

**A treatise on struma, or scrofula, commonly called the King's evil /  
[Thomas White].**

**Contributors**

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A  
T R E A T I S E  
O N T H E  
*STRUMA, or SCROFULA,*  
C O M M O N L Y C A L L E D  
T H E K I N G ' S E V I L :

In which the common Opinion of its being a HEREDITARY  
DISEASE is proved to be erroneous ; more rational Causes  
are assigned, illustrated by a Variety of apposite  
Cases ; and a successful Method of TREATMENT  
recommended : Together with general  
Directions for Sea-Bathing.

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By T H O M A S W H I T E,  
OF THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS,  
A N D  
SURGEON TO THE LONDON-DISPENSARY.

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T H E T H I R D E D I T I O N .

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PRIMROSE-STREET,

BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT,

INSTITUTED, JUNE 16, 1777.

His Royal Highness the DUKE of YORK,

P A T R O N.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Patients admitted,   | 54,937   |
| Patients, having returned Thanks, cured, or relieved,  | } 49,901 |
| Died,  |          |
| Discharged for Non-Attendance or Misbehaviour,   | } 2,592  |
| Now under Cure,  |          |
| Patients attended at Home, being unable to attend the Dispensary,                              | } 10,791 |
| Admitted as Casualties, without Letters of Recommendation, being Fractures, Scalds, Burns, &c. |          |
|  | } 1,145  |

This Return was made to the General Court, at the Dispensary, December 20, 1793.

By PATRICK MACLEAN, Apothecary.

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To the Master, Wardens, and Court of  
Assistants of the Corporation of Sur-  
geons.

GENTLEMEN,

**I** HAVE great Pleasure in submitting  
to your Judgment the following Treatise on the Subject of  
Scrofula: You are complete Judges of the Difficulties I have  
undertaken; namely, that of removing Prejudices of long  
Duration, and of proposing Remedies for one of the most dis-  
treffing Complaints with which the human Body is afflicted.

My Endeavours have been directed to excite the Reader's  
Attention to such Facts as will enable him to form an Opinion  
founded in Truth, with respect to the remote Causes of the  
Disease; and also to give Directions for preventing the Com-  
plaint from taking Place, or, when it does appear, to recom-  
mend timely Application for Assistance: Your Experience must  
have furnished you with too many lamentable Proofs of the ill  
Consequences which have resulted from the great Neglect which  
has hitherto so generally prevailed.

I have the Honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble Servant,

Jeffries-Square,  
Jan. 1, 1794.

THOMAS WHITE.



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## P R E F A C E.

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**I**T is now ten years since I ventured to meet the public opinion, by submitting to their judgment what I considered to be the true causes of *Scrofula*, or the King's Evil. I did not presume to publish a different opinion from that generally entertained, without mature deliberation, aided by the best possible assistance, ocular demonstration. At that time upwards of twelve hundred

B                      dred

dred cases\* had been carefully taken down; and, although there must have been a very large proportion of that number where predisposition to this disease was very evident, yet I was perfectly convinced of the fallacy, and impropriety, of considering the complaint as resulting from hereditary transmission.

The very favourable reception this endeavour met with, from the profession and the public at large, was sufficient encouragement to bring forward a second edition; which has since been translated into the Dutch language by my ingenious and learn-

\* In the course of several years practice at the London Dispensary, and by private patients.



ed friend, Dr. Thuyfinck, phyfician to the States at the Hague.

To controvert a generally-received opinion, upon moft occasions is a very arduous, and often a very invidious task, more efpecially when that opinion is confidered as having originated in good authority. There is not any difeafe, to which the human body is liable, about which more has been faid and written, than the one under our prefent confideration, confequently there muft have been fome ferious and important reafons for fo general an inquiry ; nor will this appear at all doubtful when we take a review of the nature and confequences of its attack.



It must be considered as a disease of childhood, although it appears at every subsequent period of life.

Its first symptoms, whether the attack be internal or external, are seldom accompanied with pain, or any distinguishable defects in the common operations of the human body. The lungs may be affected, and the first obvious symptom is a slight cough, accompanied with shortness of breathing upon little exercise, which is attributed to cold, and which it is supposed will soon give way to some trifling remedies; but, should it not terminate in the favourable way expected, from its not being accompanied

panied with much pain, and for a length of time the cough not being very urgent, little notice is taken of it, until the increase of the complaint excites alarm; when I may venture to say, in most instances, it will prove too late. But even supposing that the means employed have relieved the complaints, or, what frequently happens, that, by a change of season from the winter to the spring and summer, the symptoms are alleviated, it is more than probable that the affected lymphatic glands in the lungs, will, at some future period, be excited to action, producing what is called *consumption*, one of the most destructive diseases to the youth of both sexes in this country.

Another



Another still more frequent, and yet more obscure attack of this disease is, that of the mesentery. Innumerable are the patients who fall victims to this attack in the early months of their infancy. In this case, the first discoverable symptom will be, that of irregular evacuations, unnatural in colour and consistence, which will be attributed to almost every cause but the true one: soon afterwards the belly will be found to be too large, and hard to the feel; accompanied with a listlessness, and disinclination to take any exercise. What is to be expected in this case? where the very first organs of nutrition are affected, preventing a necessary quantity of chyle from  
being



being taken into the system, for its present support and future increase. Even under these truly-alarming symptoms, there is no apparent cause for pain ; and, if there should be occasional uneasiness, it would be attributed to acidity in the bowels, teething, and the like ; but which, in the course of a few months, most commonly ends in the true atrophy. But, admitting nature or art to have, in a certain degree, relieved the patient, the common consequence of this attack, is a weakly frame, accompanied with distortions of the body or limbs, and it renders the subject liable to a variety of additional complaints, from very slight occasional causes.

In

In external attacks of this disease, although the termination might not prove fatal, it is often productive of more distress and anxiety, than even the loss of life. When any of the joints are attacked by this complaint, it most frequently terminates in impeded action in the part affected, or the loss of the limb, which must ever be allowed a very distressing event.

Let us take a view of it, in what may be justly deemed its slightest appearance, and we shall find sufficient cause for solicitude.

Its



Its first and most frequent exterior appearance, is enlargements of the glands around the neck,\* unaccompanied with pain for weeks and sometimes for months; but should nature or the means employed, prove insufficient for the removal of them by absorption, every one who has seen the subsequent process, where suppuration has taken place, will readily subscribe to the tediousness of cure, independant of its disfiguring the patient, which will frequently be the case in spite of every possible means of prevention; besides the frequent mortification he will

\* See also the Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. xi. p. 294. — *Genus, Scrofula.*



have, of seeing other enlargements take place in the neighbouring parts, just when there has been hopes of a perfect and speedy cure.

