are by no means incapacitated, as the secretion only is made in that organ from which it is carried to the vesiculæ seminales, and there deposited for use. So that one testicle is as efficacious as two, and the secretion is always proportioned to the evacuation.

Triorchides, 2d. Triorchides, or those who have three testicles.

Spadones.

3d. Spadones, where one tefticle only is bruifed.

Androgyni.

4th. Androgyni, for which see the account of hermaphrodites in the last chapter.

Circumcision. 5th. Those who are circumcised. This is an advantage rather than a hindrance.

6th. Those who have remedied Paraphimoss cured this defect by art.

7th. Chrysporchides, or those Chrysporchides, whose testicles do not lie in the scrotum, but in the abdomen, or in the groin.

8th. Those who labour under a Phymosis. phimosis, which is a disorder where the præputium is brought over the glans penis, and cannot be retracted but by art.

9th. Those who have the præpu- Præputium buttoned over the glans.

or shorter than natural, unless in very short penis. great extremes.

Women cannot be faid to be inca- Defects in pacitated totally.

only temporary, and may be remedied by art.

2d. When they have too large a Large cliclitoris, or nymphæ.

D 4

Androgynæ

3d. When they are androgynæ, or hermaphrodites from other causes.

Parts large.

4th. When they have the pudendum too large and wide.

Flow of menses.

5th. When they have an irregular flow of the menses.

Rupture of perinæum.

6th. When they have fuffered in delivery a rupture of the perinaum, or the space between the fundament and pudendum.

CHAP. IV.

ON RAPES.

I N the consideration of rapes, three objects of attention present themfelves.

Ist. Whether a rape, strictly so Objects of called, be possible?

2d. Whether a woman, upon a rape being committed, can become pregnant?

3d. What are the figns of a rape being perpetrated?

Ist. In answer to the first question, Is a rape whether a rape be possible, meaning possible? upon a grown person, it may be neceffary to divide it into two parts, as it is distinguished into the attempt and the confummation of a rape. The Attempt. attempt, under which is to be underflood a great force exercised over a woman to violate her chastity, but

where

Confummation.

where a compleat coition is prevented, may be possible. But the confummation of a rape, by which is meant a compleat, full, and entire coition, which is made without any confent or permission of the woman, feems to be impossible, unless some very extraordinary circumstances occur: for a woman always poileffes fufficient power, by drawing back her limbs, and by the force of her hands, to prevent the infertion of the penis into her body, whilst she can keep her refolution entire. Besides, it is evident that a leffer refistance can prevail against the motion of any body which acts against the weight; and that is the cafe here: the penis, in attempting an immission into the vagina, moves a body against the weight.

Does pregnancy follow a rape?

2d. With respect to the next question, whether a woman, upon whom a rape hath been committed, can become pregnant? It may be necessary

ceffary to enquire how far her lust was excited, or if she experienced any enjoyment. For without an excitation of lust, or the enjoyment of pleasure in the venereal act, no conception can probably take place. So that if an absolute rape were to be perpetrated, it is not likely she would become pregnant.

3d. The figns of a rape having signs of been perpetrated, or rather attempted, rape. are taken from the evacuation of blood from the injured parts, and great swelling and inflammation. But as these may be induced by other means, or are not inconsistent with consent having been obtained, they can only be considered as corroborating, but not as certain proofs.

As rapes however are fometimes committed upon young children, who may have the figns of their virginity obliterated by them, it may be necessary to consider what are those figns,

Signs of wirginity. and what are the marks of their being destroyed. The signs of virginity then, may be allowed to be the following.

1st. The lips of the pudendum are more prominent, and close together.

2d. The nymphæ are small, endued with a light rose colour, and do not extend out of their place.

3d. The prepuce of the clitoris is finall, and does not cover the glans.

4. The orifice of the urethra, or urinary passage, is entirely covered.

5th. The wrinkles of the vagina are considerable, and raised above the surface.

6th. A bridle or frænulum appears before the lips of the pudendum.

7th. The hymen is likewise prefent, by which is meant a thin tense, membrane, situated at the entrance into the vagina, being sometimes of an oval sigure, sometimes circular, and

fome-

fometimes femilunar, and flutting up greatest part of the passage. This hymen hath been esteemed a certain mark of virginity, when other circumstances concur to give it authority. It is not, however, by any means abfolute, even in the youngest subjects; for it may be fo concealed in the back of the vagina, as not to be perceptible at first fight, or it may be destroyed or obliterated by a variety of causes, besides a connection with a male. A fresh rupture of it, however, may be perceived, and fome remains of it will continue evident for fome time.

The marks by which it is most probable that a female hath accus- having used tomed herself to venereal habits, and of consequence is less to be believed upon a deposition for a rape, are the following.

Ist. The lips of the pudendum are flaccid and distended more than in a maiden.

2d. The

2d. The clitoris is enlarged, and hath a prepuce which covers the glans arising from constant friction, and is produced to defend it from injuries, in proportion as it is exposed to them.

3d. The nymphæ are likewise enlarged, and are of a lighter and more obscure colour.

4th. The orifice into the urinary passage is more open and exposed. This is owing to the flaccidity of the labiæ.

5th. The hymen is wanting, as may naturally be supposed, but it is not to stand as a test by itself, where the other circumstances do not occur.

6th. Some finall excrescences arise in the shape of the berries of the myrtle (called from thence carunculæ myrtiformes) at the entrance into the vagina.

7th. The vagina is enlarged and fpacious, and this even where there has been no parturition.

8th. The

8th. The wrinkles are less prominent, and in length of time are quite obliterated.

oth. The orifice of the uterus approaches nearer than before to the orifice of the vagina. This, however, must be entirely relative, as the extent of the vagina must differ in every subject; and besides, it presumes upon an acquaintance with the person previous to the habit she is engaged in, which is not easily to be acquired.

A orly whiteness that the A.

CHAP. V.

OF THE MURDER OF INFANTS.

Confined to what ages. to the youngest and most helpless part of the human species, and is confined to them in three states of their existence: just before they are born, at the time of delivery, and immediately or soon after they are brought into the world. The two last may be included together, and constitute child murder, strictly so called, and the other the murder of a child in its abortive state, or the premature delivery of it so as to procure its death.

State of the mother.

We shall first consider the state of the mother, after she has been delivered of a child, as a leading fact upon which much depends with regard to the destruction either of infants or

abor-

abortions, and then the particular nature of each of these homicides.

The figns that a woman hath been signs of delivered of a child, are of two kinds, delivery. as this circumstance is recent, or has happened for fome time back. The figns of the former are,

1st. An extraordinary fwelling of the external parts of generation.

2d. A preternatural distension of the vagina.

3d. A flow of the lochia, which is a discharge that differs from the common menstrual flux, in being of a paler colour, and having a fourish difagreeable fmell.

4th. The orifice into the uterus is foft and open, as if a late discharge had been made from it; the womb itself too not having properly collapfed and taken its natural shape.

5th. There is a roughness and flaccidity of the abdomen, which is fometimes covered likewife with wrinkles.

E

6th. The breafts are fwelled to a larger fize than common, and are hard and troublesome to the touch, sometimes loaded with excrescences that feel like schirri.

7th. Milk is found in the breafts, which, when curdled, forms the knots above-mentioned, and may be extracted from them by pressure, or by suction.

8th. The nipples become thick and strong, and the disk round them is much widened.

Former.

The figns that a woman hath formerly been delivered of a child, are the following.

Ist. All the figns of her having lost her virginity in the last chapter.

2d. The orifice of the womb has not its usual conic figure, and is more open than in a maiden.

3d. The lips of the orifice of the womb are unequal.

4th. There is a roughness of the abdomen, which is likewise more expanded, and penfile or hanging down.

5th. There are small white and fhining lines running on the abdomen.

6th. The frænum of the labiæ pudendi is obliterated.

7th. The breasts are more flaccid and pendulous.

8th. The lines on the breafts are white and splendid.

9th. The colour of the disk is brown.

10th. The nipples are prominent.

11th. There is a prominence of the inner coat of the womb.

12th. There is fometimes an inversion of this body.

The marks of abortion depend on Marks of the length of the pregnancy, and must be referred to the judgment of the phyfician, &c. In general they are only those of lost virginity. Vide last chapter.

In order to explain those distinctions by which we are to know that an infant who has been found dead and exposed, was murdered by any inhuman hands or not, we should divide them,

Division of the figns of murder.