This recitement, it is conceived, will be quite sufficient, in the introduction, to convince the reader, that the complaint, which is the subject of this pamphlet, is in itself of sufficient importance to engage the attention, not only of the profession, but of every parent, whose children, from their age, the delicacy of their constitution, or from whatever cause, may be considered as liable to its attack. These however, are not the only causes of its notoriety ; to all these grievances, according to the present received opinions, is to be added



added one of yet greater magnitude than the whole, viz. that of its being hereditary ; greater, inasmuch as it affects not the poor afflicted individual only, but the whole family are made to participate in his misfortunes ; and, not content with this, they insist it shall extend to the yet unborn. If this were a real truth, it may be justly said to be the heaviest affliction, that could befall the human race. Nevertheless it either is, or is not a fact. If it be true, as represented by Dr. Kirkland, that this is a disease “ sui generis,\*” and “ that its primary cause is one of those secrets in nature that has not yet been unveiled,†” it is of the

\* Medical Surgery, p. 447, vol. ii. † P. 451, *ibid.*



utmost consequence to avoid, by every possible means, the propagation of so dreadful a malady. I hope however to prove to the satisfaction of my readers, that serious and interesting as this disorder undoubtedly is, yet, that it is not of the nature above-described ; but that it is a natural consequence of the great varieties in the human constitution ; and more frequent in this country than on the continent, from the variableness of the climate, owing probably to our insular situation.

Every professional Gentleman, must have seen a variety of instances, where one child has been scrofulous and the rest of the family perfectly free from  
every



every symptom of the disease, and the parents not in the least predisposed to this complaint. What cruelty is there, that can equal the idea of considering every other branch of the family, as having a disease in their constitution that no one speaks of, but under some fictitious name, calling it scorbutic, consumptive, or in fact, giving it any name, but that of King's evil. I have seen such innumerable cases which contradict this language, that it appeared an indispensable duty to use every endeavour to controvert an opinion, that so generally inflicted a punishment upon the innocent.

It was not without the pretensions of extensive experience, that I ventured



tured to recall the attention of the profession, to a complaint that will frequently subject them to mortification, and the censures of the ignorant and avaricious. In tedious cases, the one class will suppose the practitioner to be ignorant of proper remedies, and the other will attribute the tediousness of the case to bad motives: but what will be yet more affecting to the feelings of the sensible and humane man, will be, frequent disappointment in his hopes and reasonable prognostics. However, let him consider, it becomes a duty to assist the afflicted, and to look forward to the gratification that results from occasional success in preserving limbs, which, according to the general practice were considered as lost,



lost, and of rendering them useful, and the subject a happy and valuable member of society. Instances of this kind, will enable a man to condemn all that can be said of him, by the ignorant and the wicked.

Some few additional remedies are here suggested, but there is little variety in the mode of treatment. Every week's experience, authorises me to recommend early openings, instead of leaving it to time and nature; and the caustic, upon most occasions, is infinitely preferable to instruments. Children, who are much more frequently affected than grown persons, require great attention; the sight of blood and instruments frightens them, and they cannot



not be expected to be much influenced by reasoning ; therefore we should be extremely careful in such cases to avoid, by every possible contrivance, the use of instruments, to prevent the aversion which they will otherwise soon have to every surgeon.

One other circumstance, with permission, may be added, viz. In cases of long standing, where the bones are denuded of their periosteum, a considerable time must elapse before a cure can be performed ; and in general there is little more necessary, than may be done by giving proper directions to a nurse, with occasional attendance. By this means more  
time

time will be, as it were, allowed, and the parties concerned will be less impatient, and the person employed will be spared the painful task of answering daily inquiries, where the alteration cannot be material.

The internal remedies are not numerous, but they are active, and must be selected with judgment; given at proper times and in suitable doses, which must be left to the discretion of the prescriber.

Some apology may be thought necessary for introducing the names of the patients; but when speaking to a friend on that point, he obviated the objections that were made, by considering the public as having



a right to the names of those who have been benefited by their charitable contributions ; and it must be confessed, the greater the appearance of truth and candour, the more is the satisfaction to the reader and the writer.

One other object, deemed worthy of attention, has been the giving general directions for sea-bathing, which, upon the present general plan in cases of Scrofula, it is presumed does more harm than good ; and, as it is become almost an universal practice to send strumous patients to the sea-side, it is an object of importance that proper directions should be given, by which they may obtain the desired effect.

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A  
TREATISE  
ON THE  
*STRUMA, or SCROFULA.*

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CHAP. I.

THE complaint now to be considered, seems to have affected mankind as far back as medical authority can be traced; and, for a great number of years past, it has been considered as an hereditary disease. Convinced as we are of the fallacy of this opinion, of the pain it gives to many individuals, and of the injustice it does to a



great number of families, we shall endeavour to remove this prejudice by candid reasoning, supported by facts: and, with the desire of affording sufficient information to make every reader a competent judge of the subject, we shall first explain what is meant by hereditary and pre-disposition to disease; give a brief explanation of the lymphatic system, which is the seat of struma, or the King's evil; point out what kind of constitution pre-disposes to this particular complaint, and under what circumstances such a constitution is liable to the attacks of this disease. We shall then relate the opinions of a number of different authors as to the proximate cause of this complaint, and subjoin what is conceived to be more rational, as it will be found consistent with the known laws of the animal economy. To which will be added, a description of the symptoms, according to the part or parts affected, with the best means of preventing the disease, and the most successful method of treatment.

C H A P.

## CHAP. II.

*Of hereditary Disposition to Disease.*

**H**EREDITARY disposition is supposed to arise from a similarity in children, to the person, the structure of the body, and passions of the mind which were visible in one or both of the parents, and by which they are disposed to the general state of health, or to the peculiar diseases of the parent or parents, which they most resemble. This similarity is often more particularly evident by obvious peculiarities. The colour and form of the hair, the complexion, the figure, colour, and peculiarities of the eye, eye-brow, forehead, nose, mouth, teeth, chin, and general turn of the countenance, and in a variety of other apparently more trivial distinctions, such as spots



spots on the skin, shape of the nail and the like, and the same with respect to the form of the body, and also to the passions of the mind, sympathies and antipathies; this resemblance is alike observable in the disposition and pursuits, talents in all its varied peculiarities of voice, oratory, memory, &c. &c. But what can be more natural than that the child should inherit the form of body and disposition of mind of the parents, more especially where there is an evident similarity in both? where that is not the case the distinction is often more strongly marked, and we see a very striking resemblance to one parent more than to the other. This subject is certainly very well understood at the present time with respect to the brute creation, particularly in the breeding of horses, bullocks and sheep, and the different kinds of birds as the game-cock, pigeons, singing-birds, &c. &c. There is probably more attention paid to that part of natural history in this country than in any other part of Europe,  
or



or perhaps of the whole world, and the consequences generally speaking are well ascertained ; this is the happy result of improved taste, and of pursuing inquiry by the best of all means, observation and actual experiments. And should it ever happen that ambition gives way to more rational views in the conduct of life, the human race will no doubt be benefited in health and personal accomplishments.

Upon the same general principle of similarity in health, so does it apply to the class of disease, to which the individual may be considered as pre-disposed by the similarity of constitution.

This it is presumed is giving all that can be required in favour of hereditary disposition to disease ; and, when applied generally, no one will ever make an exception ; but it is the cruelty of marking a few complaints only with the title of hereditary that has excited such universal  
 abhorrence ;



abhorrence ; and, in the present instance, it is presumed without any truly justifiable pretensions.

It may be necessary to observe, that the hereditary disposition may be changed from a variety of causes ; such as accidental or other diseases, particularly employments, change of climate, and mode of living ; either of these circumstances may so much alter the constitution, that there shall remain little or no appearance of the hereditary disposition : for instance ; we often see youth, at the age of fourteen or sixteen with pre-disposition to consumption ; but, at a subsequent period of life, they have become very stout athletic persons, and pre-disposed to almost every other complaint in preference to consumption. Change of climate produces frequent changes in the constitution, and in its pre-disposition to disease. Thus persons, in the East Indies, frequently become pre-disposed to hepatic complaints, which



which most probably would never have existed but with the change of climate: and so of different employments, whether sedentary or by being much exposed to changes in the weather. And again a very principal cause of this change, is in the mode of living, which produces such changes in the constitution as to predispose it to a variety of different diseases at different periods, according to the different habits of life.\*

This, it is conceived, will be amply sufficient to shew the changes that may take place in the hereditary constitution, and naturally leads to the consideration of predisposition to disease.

\* “ We may conclude—with mentioning the remarkable  
 “ versatility of the human constitution, which, more than that  
 “ of any other animal, is capable of accommodating itself to  
 “ every climate and to all kind of diet; hence we may con-  
 “ clude, that a large proportion of the diseases to which we are  
 “ subjected are produced by ourselves.”

Encyclopedia Brit. page 92, vol. xi. part Ist,

E

C H A P.



## C H A P. III.

*Of Pre-disposition to Disease.*

BY pre-disposition to disease is meant a habit of body or constitution so formed as to enable persons to predict, in case of illness, what may be the disease. The knowledge of pre-disposition, in medical science, is similar to what is better understood by the term of physiognomy; it is a probable and well-founded conjecture, as to the class of diseases to which a person may be considered as most subject, or the particular complaint to which an individual may be considered as peculiarly liable. This is known, by the skilful physician, in the same manner as the judicious physiognomist ascertains his opinion of the abilities, disposition, taste, &c. of a person, and probably with more success,

as



as not merely the countenance is considered, but the form of the body, disposition of the mind, season of the year, probable mode of living, habits and employments. A knowledge of the hereditary disposition may also assist the judgment.

It does not, however, necessarily follow, because a person is pre-disposed to scrofula, apoplexy, gout or the like, that such a disease should take place. On the contrary, this knowledge, as well as that of hereditary disposition, should be a guard to prevent, as much as possible, the application of such occasional causes, as may have a tendency to produce the complaint: or rather, it should excite our endeavours to produce a change in the pre-disposition by a change of situation, climate, employment, exercise, or mode of living, or as many of these circumstances as may be practicable to obtain the desired effect.



## C H A P. IV.

*A short Explanation of the Lymphatic System.*

THE best anatomists have not, I believe, as yet, been enabled to make those accurate and general dissections of the lymphatic system, which they have been fortunate enough to accomplish in other vascular parts of the body. I should suppose that every person is acquainted with the terms, arteries and veins, and knows that the former conduct the blood from the heart to every part of the body; while the latter are the channels by which the vital fluid is returned to that organ. The lymphatic vessels are distributed through the whole body, like the veins and arteries, but perfectly distinct from either. The contents of this system of vessels are a thinnish pale-coloured fluid, with little or no smell, and commonly



only of a saltish taste: the lymphatic vessels, in the manner of their distribution, have a greater resemblance to the veins than to the arteries, as they proceed from the surface and extremities of the body towards the centre; but they are infinitely more valvular than the veins, with a great number of intervening glands, the uses of which do not at present seem to be sufficiently understood. These glands are differently denominated, according to their situation.\*

In some particular parts of the body, the lymphatic glands may almost always be found, especially in children. These parts

| * Glandulæ Lymphaticæ | The Lymphatic Glands         |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Cervicales            | Of the Neck                  |
| Occipitales           | Of the back Part of the Head |
| Bronchiales           | Of the Bronchia              |
| Axillares             | Of the Arm-pit               |
| Mesentericæ           | Of the Mesentery             |
| Inguinales            | Of the Groin                 |
| Crurales, &c. &c.     | Of the Legs, &c. &c.         |

are



are the axilla or arm-pit, the inguen or groin, the sides of the neck, and under the chin, mesentery, &c. It is a common observation, that, in young animals, there are glands, and they are likewise large, where, at the age of maturity, they are either very small or entirely defective.

To enumerate the uses of the lymphatic system, would very far exceed the limits of this pamphlet; I shall therefore only just mention a few that are obvious and of the greatest importance. The process of nutrition will necessarily claim our first description.

The food being received into the stomach, and having undergone certain changes by digestion, enters the small intestines, where the chyle is absorbed by the lymphatics, which in these parts, are called lacteals: and passing on to the glands of the mesentery, it then advances to the receptacle of the chyle, and thoracic duct, which empties



ties itself into the left subclavian vein. The chyle thus mixed with the blood, proceeds with it to the heart, to be transmitted through the lungs, and fitted for the purposes of the general circulation ; the residuum of the food is discharged by the alimentary canal.

This is a brief account of the progress of the aliments towards nutrition, so necessary to supply that constant waste, which must ever accompany human existence.

From the great importance of this order of vessels to the human frame, it is evident that any impediment to their natural functions, from whatever circumstance, must prove extremely pernicious ; and I am fully persuaded that such a morbid state is a very general, if not the most frequent cause of internal diseases ; if the mesenteric glands are affected, the natural consequence must be a debilitated frame, from want of a proper quantity of nutriment.



I can affirm that this is much more incidental to children than is commonly imagined. For in a great number supposed to die of worms, consumptions, and the like, I have almost always found the mesenteric glands exhibit more or less, of a diseased appearance.

Various diseases are conveyed to the constitution by the means of the lymphatics, such as the inoculated small-pox, lues venerea, bite of the mad dog and other animals; and though some parts may be more disposed to absorption than others, yet experience proves, that different species of contagion may be transmitted from the point of the finger or toe, as well as in the arm. In fine, the lymphatics may be considered as the agents in communicating good and evil to the system; and I am of opinion that a more perfect knowledge of this important system of vessels will tend more to develop the causes of disease, than any other discoveries hitherto made by anatomists.