- I. Into those signs by which we know that the child might be born alive, and afterwards be destroyed.
- II. Those more evident marks, by which we ascertain that it was brought into the world dead.
- III. Those which accurately point out, that force and violence were exercised to deprive it of existence.
- IV. Those more particular distinctions which are to be made upon a thorough inspection and dissection of the dead body.

Signs that a child was born alive.

I. We know that a child has been born alive, when we find that it has exercised any of the vital actions, by which is meant, not those similar actions by which life is supported when

when the foctus remains in the womb, but those real actions which are in force after the child is brought into the world. These are the circulation of the blood, and respiration, such as is enjoyed by animals after their birth.

The following may be esteemed signs of cirproofs that a child hath enjoyed the blood, circulation of its blood after it is born, and thus may be faid to be born alive.

- Ift. The mother, during the whole state of her pregnancy, must have enjoyed a good state of health, and have perceived the motions of the infant to the time of her delivery.
- 2d. The child, when born, must be of a proper length and weight, Vide chap. ii. p. 15.
- 3d. The blood veffels of the child must not be replete with blood.
- 4th. There must be a settlement of blood in divers parts of the external furface of the skin.

5th. The body of the child must not be rough nor flaccid.

6th. The umbilical cord should be full of juice, and of a white colour.

7th. The placenta, if it be to be found, should be turgid, and its vessels full of blood.

8th. In places that may be pressed in different parts of the body, the blood ought to stagnate, and become congulated.

9th. A froth should appear upon the mouth of the infant, and stick about its lips.

pearance of a natural delivery.

It should be remarked here, that these signs should be taken collectively; scarcely any of them will avail when taken separate from each other.

The figns that an infant has respiration breathed after it is brought into the world, are,

- 1st. The act of vociferation after delivery, if positive proof of such a circumstance can be obtained.
- 2d. The lungs being endued with a colour approaching to a white, being of less specific weight than others, when the child never breathed thro' them, and being put into water, having a disposition to swim in it. This will be confidered more fully.
- 3d. The lungs are more expanded than in dead subjects, and previous to delivery adhere to or rather fill up the cavity of the thorax.
- II. The figns by which we can in signs of an some measure determine that an infant ing dead was brought into the world dead, are to be derived from the following circumstances, and which appear to be of the utmost note.
- Ist. When the mother has been for some time afflicted during the time of her pregnancy, with various severe disorders.

2d. When she has not perceived for some time the motions of the infant in her womb.

3d. When upon a diffection of the head of the infant, the brain appears fluid like water, and has not its usual substance.

4th. When the heart and other blood-vessels are filled with thick and coagulated blood.

5th. When the body of the infant has its flesh collapsed and contracted, its skin soft and flabby, and its whole appearance of a red or scarlet colour.

6th. When compressions on the surface are attended with no ecchymofes, or stagnations of blood.

7th. When the blood is of a putrid nature, whilst it continues in the vessels.

8th. When there are evident figns of a putrefaction having taken place, whilst the child was in the womb, such as a separation of the cuticle from the

next furface of the skin; the umbilical cord being rotten, wrinkled, of a yellow colour, and as if melting away; a swelling of the abdomen, and a soft tumefaction of the whole body.

9th. When the umbilical cord is not only rotten, but devoid of humours.

of the infant are fofter and more difjoined than in one born alive.

11th. When other internal parts besides the brain are found corrupted and decayed.

birth, at the time of delivery, or foon after, is in a state of corruption.

13th. When there is a defect of the excrement in the large intestines, and of urine in the bladder destined to its use.

14th. When parturition was exceedingly laborious.

dense than in a live subject, have a red colour, subside in water when they are thrown into it, and are so collapsed as not to fill up the cavity of the thorax.

to their several functions, with respect to length and thickness.

17th. When the little body of the child, if perceived foon after delivery, is not found warm to the feeling.

18th. When the blood flows from the mother in a superabundant quantity, both before and after delivery.

19th. When the mother, during her pregnant state, has been excited to a high degree of anger, or impressed with extraordinary fears.

20th. When she has suffered a great injury during that state, especially in the abdomen.

very a strong mephitic smell may be

perceived to iffue from the external parts of generation.

22d. When there is a subsidence of the futures upon the top of the head in the child, without any marks of violent depression.

23d. When the meconium, a kind of fæces, flows from the child at the time of delivery.

A great handle hath been made of swimming the fwimming, or subsidence of the oflungs exlungs. When other circumstances are taken into confideration, it may be a corroborating proof, but can by no means be absolute of itself; for the lungs may fwim from putrefaction, where a child is born dead, or from inflation by a blow-pipe, or other means. On the other hand, the lungs may fubfide in a child that is born alive: for a child may live, or have its circulation perfect, some time before it begins to breathe.

Signs of violence to procure death. III. We are to confider how to form a judgment, concerning any violence that may have been used to procure the death of a child, and this we derive from the following circumstances.

From wounds.

ist. When at the time of inspection, marks of certain injuries, such as might have been inslicted upon an adult, as fractures or wounds, are evident to the senses.

From fuffocation. of suffocation, or strangulation, such as a remarkable compression of the thorax or chest; the aspera arteria, or wind-pipe, being silled with serum or mucus; a redness or lividity of the countenance; the tongue swelling and prominent; a red or livid circular line about the neck; the cavities of the mouth and nose sull of extraneous matter; a falling in of the slesh about the scrobiculum cordis, or pit of the stomach; the lungs livid, silled with blood, and heavier than usual; the vapours

vapours of fulphur burnt extending to the lungs; the cavities of the heart, as the right auricle and ventricle, being filled and expanded with blood; the jugular veins, and those about the head, being also distended with blood; a froth about the mouth; the bladder empty of urine; the child being found in places where he is liable to be deftroyed by dirt or water, as in ditches or lakes; and laftly, its being oppressed foon after delivery by bed-cloaths, or other coverings which might deprive it of life.

3d. When there are evident marks Luxation of the luxation of the neck, taken not only from the flaccidity of the head and neck, but from depressions about the parts, which are wide and deep.

4th. When there are evident marks of injuries to the skull, as great depressions and blots near to the futures, which arise from extravasations of blood and ferum, and appear either under

Injuries of

the

the skin, or in the hemisphere of the brain, or in its venticles, or in the base of the skull.

Umbilical cord not sied.

5th. When the umbilical cord does not appear to have been tied, or is entirely torn off from the body. It should be observed, that the neglect of tying the umbilical cord is not always the immediate cause of death to an infant, but only when, from such defect, a mortal hæmorrhage arises, and which may be known,

When the caufe of death.

- of the body is quite pallid.
- 2d. When the great blood veffels, and the cavities of the brain, are empty of blood.
- 3d. When there is a rupture of the cord in delivery, and the mother has fuffered much homorrhage both before and after that event.

Circumftances on infpection. IV. It is necessary, perhaps, in many cases where a suspicion of murder is great, but the facts are not so evident,

evident, to exercise the judgment as well as the observation of the person employed to give a deposition. And here are fome rules necessary to be obferved to execute his intention in a mafterly, judicious, and accurate manner. In the first place, he should confider, whether the body be in a state of Putrefatputrefaction or not, and whether that putrefaction is in fuch a degree as to preclude all observation. If that be not the case, perhaps an examination may be made upon the bones of the head, or other parts, so far as to afcer. tain,

- Ist. Whether the foctus be of mature growth, and this may be known from the fize as well as the conformation of them.
- 2d. Whether fuch violences have been used as to injure these parts, as by fractures, &c.

If a degree of putrefaction has not taken place, so far as to preclude our obserobservation, the rules may be divided into those that relate to the inspection, and those that relate to the diffection of the body.

When a proper inspection is made, we should examine,

Clothes.

Ist. Whether the clothes in which the child is wrapped up be tinged with blood, or whether there be any blood upon the external furface of the skin.

Sex and growth.

2d. Of what fex the child is, and whether it be come to mature growth.

Superficies of the body.

3d. The whole superficies of the body is to be examined from head to foot, to see whether there are any ecchymoses, or stagnations of blood; livid spots, or blots of various colours; whether the skin itself be grown livid, with or without any signs of violence, or other injuries, such as punctures in the head or neck, luxations, and subsidence of the sutures, with or without any violent depression.

4th. The heat of the face, in particular, and of the whole body, are to be attended to. And here we must guard against deception, for a dead foctus may partake in some measure of the heat of the mother; so that if a dead soctus were to be examined immediately after delivery, and a child born alive, some little time after death, they might both enjoy the same degree of heat. Other circumstances then here must be taken into the account.

and nose are to be examined, to see whether any foreign matter is deposited in them. This cannot be, unless the child had enjoyed life so far as to open these passages. We should observe likewise, whether it has grasped anything in its hands, as this is a certain proof of life.

6th. We should examine the um · umbilical bilical cord, whether it adhere to the cord.

denfity,

F placenta,

placenta, if it be tied, or is broken or cut off, and what is its colour, and what its length.

Placenta.

7th. The placenta, or after-birth, likewise should be examined, to see whether it adhere to the umbilical cord; whether it be dry or moist, and how far it may have become schirrous.

Appearances on diffection. We are next to consider, what is to be done upon a diffection of the body, and this ought never to be omitted: and here the following rules should be observed.

Principal cavities to be opened.

ift. All the three principal cavities of the body, the head, the thorax or cheft, and the abdomen or belly, should be opened, to discover any injuries that may have happened to the substances contained in them, and the great vessels which run through them.

Lungs ex-

2d. The lungs should be properly examined, and every enquiry made into their colour, connection, density,

density, substance, and specific gravity; and whether they may not be indurated in some places, and how far they exhibit signs of putrefaction.

3d. The afpera arteria, or wind-wind-pipe. pipe, should be cut through, to discover how far it is filled with mucus or ferum. The great veffels, and the cavities of the heart likewise, should be opened, not only to observe how far they are full or empty of blood, but that the colour and confistence of that fluid may be afcertained. Having made these observations, the lungs, with the heart, are to be cut out of the body. After this the heart is to be separated from them, and the veffels tied: they are then to be thrown into a large bason of moderately warm water, and it is to be observed how far they fink or fwim in it. After this, each tube of the lungs is to be examined separately, and the same obfervations to be made upon it.

F 2

Vifcera of abdomen. 4th. All the other viscera, but particularly those of the abdomen, are to be examined, but the great intestines especially, to see whether they are full of meconium, and the bladder if it be exhausted of urine.

We cannot help lamenting here, that although fo much is required, fo little is generally done in these cases; and that an innocent life is often facrificed to hurry, to negligence, or ignorance; whilst a wretch who is devoid of shame, escapes from punishment, for want of judgment, accuracy, and attention. And it is to be hoped that this little treatife will meet the attention of judges and lawyers in this particular circumstance, which so often comes before them, to the shame and fcandal of humanity; and that they will be enabled to correct the errors of coroners, or ignorant furgeons, who may have been misled in the depositions they give in. It is a misfor-

rune, that men of eminence in the phyfical line fly from bars of judicature, as places of trouble and examination. It may be necessary, therefore, to give the courts fuch checks upon ignorance, as will ferve to discover the truth.

The next thing to be confidered Abortions. before we finish this chapter, is with respect to abortions, or the destruction of those unborn embryos which were never brought into the world: and indeed as fuch beings might live, and become of use to mankind, and as they may be supposed from the time indeed of conception, to be living animated beings, there is no doubt but the destruction of them ought to be considered as a capital crime. It is neces- No medifary then, that we enquire whether any procure it. medicines can be given, or other means used, absolutely to procure this effect; and indeed it is evident, I believe, from experience, that fuch F 3 things

without the aid of those predisposing causes, or natural habits of the body, which are necessary to concur with them. As attempts of this kind, however, should not be passed off with impunity, and as the life of the mother, as well as the child, is ena negered by such exhibitions, if advised by any other, they should be considered as highly culpable, and for this reason should be made known.

Methods generally ufed. The common methods made use of are the stronger vomits and purges, venæsection to a great degree, all that class of medicines called emmenagogues, and those which have a tendency to promote salivation. External methods are, irritations of the mouth of the womb, strong passions of the mind, painful disorders, severs, &c. The predisposing causes must be, great fullness of the blood, irritability of the womb, a defect in the nutriment

of the fœtus, a womb that will not fuffer itself to be distended beyond a certain degree, and a morbid disposition of the placenta.

It is to be lamented here too, that whilft this crime, which is practifed generally by the most abandoned, escapes unpunished, a poor deluded creature, in the case of infant murder, whose shame highly extenuates her guilt, should suffer death, where nature had acted so forcibly as almost to overcome her fatal resolutions, and had taken away all power to put in practice the subtle contrivances of art.

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CHAP. VI.

ON HOMICIDE.

Nature of

HAT wonderful machine of which human nature is composed, which is directed and ordered by a contrivance unknown to the wifest of men, and which gives birth to all our pleasures and enjoyments, contains nothing in itself to perpetuate its own existence. A very little derangement of its functions, or of its acting principles, will deprive it of life, and destroy all its powers of action. The most common methods by which men lofe their lives, are by difeases which are generally, though impioufly, attributed to the hand of God: for what we incur by our own vices and imprudence, what by the passions and evil dispositions of others preying upon our spirits, and what by bad cuftoms and habits, we must attribute more

How deprived of life.

By difeafe.

more of death to any other cause, than what is affigned. Where death is occasioned in any other manner than by difease, it is called natural, where it Natural arises from some accident, which shall cause. immediately cause a dissolution of our powers; or homicide where it is effect. Homicide. ed by the violent hand of another. In fuch a case, the law justly retaliates upon the offender, where it is committed from anger and malice, and is not, as in the case of war, protected by the fovereign influence of princes.

Where it comes under the cognizance of a court of judicature, the enquire. greatest circumspection and attention are required, and the laws of all countries have appointed proper officers previous to any trial, and as foon as possible after the murder, to enquire into the causes and nature of it, how it was committed, and what appearances present themselves upon inspection.

In

Directions how to examine. In the examination which is made, (before a decision be pronounced) the following directions are necessary to be observed.

When to be made, and where.

I. The examination of the dead body should be as soon as possible after death, in the day time, at a proper place, where a dissection, if necessary, (and it is almost always necessary) may be performed, and not according to vulgar custom, where it is found, let it be ever so improper, and likewise by proper instruments, such as are generally used by surgeons in their dissections, and not by coarse and rude knives and scissars, which may mangle and tear the body, but cannot ascertain the cause of its death.

Accurate infpection of found body.

II. Before a diffection be proposed, a very accurate inspection should be made upon the sound body, in order to discover how far the death was occasioned by suffocation from mineral vapours, the fermentation of new li-

quor, the burning of charcoal, or the electric shock of lightning. In such cases, except the last, and then they do not feem to be the cause of the death, no marks are to be found.

III. Upon a further inspection, it is spots on the to be examined 1st. into any deviations body. from the natural state of the external superficies of the body, as whether there are any spots which are derived from the blood's escaping into vessels not fitted to convey it; ecchymofes, which are flagnations arifing under the fkin, or pericranium of the head; or any other spots in the external surface; and of these we are to examine the fituation, magnitude, figure, and number. We must examine likewise, under this head, the nature of any tu- Tumours. mours which may appear, and whether they are owing to violence, or any other cause: their fize and figure should also be described. And lastly, we should enquire into the state of

putre-

Putrefaction. putrefaction of the body, which is known by the following particulars. Ift. Bladders filled with a yellow or brownish liquor. 2d. The external cuticle separated from the true skin. 3d. A lividity and blackness of the skin. 4th. A fætor, or disagreeable smell of the whole body. 5th. A considerable swelling of the carcase. 6th. A particular lividity and blackness in the scrotum of male subjects. 7th. A blackness of the nails.

Wounds,

2d. Into any wounds which are conspicuous, and remark whether they be over the whole body, or confined to a particular part; and here no probe or other instrument should be inserted, which may enlarge them, and alter their nature.

Blood or other humour flowing from carcafe.

3d. Whether from the carcase in general, or from any wound or aperture, as the mouth, anus, &c. there be a flowing of blood, urine, or meconium.

4th. Into the habit of the body, Habit of whether it be fat or lean, or swelled from any cause.

IV. The directions to be attended Diffection, under a diffection are the following.

and especially of those places which ments. require examination, where any wounds present, are to be dissected away, and the muscles are to be cut through, in order to open a way to the parts where injury is supposed to be done.

2d. All the chief cavities of the cavities. body, as the head, the cheft, and the belly, are to be opened.