C H A P.



## C H A P. V.

*What Kind of Constitution may be considered as pre-disposed to the Struma, or King's Evil.*

THE constitutions most subject to diseased lymphatic glands, are those which are the easiest affected by the operation of the causes generally producing disease. For it is the common criterion of a good constitution, that a person so endowed may indulge in a variety of excesses, and expose himself suddenly to intemperate changes of weather and season, without experiencing any sensible inconvenience. The gradations between a constitution very susceptible of indisposition, and its opposite extreme, are innumerable; and they constitute the grand source of diseases, both acute and chronic, to which mankind is liable: but this variety in pre-disposition is no proof of any latent or hereditary disease. If two

F

persons



persons of a delicate form of body have children, it is natural that such offspring should inherit the delicacy of the parents : not but we very often see, where children are properly attended to, that they acquire better constitutions than their parents. On the other hand, when the constitutions of the parties are different, the husband perhaps an athletic man, and the woman delicate and susceptible of slight affections ; if they have children, some will probably resemble the mother in person and constitution, whilst others are more similar in those respects to their father ;\* and their several pre-dispositions will, of consequence, be different. This I con-

\* I was lately attending in a family in which were four children, and the contrast was remarkable. The first and third were stout healthy children, and the second and fourth, little fine-skinned delicate creatures. The obvious difference excited notice, and I inquired respecting their general health and other circumstances. It was observed, that the first and third had uniform good health, that the second was now much healthier than she had been, and that the youngest, then about two years old, was seldom a week or fourteen days without having some complaints of his bowels, his teeth, fever, cough, &c.

ceive

ceive to have been the case, in the family mentioned by Dr. Cullen, in the 4th part of his First Lines. But this is no proof of any existing disease, or latent virus. A person of a habit very susceptible of a morbid state, may be in perfect health before the application of the cause, producing the change from health to disease: and notwithstanding slight causes may produce such an effect, yet it is not to be thence inferred that there was any previously existing disease, or that the occasional was the proximate cause of the supervening complaint. We might as well suppose any small piece of machinery to be imperfect, because a less degree of violence shall destroy its mechanism, or impede its movements than is necessary to affect one of the same kind, of a larger and stronger construction.



## C H A P. VI.

*Briefly describing the external Appearances of a Constitution particularly susceptible of a morbid State, and at what Period, and under what Circumstances the Habit is liable to the Attack of this Disease.*

**W**HEN a person is in health, the most distinguishing mark of a habit particularly susceptible of a morbid state, is, in my opinion, a fine skin. I do not mean by this the colour, but the thinness of the skin. This remark being novel, may appear to be imaginary, but a little attention will soon convince every person, that there is as much difference in the substance of the human skin, as in that of horses or other animals; and however disadvantageous a fine skin may appear to be, from its attendant susceptibility of the causes producing disease, it is commonly accompanied with the most distinguishing marks of beauty. The great number of persons with  
this

this kind of skin, the frequent and sudden changes in the weather, and the very general neglect of the means of preventing its consequent effects upon the human frame, I consider as principal sources of the prevalence of the Struma in this country. The veins in such persons are commonly large and superficial, and frequently the whole of their external appearance delicate; though we very often see many of the finest form of both sexes with a very thin skin. To the exterior appearance we have described, may be added in many instances, a paleness of the countenance, a languor in the eye, and what is generally termed a want of vivacity. When such a habit is attacked by the Struma, the natural torpor of disposition will be increased by the disease. Others with a delicate frame of body, and a fine thin skin, have a beautiful florid complexion and their skin is so easily affected by very slight causes, that it shall sometimes change its aspect, more than once in the same day. The eyes are lively,  
and



and there is throughout a gaiety and sprightliness of manner, that often carries them, when young, to great excess in exercise, and amusements ; to which may be generally added great irritability and acuteness. The complexion is different, sometimes brown, but more frequently fair. The common observation that grey or blue eyes, fair hair and complexion, are characteristic marks of a strumous pre-disposition, is intitled to no greater degree of authority than most of the other unfounded remarks in favour of hereditary disease ; a very large majority of children in this country have fair hair, and grey or blue eyes, which grow darker, as they advance in years ; and at the age of maturity, the hair and often the eyes, are of different shaded browns, the former especially are by far the most general class in this kingdom.

Children being much more susceptible of morbid affections than adults, are thence more liable to diseases in general as well as to  
the

the Struma. From twelve months to ten or twelve years, but chiefly to five or six, it most frequently appears. Girls being more delicate than boys, and in general the female than the male sex, the disease is consequently more frequent among the former.

Diseases of various kinds, often render a constitution, naturally good, very susceptible of the slightest impressions. I have seen a great number of children with this complaint, who had not the least pre-disposition to it in their own constitution, and whose parents were never affected by the disease. It has either come on from bad nursing, or after the small pox, measles, hooping cough, teething, fevers of different kinds, and the like, by which the constitution had been so much reduced, as to be affected by the slightest causes producing diseased lymphatic glands.

It is a common remark, that the children of the labouring part of the kingdom are  
stronger



stronger and healthier than those of persons of rank or fortune; the delicate children of persons of fortune, by having every necessary aid from good nursing and medical assistance are preserved in health, whilst those of the poorer class, of a similar habit of body fall early victims to the delicacy of their constitution.

During infancy, improper diet, diseases, or accidents may be a cause of the Struma or King's Evil in every child; but at a later period in life, if the constitution be good, the disease is not so readily produced. The reason of this is obvious. The occasional or exciting causes must be violent, or long continued, before such a constitution will be affected.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VII.

*An Examination into the Arguments commonly brought forward as Proofs that Struma is an hereditary Disease.*

**I**T would be impossible to enumerate all the absurd reasons that are assigned for this disease being hereditary, we shall therefore confine ourselves to those that may be properly considered as the most reasonable, and which we conceive may be comprised in the frequency of its appearance, its chiefly attacking children, and the great difficulty in curing the complaint.

The authorities already referred to, are sufficient to prove that Struma is as universal a complaint as it is ancient; but it is more frequently to be found in the middle latitudes, than either in the intemperately hot or cold climates; it is also more frequent in some parts of Europe than

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others,



others, and in this country it has been found to be most general in the counties of Suffolk and Lancashire; at all periods it appears to have been a very general complaint in this island. We find from history it was denominated King's Evil in the time of Edward the Confessor, who is supposed to have been the first that attempted to cure this disease by the touch.