3d. That cavity is to be pene- where intrated first where the injury is supposed ed. to reside.

4th. The parts circumjacent to Parts cira wound are not to be diffected before cumjacent. the progress of the injury is traced to its utmost extent.

5th. Any bowel contained in the Bowels. cavity, is to be examined according to

its fituation, connections, constitution, and any wounds which it may have received, in their length, breadth, and depth.

Foreign bodies.

6th. We should enquire if the bowel opened contain any foreign bodies, either fluid or folid: if the former, their nature and quantity is to be determined; if the latter, their quality, number, quantity, figure, and fituation.

Blood veffels.

7th. All the great blood veffels paffing through a cavity, are to be examined whether they be entire or no, and whether they contain blood or not.

Nerves, &c. 8th. The great nerves likewise, as the medulla spinalis, or spinal marrow, &c. should undergo an examination, and the thoracic duct and receptacle of the chyle, veffels which carry the nutriment from the stomach, and from the external surface into the mass o blood,

9th. Before the head be opened, it Head openshould be discovered whether there are any wounds in the skull by fracture, sissure, intropression, &c. and of such the situation, size, depth, number, and sigure, should be marked.

the skull should be carefully taken off with a saw.

ed, regard must be had to its substance, to its vessels, whether they be
full or empty of blood; to the sinussee of the dura mater, those large receptacles of blood which lie under the
skull; to the ventricles or cavities, to
see whether any sluid be contained in
them, and of what nature, and in what
quantity; to the base of the skull, to
discover if any foreign body lies upon
it; and lastly, to the thickness of the
bones, whether it be ordinary or extraordinary.

bluer

Cheft.

12th. When the chest is opened, the sternum is to be separated from the ribs with great care, lest the arteries or veins lying near it, or in the cavity, be injured.

Ribs.

13th. If a wound should be made in the cheft, and which penetrates either fide, then we should not only determine the ribs between which the wound is made, but from whence we reckon.

Heart.

14th. When the heart is examined we should take notice, whether polypous concretions occur in its cavities, or in the greater vessels.

howels.

Rupture of 15th. When a rupture of any of the bowels is discovered upon diffection, we should carefully examine whether it be recent or whether it be gangrenous, or have the figns of putrefaction.

Contents of bowels of abdomen.

16th. When the bowels of the lower belly, which are large cavities, are fubmitted to examination, we should

should enquire with the utmost care into their contents, and this not only by fimple inspection, but by the fire and chemical mixtures.

There are besides these, some other other circircumstances to be attended to, as the cumstances. constitution of the dead person, the instrument by which his death was occasioned, the symptoms under which he laboured, the means used to restore him, the time when affistance was called to him, his fituation when wounded, his diet before and after, and laftly, whether he was affected with drunkenness.

The different kinds of murder, or the different means by which it is com- kinds of mitted, may be reduced to poisons, wounds, bruifes, drowning, and strangulation. The two first seem to be the most common; the third is often rather a remote than a proximate cause, and the two others are chiefly discovered by the facts, rather than

by any peculiar marks they leave on the body. But first of poisons.

Of poisons defined.

Ways by which they

act.

A poison may be defined any substance which, applied to the human body internally, is injurious to its preservation, or procures its dissolution by its own proper qualities. The ways by which poisons get into the body, are by the mouth, nose, lungs, and sometimes the external surface of the skin, and these modes of action may be explained in the following manner.

Mode of

Health supposes a natural state or constitution of the sluids and solids of the animal body. All poisons then, must act in destroying this natural constitution of parts, and changing it into a preternatural one. There are various ways by which this is done; the principal are the following.

By acrids.

1st. By acrid things, which constrings and erode the folids, or some-

times

times coagulate, fometimes refolve

2d. When they posses a power of stupefyers. stupefying or destroying the powers of sensation and motion in the nerves, which are the great agents of the animal machine.

3d. When they possess a sharp and Figure acute figure, which tears and lancinates the tender parts of the stomach and bowels.

4th. When they induce a power- Suffocation ful fuffocation.

5th. When they act not only from Tenacity. acrimony, but from a power of thickening the blood at the same time.

of thickening and of drying also the humours.

7th. When they act by fome un- Unknown known power, which is not yet difco- power. vered.

It would be useless, nay perhaps injurious to society, to enumerate all

on autrico oto G 2 old ods

the poisons which belong to the different heads. It is dangerous to entrust such materials in the hands of mankind in general: we hope, therefore, we shall be excused if we mention only the principal ones, according to the foregoing arrangement. They are all taken from the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms.

Acrids what.

The 1st class or acrids, include acids, and alcalies; among the last of which may be included the effects of the putrefactive process, as being exposed to its influence.

Those poisons of an acrid nature which have a mixed quality, are the metallic salts, or some of the semi-metals themselves, as arsenic, &c. and fome vegetables which are of a highly drastic nature, and which, used in small quantities, may produce useful evacuations in cases of disease.

Stupefyers.

2d. The poisons which have a stupefying quality are of the vegetable kind, as the Cicuta, lauro cerasus, &c. 3d. Those which act mechanical-Mechanic ly by the sharp points and edges with which they are endued, are the powders. der of glass, diamonds, &c.

4th. Those which have a suffo-suffocations. cating power, are the vapours of new and fermenting liquors, the smoke of charcoal and of sulphur, the air of close and damp places, &c.

5th. Those which have a visci- Viscid. dity joined with acrimony, are generally vegetables, such as Cicuta major, solanum, &c.

6th. Those which are of a thick-Dryers. ening quality, and a drying one at the same time, are quick-lime, Cerusse; and among the vegetables, several of the class of fungi, &c.

7th. Those which have a secret Unknown quality not easily discovered, are the qualities, various tribes of animals which live around us, such as spiders, toads, vipers, &c.

G 3

The

How poifons affect the body. The effects which poisons produce upon the body vary, according to the nature of their qualities, the place which they affect, and the subjects to whom they are applied, according to age, temperament, habit of body, &c. Thus the aconite affects the lips, mouth, forehead, tongue and stomach, by making them to swell, and causes anxieties, vertigoes, faintings, and convulsions.

Cicuta.

Aconite.

The cicuta occasions enormous vomitings, hiccups, heat of the stomach, swelling of the belly, delirium, and convulsions.

Acids.

Arfenic,

The acid spirits, wherever they touch, cause erosions, most grievous pains, vomiting, and hiccup. Arsenic and cobalt excite inflammations of the stomach, &c. the most acute pains, heat in the mouth and jaws, nausea or sickness, vomiting, spasmodic contractions of the chest, swelling of the belly,

belly, coldness of the extremities, cold Iweats, convulsions, &c.

When a medical practitioner, How to therefore, is called to a person who is living subsuspected to be poisoned, if he be alive ject. he may judge from the following obfervations.

Ist. From comparing the fymp- From fymptoms which present themselves with toms above. those which generally attend the taking of poisons mentioned above.

2d. From the fudden appearance From fudof fome fymptoms, fuch as spasms and denness of fome sympviolent pains, great thirst, sickness, vomiting, fainting, cholic, the throwing up some foreign matter from the general contents of the stomach, and universal convulsions of all the must cles.

3d. From the health of the patient Previous foregoing this attack, and his not health. having any connection with a person labouring under any contagious or epidemic disease.

No errors in diet. 4th. From the patient having committed no errors in diet, &c.

From odour and tafte.

5th. From an ungrateful odour and taste of what has been taken. There are few poisons but what are attended with a very disagreeable smell and taste; hence a suspicion soon arises from this source, which is immediately taken notice of, the patient may soon receive the proper relief.

How to judge in a dead perfon. But if the person be dead, a very minute examination must be made, and the following particulars attended to.

From external habit. Ift. The external habit of the body is to be inspected with the greatest accuracy and attention, to discover whether there be any livid spots upon the surface of the skin; whether there are any premature signs of putrefaction, and whether there be any swelling of the belly, or of the face; for experience evinces that these changes are foon induced by poisonous substances.

2d. The paffages by which the The pafpoison has been conveyed into the body, are to be examined: these are the mouth, the throat or gullet, the stomach, and the intestines; but chiefly the stomach, as the same effects will the stobe produced in it as in the other parts. We must examine then first into its constitution, and then into its contents.

mach.