From a register kept in the Royal Chapel, we are informed, that King Charles the Second, touched 92,107 persons, in a certain number of years; and if we admit both the veracity of Mr. Morley, and his judgment in discriminating the disease, he had, many years since, seen, or been consulted by upwards of 5000. But I am inclined to think, that the public will entertain as little faith in a vervain-root suspended by a white ribband round the neck to the pit of the stomach, as they now have

have in the efficacy of the royal touch, or any similar superstitious means.

This of itself, must be admitted as sufficient authority for Zaviani, an eminent Italian physician, calling it the English distemper; but it does not appear by any just inference that the disease is more prevalent at this time than formerly, which reasonably must have been the case, if we admit the register to be true, and the disease hereditary.

This disorder is not confined to the human species; most quadrupeds are subject to this complaint; it has been very long since observed among hogs, and thence obtained the name of scrophula; it is a very general complaint among sheep, well known by the term rot; and its effects on them internally, are in many instances, (particularly in the mesentery and lungs,) similar to the human species. — Monkeys are also affected by scrophula in this coun-



try; although I do not remember to have seen any instance, or heard any observation of an instance of the kind happening to them, in their native climate.

These circumstances, it is presumed, have some weight against the opinion of its arising from a peculiar virus, or by hereditary transmission.

The second supposed reason for considering this disease to be hereditary, is the period in which it most commonly makes its attack. I have seen it at every period from four days old to sixty years, and upwards; but infancy is by far the most general time of its appearance. The great disproportion of deaths under two years of age upon a large scale will appear scarcely credible, but the fact is nevertheless well ascertained to be in the proportion of 9000 to 16000. Thus, more than one half the human species, within the bills of mortality, die under two years of age. This cannot be accounted for by analogy. And although the  
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the human offspring is exceedingly helpless during infancy, they have the advantage of reasonable parents ; and it is presumed there can be nothing offensive or unreasonable in supposing the general principles of nature to be nearly the same, as we rarely see any very exceptionable deviations in the animal kingdom ; consequently it is not to be supposed to have been the intention of Providence, that so great a proportion of the human species should be brought into existence, to expire in so short a time. What then can occasion so great a mortality ? The small pox, which we used to consider as one principal cause of this devastation, is in a great measure remedied by inoculation. It must arise, I should conceive, from the following causes: the want of attention to the natural constitution of the child, to the season of the year when it is born, and to the general bad management during the early months.

It



It will be readily granted that there are a great variety in the constitutions of the inhabitants of this kingdom. We have a number of stout athletic persons, active, extremely well formed, capable of bearing exercise of almost every kind, without being excessively fatigued; all the secretions are regular, and they are not easily deranged by being exposed to wet or cold. Another class are those whose form is not equally regular\* in its proportions with the last class, but yet are sufficiently well formed at the age of maturity, so as not to be easily fatigued or subject to frequent indispositions from trivial causes. — The third class will be found to be also very

\* What is here meant by due proportion refers to the muscular strength of the subject. We often see tall persons, who are thin and their muscles not proportionable to their height; they are not so strong or capable of fatigue as those who are much less or shorter, where there is a due proportion of muscular fibres; and it will be admitted by all, that the perfection of any animal or piece of mechanism, depends upon the regularity and proportion of all its component parts.

numerous,



numerous, whose form, when speaking of the sex, are often the most admired, and when it has been happily preserved through the period of infancy and youth, from the ravages of disease, is strictly speaking very beautiful. The skin is very thin, the bones are small, but proportionable, and the chief thing to be lamented is its liability to derangement from very slight causes; strong exercise very soon fatigues them, and they require more time for rest to recover themselves afterwards. Their constitution is easily affected by being accidentally exposed to the vicissitudes of weather and change of seasons; a variety of apparently trivial circumstances will prove sufficient to produce disease of long or short duration. — This variety in form and constitution is more obvious in the middle latitudes, than either in the more northern or southern climates, and consequently subjects all those who are naturally of a delicate form, or where the constitution may be rendered so, to more frequent indisposition; and it will  
not



not be doubted but the inhabitants of this island are more so, than those on the continent, where the vicissitudes are not only less frequent but less severe. — The children of all such persons as we have last described will, upon a general principle, be proportionably more delicate than those of the second class, and require more care in this island to preserve them from diseases generally, but particularly Struma; for, although it may appear at every period of life, I conceive it frequently originated in infancy, not perhaps in a sufficient degree to have excited attention at that time, but that the lymphatic glands were affected, and which at a subsequent period, from occasional and increased cause, was excited to action.

It is presumed almost unnecessary to remark, that children, the delicacy of whose constitution subjects them to frequent indisposition, must be less capable of bearing diseases peculiar to that period of life, and  
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that it must tend to debilitate, and increase the susceptibility to disease generally, and particularly diseased lymphatic glands; but there can be no just inference that the disease itself was from hereditary transmission.

The season of the year, it is conceived, might very fairly be taken into the account. The spring is the general season for the improvement of all nature. The air of spring and summer must be better suited to the tender lungs of delicate young children, than that of a heated room by fire, or the cold, sharp, moist air of winter: in addition to which we may properly mention, the exercise, amusement, and general health of the mother or nurse. — The next cause is, general bad management during the early months of infancy.

When we consider the many complaints to which children are exposed from their birth; the number of epidemical diseases,

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such as small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, &c. they have to contend with, and that they often are sufferers by the indisposition and irregularities of the mother or nurse; it may be said these circumstances are sufficient to account for the number that die in their infancy: but I am firmly of opinion, the general bad management is an evil paramount to the whole, and which is chiefly comprised in too much feeding, too much sleep, and too little exercise. The sad consequences of this conduct are seldom observable until towards the eighth or tenth month; when, if the child be what is commonly deemed a fine child, (by which is meant a very fat child, half as large and heavy again as it ought to be,) the mother is perfectly happy: this however experience proves, by its consequence, to be preternatural, and thence wrong. In numberless instances, when I have been consulted about children, it has been said, what a very fine child it was at eight, ten, or twelve months old. The consequence of this improper suckling, or feeding, and  
sleeping



sleeping alternately, is, that it produces a full habit; and, in case of the attack of measles, small-pox, or any other inflammatory disease, it increases the inflammatory diathesis, and renders them liable to be great sufferers: even teething, in such a habit of body, will frequently produce a very serious symptomatic fever; but diseased mesenteric glands, with all the concomitant evils, is almost the invariable consequence. Two instances I shall briefly relate: Mrs. ———, a very well-proportioned woman, consulted me about her child, then eight years old: she was very anxious, as he was frequently ill, and the only surviving one of nine. The husband, by inquiry, was a very well-formed man; and the children had been remarkably large fine children, but most of them had died under eighteen months: one lived to be twenty months, and then died (to use the mother's expression) a perfect skeleton; two died of the small pox, and the rest of complaints in the bowels. The



boy, about whose health I was consulted, was very weakly and scrophulous. In this family, I had no doubt, but the principle cause of the ill health of the children was from too much suckling or feeding, and too much sleep; as there did not appear the least reason to suppose any inattention to cleanliness, nor any defect in hereditary construction: the parents may be considered as belonging to the first class as described in page 46. The mother was a very good-looking woman, had been a wet nurse in two gentlemen's families, one of them of the profession, and consequently she might be considered as a proper person. If it depended upon exterior appearance and a good breast of milk, there can be no doubt but she was. By every inquiry there had been no appearance of Scrophula to the knowledge of the parents in either family; and, judging from pre-disposition, the report was most likely to be true.

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The second instance is yet more remarkable. Mrs. S. a very well-formed woman, had been married to three husbands, by each had three children, all of whom died at very early periods; and, by her account, there could be no doubt of their having been strumous. Under such circumstances as these, it is impossible not to suppose the defect was in the management, and not from hereditary or particular pre-disposition to this disease. Such fatal consequences as are here described, it may be said and hoped, seldom occur; yet candid investigation will convince the inquirer, that it is a much greater evil than is commonly admitted, and that it is the true cause of an innumerable number of persons having a weakly frame of body, rendering them liable to frequent indisposition, and particularly diseased lymphatic glands, but it is presumed there can be no ground for supposing such cases to be hereditary.



A third material reason for considering Scrofula as an hereditary disease, is the great difficulty in curing it. And when we reflect upon the number of ingenious and learned men who have been, and who are employed in the profession, the great variety of medicines that have been at all times, and are daily obtruded upon the public as specifics in the cure of this disease, and that in truth almost all the different medicines that are, or that have been in use, have had their trial, without obtaining any specific remedy, and also that, according to the present general practice in strumous cases, more is left to nature or to empirics than in any other disease ; it may be reasonably said to afford abundant encouragement for such an idea, and, as far as it complimented the professors of the healing art, the person who first suggested the opinion may be entitled to great credit for his ingenuity ; but when it is considered as productive of the greatest injustice



injustice to a large proportion of the inhabitants of this island, and that its natural consequence must produce apathy in the mind of practitioners in medical science, instead of exciting their particular attention to the most general and most troublesome complaint in this country; the ingenuity of the thought should give way to its injurious consequences.

Why may we not suppose this opinion to be very possibly erroneous? Are we to expect no farther discoveries in the cure of diseases? Is the knowledge of physic arrived at its *ne plus ultra*? Many discoveries prove the contrary. The very important one of the circulation of the blood, is at no very distant period, considering how long the study of anatomy had before been in practice; and though *Bartholin*, *Nuck*, and others, have written upon the lymphatics, yet are we chiefly indebted to the professors of anatomy, of the present age, for a more general information respecting  
that



that important system; nor do I think there is the smallest doubt, if we may judge from the advantages attending past discoveries, but that our successors will be fortunate enough, to find effectual remedies for those diseases, which are at this time the support of empirics, and the opprobrium of the regular practitioner.

It has been suggested that this complaint is communicable, but from a variety of different experiments I am perfectly persuaded that it is not. It has also been said to be conveyed to the system by inoculation, but that appears to be equally inadmissible. That Scrofula frequently appears after the small pox is an undoubted fact, and the most distressing cases I have seen have been subsequent to the natural small pox.

Another supposed means of propagating this disease, has been suckling, upon the supposition of the disease being in the blood, and thence conveyed to the infant  
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in its nutriment : but I conceive there is very little foundation for this supposition ; as almost all the women, who may be truly considered as pre-disposed to Struma, by having a fine skin, the veins large and superficial, provided there be no defect in the form, make the best nurses, generally having very good breasts of milk ; and the principle danger appears from the quantity of milk, lest the child should have too much, and her strength be inadequate to a proportionable degree of exercise.

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## CHAP. VIII.

### *The proximate Cause of the Struma.*

HAVING in the preceding chapter examined into the reasons that are commonly assigned for the Struma being an hereditary disease, let us proceed to  
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higher authority, and relate the opinions of some of the most respectable antient and modern authors. Hippocrates,\* Celsus,† Pliny,‡ and others, have given a very accurate description of the symptoms of this disease under the head of Struma, but no mention is made by them of its being hereditary. Felix Platerus is the first I have met with, who considers it as an hereditary disease;|| since that period it has been more generally considered as having its seat in the blood,§ and thence transmitted

\* Lib. de Glandulis.

† Lib. v. Cap. 28.

‡ Lib. xxvii. Galen ad Aphorism. Hipp. lib. iii. aph. 26. et alibi sæpe.

|| Semen parentum causa sarcomatum, tuberculorum, strumarum, scrophularum, verrucarum, hereditariorum. Oper. Plateri, tom. iii. p. 194.

§ On making frequent inquiries, what persons understood by an hereditary disease, the answer has been to the following effect: a habit of body tainted with some peculiar disease, derived from one or both parents; that it resides in the blood; and

mitted to posterity. Galen, and his followers, thought it arose from a cold pituitous matter; others, imagining a determinate proportion of solids and fluids to be necessary to the formation of the human body, and its preservation in health, have ascribed this, and a variety of other diseases, to a redundant quantity of the latter. Avicenna supposed that it arises from melancholy; and Wiseman, much the best practical writer upon this subject among the moderns, maintains the proximate cause of Struma to be a prevailing acidity in the ferous part of the blood. Dr. Cullen has supposed it to arise from a peculiar conformation of the lymphatic system; and many authors have suggested the probability of its originating in excessive venery, or the virus of disease, resulting from

and though sometimes apparently extinguished, yet actually exists during life, and its unhappy consequences are transmitted from generation to generation.



promiscuous intercourse not being perfectly counteracted.

These few respectable authorities, without adding any more, may be sufficient to shew the contrariety of opinions that have been entertained on this subject. Indeed the Struma often appears under such a variety of forms, according to the different stages of the disease, age, and constitution of the patient, that I can very readily believe, each of those writers to have seen cases exactly corresponding to the ideas which they respectively entertained of the proximate cause.