When we examine the constitution In its conor form of the stomach, we must con- constitufider,

- 1st. Whether it be inflated or corrugated in an extraordinary manner.
- 2d. Whether it be inflamed or in a state of gangrene or mortification.
- 3d. Whether it exhibits upon its external furface fupernatural spots, either of a red colour, or black or livid.

4th. Whether it be perforated into holes, either one or many.

G 5

5th.

5th. Whether its veins be tinged with blood more than usual.

6th. Whether it be eroded, and its inner coat be stripped off and and bloody, and swim amongst the other contents.

7th. Whether there be any eschar in its substance, of a black or yellow-ish colour.

All these marks afford very strong suspicions of poisons, especially of those which are acute and acrid.

Contents of the ftomach. The next observations are to be made upon the contents of the stormach, previous to which two circums stances must be attended to.

1st. All the contents of the stomach are to be thrown into a vessel prepared for that purpose.

2d. The furface of the stomach is to be inspected more carefully, to discover, if possible, whether particles of the poison may not stick to it, which are to be collected.

The contents of the stomach are to be confidered as more or lefs fluid; if they are not entirely fo, but confift of many folid fubstances, then a por- solid. tion of them is to be dried and put into an iron vessel lined with tin, and being previously weighed, the following experiments are to be made upon it.

- Ist. It is to be thrown upon burn- To be tried ing coals, which if it produces a va- by burning. pour of a blue colour, and an odour like that of garlic is perceived, it may be nearly ascertained that an arsenical matter was mixed with it. But in order to clear up this point to greater Satisfaction.
- 2d. Another portion of the dried By other mass is to be given to other animals, fuch as fowls, dogs, &c. which if it causes their death, it is a proof that poison made a part of its contents.
- 3d. Another portion of this dried Mixed mass is to be mixed with a quantity and sal.

of fuet and falt of tartar, which being put into a crucible, and melted over the fire, if a reguline metallic substance is produced at the bottom, it is clear that an arsenic is contained in it.

Melted with other metals. 4th. It may be enquired, whether this metallic substance being melted again with metals of a red colour, turn them to a white, for this is likewise proof of arsenic.

Remainder weighed.

The remainder of the dried contents, if poison be found upon experiment, must be nicely and accurately weighed. This is to discover, whether the proportionate quantity would be sufficient to produce the effect. But in general, where arsenic has been administered, so small a quantity is sufficient to produce the most dreadful influence, that it will be nearly satisfactory, if any of it be found upon a chemical examination.

When

When the fluid parts of the sto- Fluid parts mach are examined, the following experiments are to be made.

tartar per deliquium, for instance, is lines. to be thrown in, and if it take a brownish colour, it is a proof that mercury, in the shape of corrosive sublimate, or precipitate, has been mixed with it, if it ferments, that an acid has been exhibited. This however is no certain sign, as an acid may subsist very innocently in the stomach.

2d. An acid may be applied, and By acids. here if an effervescence be produced, it is a proof of an alcaline substance, and then, as in the last case, it must be by the quantity and acrimony of the substances that we determine, concerning their poisonous nature, as in themselves, and when well diluted, they are innocent, and sometimes salutary.

By colour.

3d. The colour is likewise to be attended to, as it may determine the exact nature of the poison which is given.

By chemical analytis. 4th. Some portion of the poison found may be sent to a chemical elaboratory, to examine more particularly its nature.

These observations, it should be remarked, however, relate more particularly to poisons which produce their effect more immediately, than to those which lie a long time first, in the stomach. But we may, from the injuries done to the stomach itself, determine likewise in some measure concerning even those more flowly acting poisons. The remains of inflammation, gangrene, perforations, &c. will continue for a long time, and if the patient should die of poison at ever so great a distance, whilst the cause subfifts fome effect will evidently be perceived. ceived, or some change from a natu-

2d. Of wounds. Under wounds wounds may be comprehended every diforder defined. which arises from some external violence offered to the human body. To this head, therefore, may belong contusions, luxations, fractures, and wounds, more properly fo called, being a division of the muscular parts of the body. The first division of Division. wounds is into mortal, and the contrary. Every wound is of fuch a Mortal nature, that death is absolutely the what. consequence of it or not. In the Mortal by latter case it may be called mortal by accident. accident. This also we may divide into two kinds or orders. That wound which is fo inflicted that it may be relieved by the means cognizable by art, is of the first order. That where it happens that the death which is incurred, is owing not to the wound, but to other causes, then the wound

wound is faid to be of the second order of such as are called mortal by accident.

From what hath been advanced, the following positions may be deduced.

Pofitions.

- tal, will admit of no relief, but will certainly destroy, either by a sudden or lingering death.
- 2d. Death is always the inseparable effect of a wound absolutely mortal.
- 3d. A wound absolutely mortal is always the *sole* cause of death to the injured person.
- 4th. The consequences here avail nothing: the wounded person, after the wound is inslicted, is to all intents and purposes a dead man; the injury then is absolutely mortal.

5th. Wounds are by accident mortal, when the cause of death arises partly, partly from the wound, and partly from other concurring causes.

These distinctions are necessary, Reasons though not always attended to; for it for fuch distinctions may fo happen, where men judge alone from consequences, that a person may be punished for a death occasioned by a wound which was not absolutely mortal. It is highly important that in a deposition for murder, such distinctions should be made of these kinds of wounds, as to place them in their proper light. In order to do this more effectually, it is necessary to make the following divisions. Ift. To consider Division of those kinds of wounds which are ab-rules. folutely mortal, or mortal by accident. 2d. In what parts of the body fuch wounds are most likely to be inflicted. 3d. Some circumstances which may occur to distinguish such wounds more accurately.

Yannon's T

I. It appears then, that because what kind a mortal wound cannot be cured by of wounds mortal. H any

any art, that every wound which entirely takes off the influx of the blood into the heart, from the vein, and its egrefs from the heart into the arteries, or which entirely destroys the powers of circulation, and the action of the heart, must be absolutely mortal. From the elements of physiology it appears, that the following circumstances are necessary to promote the action of the heart.

Affions of the heart promoted by.

Soundness of walls.

Ist. The foundness of the sides of the cavities of the heart, so as to be able not only to contain the blood, but to push it forward into the system. The strength required here is amazingly great.

Action of the brain. 2d. A free action of the brain and nerves going to the heart, called the cardiac nerves.

Coronary arteries.

3d. The motion of the blood through the coronary arteries which furround the heart. 4th. A free motion of the blood Lungs. through the lungs.

5th: A proper return of blood proper rethrough the veins.

of nutriment to restore the expence which is incurred by the several secretions, &c. It appears then that all Mortalin that order wounds are absolutely mortal,

Ift. Which injure the cavities of the heart, so that they cannot contain the blood.

2d. Which take away the free action of the brain and nerves going to the heart, fo that neither sense nor motion can be promoted in that organ so essential to life.

3d. Which destroy respiration, for then the blood cannot be carried through the lungs.

4th. Which stop the motion of the blood through the coronary arteries.

5th. Which prevent its return through the veins.

6th. Which prevent the use of nutriment, and consequently the accession of chyle.

It appears then, that the subject of wounds absolutely mortal are those parts whose soundness cannot be taken away, and life continue; and that many of those wounds which happen in internal parts, to which the medical aid cannot reach, are to be considered as absolutely mortal.

Wounds mortal by accident. When a wound is mortal by accident, death is either to be attributed
to it in part as a concurring circumstance, or not at all: as in such cases as
the following.

When left to themfelves. Ift. Where death is occasioned by wounds being left to themselves, as for instance, wounds of the head which may be cured by the use of the trepan; those of the greater blood vessels, where access may be acquired; those of the viscera, where the hand may be applied, and medicines may be administered;

nistered; those which induce death by evacuations into cavities, which might be prevented, or from which they may eafily be discharged.

2d. Where other causes may be where the occasion of death, as the particular other causes constitution, or habit of the wounded person, as well as his neglect and want of prudence, the fault of the medical practitioner, the blunders and carelessness of by-standers, or some previous diforders which may have prevailed.

II. We are now to confider the Parts where fecond general division, or those mortal or wounds of the different parts of the body which are to be accounted mortal absolutely or not; and here we shall treat of them in the following or; der: 1st. Wounds of the head and neck. 2d. Wounds of the cheft. 3d. Wounds of the abdomen or belly. 4th. Wounds of the extremities.