Having already described the kind of constitution pre-disposed to the Struma; viz. a habit of body naturally delicate, and very susceptible of slight impressions productive of disease, and having likewise recited some of the principal doctrines relative to the proximate cause, I shall, with submission, deliver my own opinion on a point of theory

ry so much agitated. My opinion therefore is, that the Struma or King's Evil arises immediately from obstructions in the lymphatic system, most frequently occasioned by a viscosity of lymph, or that fluid which is contained in the lymphatic system. I conceive, that every impediment to the regular secretions in the different organs of the body, will generally have a tendency to render this fluid viscid, and produce obstructions in the lymphatic system, particularly in those parts which are more immediately affected, whether from exposure to cold,\* producing

\* A very healthy young woman, about twenty-four years of age, without any other appearance of pre-disposition to this disease but that of a fine skin, was coming from Yorkshire to London during winter. From an accidental circumstance, she was obliged to take a very long stage on the outside of the coach at an early hour in the morning, which occasioned enlargements of the glands in the neck and on the arm, that were more particularly exposed to the cold: several suppurated, and were, for a long time before I saw her, very troublesome; for the last two years she has been perfectly well, and although she may be truly said to have the marks of the Evil, yet I am firmly of opinion there cannot be the smallest ground for supposing that her children should consequently have the disease.



a constriction of the cappillary vessels generally or partially; any natural or artificial evacuation wholly or in part obstructed; too plentiful a diet; inordinate indulgence of sleep and want of exercise, variableness of the weather, particularly in the spring and fall of the year, moist and low situations, different diseases, as small pox, measles, lues venerea, whooping cough, fevers of different kinds, &c. One or more of these and various other causes, may tend to increase the tenacity of this fluid; an event which may not only produce obstructions in the vessels, but even render them totally unfit for performing their natural functions in the animal economy.

In accounting for the origin of the Struma, it seems unnecessary to suppose any peculiar conformation, or morbid organization of the lymphatic system. It is sufficient for our purpose, that there is, beyond all contradiction, delicacy of frame; and, in most instances, I believe the first appearance

appearance of obstructed glands to be only indicative of general indisposition, or the consequences of previous disease; by which the habit is rendered more subject to the causes producing diseased lymphatic glands, and less capable of resisting their operations.

This reasoning will appear more admissible, when we consider what are the powers by which the fluids pass forward in the lymphatic system. In the circulation of the blood, the action of the heart, the strongest muscle in the body, and also of the arteries, will readily account for the return of the blood through the veins. It may be proper to observe, there are numerous valves in the veins of the extremities, so that the blood having passed one of these, it cannot return downwards; and, while there is a power sufficient to bring forward a new supply, that which occupies the space between the two valves is propelled, and a perpetual succession supplied by the powers before-mentioned.



tioned. What the power is, by which the contents of the lymphatic system are carried forward, it will be difficult precisely to say. We know that there is no such organ as the heart subservient to this system; and, if the vessels have a muscular power, it cannot be supposed very strong, from the extreme thinness of their coats, particularly in the smaller branches. It is therefore most probable, that the lymphatic vessels, which are in all cavities, absorb, when in a healthy state, the contents of those cavities by what is called capillary attraction. Or, by some mechanical cause, the fluids are pressed into the mouth of the lymphatic, and the valve preventing a return, they act as a stimulus upon the containing vessel; by which, with the general action, continually exerted in an animal body, particularly respiration and circulation, the fluids are carried forward. This appears to me, the only rational way of explaining the means by which the contents of the lymphatic vessels pass from their mouths to

to their extremities ; and there can be no difficulty in admitting, that various causes may often impede the progress of those fluids, and give rise to the diseases of the lymphatic system.

This view of the proximate cause, seems to correspond entirely with the form of body and disposition first described in the 5th Chapter. If I may be allowed with Dr. Cullen, to mention a second proximate cause, I should think, a very rigid and irritable state of the constitution, described as forming the second part of the 5th Chapter, a frequent cause of this disease. Consequently all the occasional causes, tending to increase a rigidity and irritability, must often produce it. Hence we may account for many strumous appearances, supposed to arise from accidents at play, strains, bruises, exposure to cold, and the like.

It will afford me the highest gratification, if this view of the proximate cause

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of Struma should be considered as satisfactory. There are few medical men who do not agree with Celsus, when he says: "*Causæ proximæ investigatio ad cognitionem morbi ducit amplissimam.*" Yet this does not lessen the difficulty: every one will concur with me in opinion, that it is often much easier to cure a disease than to ascertain its true proximate cause; and whenever hypothesis is the basis of an opinion, the door is open to endless and often useless controversy. For this reason chiefly I avoided the attempt at such an investigation in the first edition of this treatise; nor should I have now introduced the subject, had not the plan of the present edition appeared to demand it.

C H A P.

## C H A P. IX.

*History of the Disease.*

I Shall now endeavour to point out the symptoms and progress of this disease, according as the lymphatic glands in the different parts of the body are principally affected; and as those of the mesentery appear to me to be most frequently the seat of complaint in young children, and in very many instances lay the foundation of a strumous habit of body, they necessarily claim our first attention.

Those glands being the channel by which nutriment is conveyed into the vascular system, it is evident that when they are obstructed, the habit of body must decline. The flesh, that was before firm, will soon become loose and flacid, the countenance pale, and a general languor and disinclination



tion to exercise of every kind, particularly in the morning, will prevail: the appetite will vary, sometimes it will be pretty good, at other times but indifferent; an unusual degree of thirst will be experienced; considerable heat will be excited upon the skin, particularly in the palms of the hands; the breath will be often offensive, the bowels affected with an uneasy sensation, and the size of the belly increased. But this symptom, I apprehend, is more frequently caused from a constipation of body or by a distention of the bowels with wind, than by an enlargement of the diseased glands. The pulse will be quick and small, and the lassitude so much increased, that the little patient will, if permitted, continue in one position for a length of time picking or rubbing the nose. In this stage, the disease is often attributed to teething, if there are yet any teeth expected; and in other instances to worms, probably from the picking or rubbing of the nose, which has been often considered as characteristic of that complaint. But  
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there seems little propriety in considering this act as characteristic of any particular disease, as it is common to every indisposition accompanied with fever.\* If the children attacked in this manner are of the age of 16, 18, or 20, months, I have almost always been told what fine children they were at ten or twelve months; that at that period they could walk alone; but at this time, it was added, they are totally unable, and require more nursing now than ever. The lymphatic glands, externally, will frequently become enlarged, particularly those of the back part of the head, and under the chin; the lips will be often swelled, and sometimes attended with eruptions round the mouth, on the back of the head, and different parts of the body; the eyes and eyelashes will frequently partake of

\* During fever, most of the natural secretions are diminished, and that of the mucous membrane of the nose among others; from this diminution the skin becomes dry, the mucous hardens, and there arises a natural propensity to be rubbing or picking it.