Of the head

I. Of wounds of the head.—
These are external or internal, which may be again distinguished according to any injury done to the brain, &c. or not.

External.

Ift. External wounds of the head, whether they are wounds of the integuments, or of the pericranium, or of the bones composing the skull, or of the face, are not absolutely mortal.

Internal.

2d. Internal wounds of the head, unaccompanied with injuries of the brain, &c. are not to be accounted abfolutely mortal.

Where brain, &c.

- 3d. Those wounds of the inner part of the head, where the brain, &c. likewise is injured, are to be accounted absolutely mortal, or not, according to the following distinctions.
- Ist. Wounds of the dura mater, where there is no finus or branch of the greater artery running across it that is injured, are not absolutely mortal.

2d. Wounds of the dura mater in its finus, and the greater artery, are to be accounted absolutely mortal.

3d. All wounds of the contents of the skull, which are attended with great extravasations of humours which cannot be evacuated: as in the ventricles of the brain, and the base of the skull, are to be accounted absolutely mortal; such are, what are made at the bottom of the skull, in the bones of the temples, the ethmoid bones, and the inferior orbits of the eyes.

4th. Slight wounds of the brain itself, or of the superficial part of the cerebellum, are not absolutely mortal.

5th. All wounds of the cerebellum, which are deep, and of the medulla oblongata, are accounted absolutely mortal.

6th. All injuries of the origin of the spinal marrow, and all deep wounds through its whole length, may be pronounced absolutely mortal.

H 4

With

Wounds of With regard to wounds of the neck. neck, we may make the following obfervations.

Internal jugular veins. Ist. Wounds of the internal jugular veins are absolutely mortal; those of the external, only so by accident.

Carotid arteries. 2d. Wounds of the carotid and vertebral arteries, may be pronounced absolutely mortal.

Internal maxillary. 3d. Wounds of the internal maxillary artery, and the sublingual artery, belong to those esteemed absolutely mortal, if they cannot be healed.

Branches of carotid.

4th. Wounds of the branches of the carotid artery, which can be tied or compressed so as to stop the blood, may be accounted mortal by accident.

Intercoftal nerves, &c. 5th. Wounds of the intercostal nerves, and of the parvagum, and of the phrenic nerves, which run through the neck, induce absolute death.

6th.

6th. Wounds of that plexus of From spinerves which reaches from the spinal to arm. marrow to the arm, are the causes of death.

7th. All luxations of the first Luxations. and second vertebræ bring absolute death.

8th. Small wounds of the co- oefophaphagus, or gullet, are only mortal by
accident; but if the gullet be cut
through, they are amongst those which
are accounted absolutely mortal.

oth. In the same manner slight wind-pipe wounds of the aspera arteria, or wind-pipe, belong to those which are mortal by accident; but if it be cut thro', they are always mortal.

larynx, or cartilaginous muscles, on the top of the wind-pipe, so as to destroy their tone and power of action, will speedily induce the death of the sufferer.

Wounds of cheft.

II. Wounds of the cheft are of two kinds, as they are made in the cavity, or in the parts furrounding it. Of the former,

Heart.

Ist. All wounds of the heart, which penetrate into its cavities, i. e. into its ventricles, or auricles, are abfolutely mortal. The same may be said,

Coronary arteries. 2d. Of all wounds of the coronary arteries, which furround the heart, and all the great arteries and veins which carry blood from the heart, and bring it back again.

Intercostal

3d. Wounds of the intercostal arteries, or small vessels which pass between the ribs, are only mortal by accident.

Gullet.

4th. Wounds of that part of the gullet which lies in the cheft, are abfolutely mortal. The same may be said,

Wind-pipe

5th. Of wounds of the wind-pipe in the same situation.

6th. All wounds of the pericardium, or bag containing the heart, are dium.
not absolutely mortal

7th. Wounds of the lungs, which pierce the great blood vessels, are absolutely mortal; but those which penetrate the smaller vessels, are only accidentally so.

8th. Wounds of the air vessels of Bronchia. any magnitude, are absolutely mortal.

9th. Superficial wounds of the Diaphragm muscular part of the diaphragm, or midriff, are mortal only by accident; but those which pierce the tendinous are absolutely so.

noth. Injuries to the thoracic duct, Thoracic which convey the chyle, are mortal duct. abfolutely, as are,

arth. Those of the cardiac nerves, cardiac nerves.

II. Wounds made upon the parts Surrounding the cheft, are to be judged cheft.

by the following decisions.

Ift. All external, wounds of the chest are not absolutely mortal.

of the ribs, is not absolutely mortal.

3d. Considerable bruises, and injuries of the walls of the chest, with dilacerations of the intercostal arteries, are absolutely mortal.

4th. A wound of the cheft, where one fide only is penetrated in a certain place, is mortal by accident.

5th. Every wound which is of any fize, that pierces both fides of the cavity of the cheft, is absolutely mortal.

As the cheft is the feat of the great fountain of blood, it is no wonder that any injuries committed there should be mortal, and even in those cases where the exceptions are made, the homorrhage of itself may cause death.

Wounds of abdomen.

III. Wounds of the abdomen, or lower belly, are judged by the following rules.

1st. Every wound of the abdomen which does not penetrate into its cavity, whether it be a wound of the integuments, or of the muscles, or of the linea alba, as it is called, or of the navel, or of the abdominal ring, are not absolutely mortal, nor are they fuch when they do penetrate the cavity, when none of the contents are injured.

2d. Wounds of the omentum, or omentum. caul, where its blood-veffels are hurt, fo that the hoemorrhage cannot be reftrained by any art, are absolutely mortal, otherwise they are mortal only by accident.

3d. Wounds of the stomach are Stomach. absolutely mortal, when many of the nerves are at the fame time injured, when some of the principal blood-veffels are cut through, or they are made in fuch a place, that the food cannot arrive at the hollow part of it, but is thrown into the cavity of the abdo-

men.

men. The same may be observed where the bottom or curvature of it is wounded, or it is pushed to one side.

Small intestines. 4th. A wound in the small intestines, so as to separate them from the stomach, is absolutely mortal.

Great in-

5th. Wounds of the great; as well as small intestines, at some distance from the stomach, which do not divide the tube, are not absolutely mortal.

Liver if

6th. Wounds of the liver, which are deep and broad, and are supposed to be connected with injuries done to the large vessels passing through it, are absolutely mortal; in like manner are any wounds of the duct of the liver, of the cystic duct, of the gall-bladder, of the ductus choledochus, of the vena portarum, or of the artery of the liver.

Small wounds of liver.

7th. Slight wounds of the liver, which do not occasion an extravasation of the humours, are mortal only by accident.

8th. A rupture of the liver is al-Rupture of liver. ways absolutely mortal.

9th. Deep and broad wounds of Spleen, the spleen are absolutely mortal, as well as a rupture of the spleen, but slight wounds are only mortal by accident.

tacle of the chyle are absolutely mortal; the same may be pronounced of

teries, and veins, and the nerves fels. which run through the abdomen.

milt, as the trunks of many large veffels pass through it, are absolutely mortal. The same may be said,

13th. Of wounds of the mesen- Mesentery. tery, or external covering of the bowels, for the same reasons, upon account of the vessels.

which reach to the bosom of it, and cut off the ureters, are absolutely mor-

tal; flighter ones are only so by accident.

Bladder.

bladder, where the blood cannot be stopped, are absolutely mortal, and no excuse can be made here from wounds being inslicted by surgical operations. Such being immediately under the eye of the operator, can be easily restrained, so as to have no ill effect.

Genitals in men. parts of generation in men, in which may be included contusions of the testicles, are not absolutely mortal.

Womb.

17th. Wounds of the womb are absolutely mortal.

Extremi-

ward.

IV. Wounds of the extremities in general are not absolutely mortal, but sometimes they are, as when they are made upon the trunks of the largest vessels, in which case such an homorrhage may arise, as no art can restrain, or from the vital powers being weakened, a most powerful and fatal gan-

grene or mortification may be occafioned, and fo as to elude the force of medicines.

III. We come now to the last di- Further vision of rules, concerning wounds, to wounds. examine some circumstances by which the mortality of their nature may be more exactly ascertained. These relate,

Ist. To the wounded person him- From the felf, in whom we should attend to his person. age, his constitution of body, his exemption from former injuries, or his subjection to disease, the sex, and if a woman, whether she be pregnant or not; the state of his mind, and how far his imagination might increase the efficacy of the wound; and laftly, whether he was at the time inebriated with liquor. All these circumstances aggravate the mortality of wounds.

2d. To the fymptoms which occur, symptoms. either immediately upon a person's being wounded, or which appear some time after; the symptoms besides these may be of three kinds.

the wound to be their fole cause.

2d. Which depend upon the wound partly as their cause.

3d. Which do not acknowledge the wound to be their cause at all. Now in reviewing the symptoms, it will appear that the first alone are objects of attention.

Inftrument

3d. To the instrument with which the injury was effected, in which its figure, its size, its power of acting, are to be taken into consideration.

Time.

4th. To the time when death may occur after the wound is given.

Cure.

5th. To the methods made use of to effect a cure.

Exposure.

6th. To many occurrences which may arise from the circumstances of time, and any other accidents which might render a wound more dangerous, such as cold air, or a desert place, where no one might be ready to assist.

CHAP. VII.

OF IDIOTISM AND INSANITY.

THEN the ideas of the mind Objects of are distracted, and thought and reason are confused and destroyed; it is common for the civil power, not only to take cognizance of the unhappy persons subject to such misfortunes, but to deprive them of their estates for a time, and put them under proper confinement. As the confequences are fo dreadful, it is necessary then that the decision be established upon the firmest and most satisfactory proof.

Idiotism and infanity, though punished in the same manner, seem to vary from each other. It may be neceffary then to specify the proper diftinctions of each.

How diftinguished.

Idiotifm natural. I. Idiotism is 1st, either born with the subject of it, or appears as soon as the reasoning faculties should begin to expand.

Depends on defects in memory and judgment. 2d. It is established upon great defects of the memory, and much greater of the judgment, though this is not much attended to.

Prone to mischief.

3d. Idiots are in general prone to mischief, or to actions over which reason seems to have very little command.

Infenfible to evacuations. 4th. They have not a proper command over the evacuations of fæces and urine, and drivel at the mouth.

Health.

5th. They have generally strong and hearty constitutions.

Aspect pe-

6th. They have a peculiar afpect, which describes a vacancy of thought and inattention to any engagement.

Inarticu-

7th. They have little use of speech, and articulate very incoherently.

Infanity saufe of.

II. Infane persons are either furious or melancholic, both of which acknowledge a great imbecility of the mental

mental faculties, and which are derived from hereditary constitutions, attention of mind, violent passions, the terrors of a false religion, immoderate use of venery, poisons of the narcotic kind, fome preceding diforders, the suppression of evacuations, indigestible aliments, a sedentary life, &c. But they differ in the following particulars.

Ist. The furiously infane are na- Furious turally of angry and violent dispo- figns of visitions, in the prime of youth, and of sition. a plethoric constitution, and tense fibre.

2d. They lofe all their natural Subject to delicacy of manners, and become fu- paffions. rious, ungovernable, and are particularly affected by pride, anger, hatred, and revenge, and very often intemperate lust.

3d. They refuse their food, and yet preserve their strength; they food, scarcely ever sleep, are continually

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thifting.

shifting their ideas from one thing to another, bear the cold with incredible patience, and are not easily affected by medicines.

Peculiar look. 4th. They have a peculiar look with their eyes, descriptive of violent anger mixed with a glariness like that of drunken persons, their eye-lids are constantly vibrating, and their hands, and sometimes the whole body, they keep in motion.

Melancholic.

Melancholy persons are,

phlegmatic

ing, and eafily forgetting, and are fad and melancholy, of a phlegmatic temperament, and relaxed fibre.

Fearful,

2d. When the disorder seizes them they become abject, fearful, fond of solitude, prone to anger, changeable in their opinions and desires, but sixing their attention upon a single object.

Construted in bowels, &c. 3d. The belly is constipated, the urine is made in small quantities; the abdomen is distended with wind; a

tharp acrid matter is discharged by vomiting; the pulse moves very slowly; the aliment is devoured with greediness; the imagination is perverted so, as that they are persuaded that they are made of glass, china,
&c. and lastly, and worst of all, they are induced to put a period to their existence.

4th. Their eyes have a dull, hea- Afpect vy, and stupid look; they seldom dull. move, but continue in one posture a very long time.

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CHAP. VIII.

OF IMPOSTORS.

Various causes of imposition.

HERE are various causes which induce men to feign disorders to which the human body is subject, and with fuch fictions to impose often upon a court of judicature, or at least a civil magistrate. To this they are induced from fear, from bashfulness, or from lucre. Should they be fubmitted to a physician upon such an occasion, he can only judge from the fymptoms of the disease, and determine by their presence and absence. But there are many cases where artful people, by a specious tale, and by feigning diforders where much is to be known from their own confession, may cause a good deal of difficulty to discover the truth. Let him then attend to the following circumstances.

Ift. All the phoenomena which Physician evidently appear in the subject at should conthe time of examination, together phoenowith fuch as may be related by the fick person, or the standers by, are to be carefully and maturely weigh-

2d. An account is to be taken of Take acthe urine, age, pulse, hereditary dif- natural position, way of living, condition of appearthe person, and the disorders to which he has been subject.

3d. The questions which are to be confound put to the fick person, or the by-standers, are to be so framed as to confound them.

the subject.

4th. The pretended fick person is Frequently to be vifited frequently, and when he least expects it.

vifited.

5th. Enquiry is to be made whether fuch causes as generally produce into causes. the feigned disease have previously presented themselves.

There

feigned.

There are many difeases which may be feigned, particularly by a perfon who has before fuffered from them, and especially if they be devoid of fever, and depend upon his own relation; yet there are but a few which are generally objects of imposition. These are epilepsy, melancholy, foolishness, possession by evil spirits, and fascinations. Baive lo van nombog

Epilepfy.

Jack Black

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I. A feigned epilepfy may be known from a real one,

Ist. When the fick person does not fall to the ground very fuddenly.

2d. When the face is not livid, nor the lips pale, nor is there any change made in the colour and real form of the face.

3d. When the patient is foon roused by sternutatories, or burning coals applied to the hands.

4th. When the nails do not appear livid.

5th,

5th. When the pulse is not altered.

6th. When at the end of the paroxysim the patient does not fall into a profound fleep. The bold and the

7th. When he does not complain of a dullness of sensation, forgetfulness, a swimming of the head, great weakness, and thirst.

II. A melancholy that is feigned Melanmay be known by the absence of those symptoms mentioned in the last chapter.

III. We may conclude that foolishness is fictitious, when the person at any time appears rational: for perfons afflicted in this manner are not furious as madmen, nor thoughtful as the melancholy; but speak confusedly, neglect themselves, and sing and talk like children.

IV. Possessions by evil spirits, as Possessions. they constitute no real disorder, can never

never be feigned; the pretences therefore of such persons, will not be detected by physicians.

Fascinations. V. The same may be said of incantations, fascinations, &c.

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CHAP. IX.

ON THE MEANS OF PRESERVING THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

HE general health of the public, An object which is of so much conse- of consideration quence, especially in large towns, calls loudly for the attention of the magiftrate, who should exert every nerve to preserve and support it. This is best done by frequently confulting physi- executed. cians of the first eminence, concerning the proper means to be embraced, and it would be highly useful if they were to be vested with proper authorities, and put in practice any scheme of this fort which they might think advantageous to the general fervice.

The health of the community feems in the best way of being preferved, when the following particulars

are observed, and it is no small matter to see them regularly put in execution.

1st. When every thing which may tend to injure the public health is properly prevented or averted.

2d. When care is taken that the fick have every affistance to remove the disease with which they are affisted, or at least to mitigate its rage.

3d. When contagious and epidemical diforders are guarded against, and the spread of them, when they do prevail, prevented.

By averting the causes of disease. I. The causes which are injurious to the health of the community may be averted,

By purifying the air.

as possible, from the effects of putrefaction, which must be done by removing all kinds of putrid bodies, both animal and vegetable, for vegetables in this corrupt state are more offensive, or at least as much so, and consequently equally pernicious with animals. animals. The lay-stalls of butchers should always be situated at the extremities of towns, and large cesspools should be made covered with earth, to receive the blood and offal meat. Butchers likewise should be punished for keeping their meat till it be too stale for use. It is not only improper upon account of the smell, but poor people, by reason of the reduced price, are induced to purchase it, and thus contribute to unwholes some diseases.

The water also of towns should be carried off, and not suffered to stagnate in the streets. It is generally putrid in itself, but much more so when it becomes a receptacle for all kinds of silth. Hence we see that most towns which are not accommodated with common sewers, are very unhealthy. The last thing to be considered under this head are the burying grounds, which

which should always be removed to fome distance from a town.

By wholefome provisions.

2d. The next means for removing the causes of injuries to towns, &c. is, by taking care that the corn be not of an unwholesome and putrid nature; that the flesh of animals be not difeased; that the fruits be properly ripened; that the wine be not poisoned nor the beer foul and vapid; and that all vegetables of a deleterious quality, be not admitted to be fold.

By good water.

3d. By taking care that the water which is drank be tolerably pure, or free from any mineral substances, which may be prejudicial to health. This is not always eafily afcertained, and will require a chemical analysis.

By regulating the use of spirits.

4th. By regulating the use of the still, and taking care that too much fermented liquors be not prepared.

By quan-

5th. By providing a sufficient tity of food. quantity of wholesome food for the use of the poor.

6th. By suppressing the common Suppressing stews, or at least regulating them in fuch a manner, as that the diforders now peculiar to fuch places, and the common effects of riot and drunkenness, be as much as possible prevented. In a moral light, no vice can be tolerated by the civil power; but in a phyfical view, we should certainly prevent many of the deleterious effects of the venereal disease, if not in time eradicate it, by having the brothels under the eye of the magistrate, who could appoint inspectors under a licence, who should regularly make their report, and confine the subjects of it in fome well regulated hospital. If any way then could be thought of, which should avoid the encouragement of vice and yet admit of fuch an inspection, it would no doubt be of very great benefit to fociety.

7th. By infane persons being pro- confining perly confined and provided for.

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Destroying mad animals. 8th. By destroying mad animals, and when such are roving about, taking care that others are not suffered to go loose, but confining them in yards, or other places within walls, &c. I do not think it proper to tie them up, as by their uneasiness and watchfulness, they may bring on them the disorders we would wish to prevent.

Suppressing quacks.

9th. By suppressing as much as possible all mountebanks and quacks, and other pretenders to the practice of physic. No one can tell how much they injure society; by violent medicines, the effects of which they do not see, they may introduce some fatal disease; and by inefficacious ones they prevent the effects of those which are proper.

Preventing irregular practitioners. noth. By preventing apothecaries, midwives, &c. from practice, unless properly recommended.

Preferving foundlings. ling infants, or others who may be deferted

ferted by their parents, be taken care of, and educated at the public expence.

12th. By preventing any persons Regulating from felling drugs who are not bred to the fale of drugs. the business of an apothecary or druggift, or do not understand the nature of medicines.

13th. By regulating the shops of And Shops those who fell drugs, so that the more active medicines, fuch as vomits and purges, emmenagogues, and the mineral acid spirits, be not promiscuoufly arranged with the rest, but be kept in some private drawers, or in an inner room, to which no one should have access but the master. At the fame time, particular care should be taken of the labels, so that they make distinct marks, &c.

14th. That it be enjoined mid- Promoting wives and furgeons to call to their af- confu fistance the most able physicians, in cases of danger, and that for this purpose, physicians accommodate their fees

to the abilities of the patient, so that all may receive the benefit of their advice.

Cæfarean cperation.

15th. By midwives preferving the live child by a diffection, should the mother unfortunately die during the pains of labour.

Preventing difeases of cattle.

16th. By guarding against the contagious disorders which often arise among the horned and other cattle.

Difeases are removed.

II. The best care is taken that the diseases of the sick be as speedily as possible removed.

By providing proper

ist. When physicians of great physicians. knowledge and the most liberal education are provided to order medicines, and illiterate and immoral men be not fuffered to obtrude themselves on the public.

Public hofpitals.

2d. When public hospitals are eftablished, and so conducted as to accommodate all the fick poor who may offer.

3d. When furgeons and apothe- surgeons caries, and midwives who are skilful and apoin this business, are constituted by the public to execute their part of the buness, which they undertake with carefulness and affiduity.

4th. When the apothecaries shops Visiting are occasionally visited by the phyficians, to fee that their drugs are of the best quality, and provided in sufficient quantity for the exigencies of the fick: that their bottles and other vessels be preserved clean, and fit to contain the ingredients deposited in them: that the medicines be preferved in a proper place to preserve them from injury, and that the shopmen or apprentices be industrious, fober, and fitted for their business.

III. The next thing to be attended Contagious to is, by what means contagious and epidemic diseases are to be prevented and removed. These are of two kinds, what is called the plague, or

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any

any other disease of the same nature, though less deleterious.

Of the plague; rules for regulating it.

I. The plague is a difease of so alarming a nature, that every precaution should be taken by magistrates to prevent its access.

The following feem to comprehend the principal regulations necesfary to be observed.

By purification of air. to be studied, and every thing put in execution that can promote this end. Some have proposed, for this purpose, the explosion of great guns, the lighting up of fires, &c. These can only have effect in rarefying the air, as heat is found to contribute to promote this disease, as described by Doctor Mead. The church bells, for the same purpose, are frequently to be rung, and the greatest cleanlines in the streets, and all public places, is to be observed. Besides this, sulphur and pitch, &c. may be burnt in the

open places, and vinegar may be evaporated in the chambers and infides of houses, as well as the fumigation of juniper and other woods be kept up.

2d. Lines are to be formed which Forming are not to be transgressed by the in-lines. fected, nor by the healthy; at the same time, proper houses are to be allotted for those who are taken down in the disease, and others for the healthy part of the family, where the disorder prevails.

3d. All commerce with countries Commerce where the disease is prevalent, is to be forbidden. avoided; nay fome punishment should be inflicted on those who transgress this rule. It is an object of too much consequence to be neglected, the lives of so many thousands depending on it.

4th. Veffels which come from fuch Veffels not countries are to be driven from the to enterharbour where they attempt to enter, and be obliged to unlade their goods, and properly ventilate them in some

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uninhabited island. I do not think the usual manner in which quarantines are performed by ships in harbour, are by any means adequate to the purpose. Were the plague really on board any fuch ships, forty or fixty days, no nor any time would be fufficient to prevent the difease, unless the goods were properly ventilated; bale goods being known to preferve the infection for many years: But besides this, it is impossible to keep the superior officers of a ship from leaving it, and slying to their domestic mansions, to repose themselves after a long and tedious voyage. The only remedy is, to appoint a place for unlading and ventilating.

Appropriating phyticians, &c.

5th. Physicians and surgeons, and ministers, are to be appropriated to visit the sick in the plague, and no others, lest the infection may be conveyed by them to sound persons. The

same rule is to be observed with regard to midwives.

6th. Hospitals are to be provided Providing for the poor who may be fick of this disease, but every connection between them and their friends should be prevented.

hospitals,

7th. The dead bodies are to be buried as foon as possible, and here a fuspension should be made of the law against burying in any thing but woollen: nay that should be forbidden, as it is a powerful retainer of infection. Linen here should be preferred.

8th. Every thing which is capable Cloaths, of retaining infection, as the cloaths of &c. bury. the deceased, and the furniture of the room, should be buried. This is preferable to burning. Those things which retain infection the most, are, all forts of woollen cloths, filks, cottons, linens, the skins of animals, hemp and flax, &c.

Regulating food of healthy. 8th. The food of those who are not infected at such a time, should be principally of vegetables, and of those which contain the acid salt pretty strongly, together with all sorts of fruits. The chewing and smoaking of tobacco may also be recommended. But the best preservative is a mind free from care and anxiety.

Similar difeafe.

II. In diseases which are less extensive than the plague, but still highly infectious, and sometimes dangerous, the following should be regarded.

1st. Physicians should study the nature of these remedies appropriated to them, and consider with care what are most likely to remove them.

2d. The poor are to be moved into hospitals, and placed in wards by themselves.

3d. The fick, even in private families, should be separated from those who are healthy.

4th. The healthy should live upon a spare diet, nor indulge to excess either in wine or venereal pleasures: the air they breathe should, if possible, be purified.

5th. Chewing tobacco and other herbs, and other preservatory medicines should be used.

6th. Flowers growing in pots should be introduced into sick rooms, as well as aromatic herbs. This should be done likewise in courts of judicature, where it is feared that the gaol distemper prevails.

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