the general indisposition; at other times, the fingers, toes, back of the hand or arm, have often a morbid appearance; and, in short, if accurately examined, it will be found that the lymphatic glands, in many different parts of the body, are more or less affected. The alvine discharge is irregular, sometimes the patient shall have a purging for a day or two, but is more frequently to this period costive. The loss of flesh will become daily more visible, and the bones will appear to grow larger, particularly at the joints; the head also seems preternaturally enlarged; the ribs become flattened, and often curvated almost to a right angle with the breast-bone or the spine, which are occasionally distorted in one or more places; and in proportion to the enlargement previous to the attack of the disease, will this symptom be more or less conspicuous. It has been before observed, that, in this stage, the complaint has been usually considered as a disease of the bones; but I am inclined to think, that



that in almost every instance, the bones had been affected with curvature previous to the present indisposition ; and that the flatness of the ribs, and prominence of the breast-bone, arose from the pressure in lifting up and down a very heavy child. It is readily admitted, however, that there may be other causes of general debility, and its consequences, some of which have been already suggested. In proportion to the narrowness of the chest, will the contents be pressed down upon the diaphragm, and, thus affecting the belly, become an additional cause of its enlargement, which is now the most distinguishing symptom, accompanied with hardness, frequent pains in the gastric region, and a purging of frothy offensive stools. The pain and enlargement of the belly, instead of being abated, are usually aggravated by this symptom, and the patient is soon carried off, as is supposed, by convulsions of the bowels. In other instances, patients become dropical



cal\* in the last stage of this disease, and that is the supposed cause of their death; but there are many examples of children having diseased mesenteric glands, unaccompanied with any of the distinguishing external symptoms here described. These waste away daily, until nothing apparently remains but the bones covered with the skin. In proportion to the progress of the disease in the mesenteric glands, will its consequences be quicker or slower, and the patients will die of a true marasmus or general atrophy. A case of this kind is related by Dr. Douglass, in the Philosophical Transactions.

“ The subject was a boy, about four or  
 “ five years of age, that died of a general  
 “ atrophy or consumption of all the mus-  
 “ cular fleshy parts of the body, occasion-

\* In some cases, that I have had the opportunity of examining, which were dropfical, I have found the fluid thick, and apparently mixed with matter, which I have attributed to a supuration of some mesenteric glands.

“ ed undoubtedly from the many glandu-  
 “ lous swellings scattered up and down  
 “ the whole mesentery, which, by com-  
 “ pressing the lymphatic vessels, called in  
 “ this place Vasa-Lactea, prevented the  
 “ access and supply of the chyle, so ne-  
 “ cessary for the continued nourishment  
 “ and increase of the parts; for, without  
 “ the constant recruit of this whitish bal-  
 “ samic liquor, the mass of blood will,  
 “ in a short time, be unfit to perform any  
 “ of those offices, which a fresh accession  
 “ of chyle qualifies it for.”

“ Mr. Sheldon has observed in the first  
 “ part of his History of the Absorbent  
 “ System, that, in many subjects, he had  
 “ found all the lacteal glands entirely ob-  
 “ structed, and that the chyle was convey-  
 “ ed to the thoracic duct by means of the  
 “ anastomosing collateral branches.” On  
 this he makes the following remark; viz.  
 “ Since the alteration, which the chyle  
 “ undergoes in healthy subjects, cannot

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“ take



“ take place in these distempered habits,  
 “ because the cells of glands are stuffed  
 “ up, and the chyle is prevented from en-  
 “ tering into them; may we not readily  
 “ account for the subject becoming impo-  
 “ verished, thin, and consumptive, in  
 “ these cases? Page 50, 51.”

But the obstruction may not be in so  
 great a degree as to terminate in the death  
 of the child, though sufficient to prevent  
 the supply of a necessary quantity of nu-  
 triment, for the support and increase of the  
 body; more especially if the disease has  
 been incurred by improper feeding, and  
 want of exercise.

Enlargement and obstructions of the  
 lymphatic glands of the lungs, liver,  
 spleen, and bronchia, also frequently hap-  
 pen.

In incipient obstructions of the lym-  
 phatic glands of the lungs, the most dis-  
 tinguishing

tinguishing symptoms are, a hard dry cough, difficulty of breathing, especially upon an increased action of the vessels, whether from quick exercise or any other cause. There will be a sense of fulness, and the patient will complain of a difficulty of breathing, and occasionally be subject to an obtuse dull pain under the shoulder-blade, in the side, or under the breast. The pulse varies, but is seldom very quick or very full; the patient coughs hard and frequently, yet expectorates little; there is a frothy mucous which proceeds from the fauces, and is occasioned by the action of coughing. If the disease should continue its progress, it terminates in suppuration, producing phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption; a disease very common in this country, and particularly in the metropolis.\*

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\* The average number of those who die of this disease, according to the bills of mortality, is upwards of four thousand annually; and I am thoroughly persuaded, in the greatest part of that



There is yet greater difficulty in distinguishing the diseases of the liver and spleen, especially when they are first affected. Both these bowels are commonly found to be larger than in a sound healthy state, and the patient is observed to waste away without any apparent cause. There is occasionally a sense of pain and uneasiness in the region of the liver, but seldom any defect in the secretions of the bile; for, in livers considerably diseased, I have found the usual quantity of bile in the cyst or gall-bladder. The pulse, the appetite, and the excretions, vary according to particular circumstances.

When the lymphatic glands of the bronchia are the seat of the disease, the patient

that number the complaint originated in diseased lymphatic glands of the lungs. At the same time I do not pretend to say, that all those, reported by the bills to die of consumption, died of phthisis pulmonalis. I have no doubt, but obstructed mesenteric glands, and other diseases, may have been the cause of death to many supposed to have died of consumption.

coughs

coughs a great deal and is very hoarse. If this should not be attended to, the glands here, as in other parts of the body, may acquire a degree of hardness and insensibility, which will sometimes render it very difficult to excite them to action; and the patients may continue with that disagreeable hoarseness for many years, nay, perhaps, during the remainder of their lives.

These are the usual symptoms, I have observed, while the disease confined itself to the lymphatic glands of the mesentery, liver, bronchia, and lungs; but for affording a more certain diagnostic, I would observe, that they are most frequently accompanied with some external symptoms, such as enlargements of the lymphatic glands under the chin, and round the neck; sometimes one only, in other instances, several. They are commonly hard, circumscribed swellings, without the least discoloration of the skin, and so little painful that they are most frequently discovered by accident, in washing

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ing the neck, or combing the hair, and thence are supposed to have been produced very suddenly. When this is the first symptom observed of the disease it is commonly termed a falling of the almonds of the ears, which is accompanied with considerable pain and stiffness of the neck; but it is more frequent to find numbers of those glands enlarged, and, upon inquiry, that they have been of considerable duration.

It often happens that similar tumours appear on the fingers, upon the back of the hand, the fore-arm, just below the elbow on the outside, and above the elbow in the inside, and arm-pit. It is not unfrequent to trace them, in the manner here described, from the finger to the hand, and so on.

Similar appearances and progress take place in the lower extremities, from the toe to the upper part of the foot, and to the leg, just above the ankle; likewise upon  
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the shin immediately below the knee, and above it also, upon the thigh, and even so far up as the groin.

Those affections of the eyes and eyelashes, that are accompanied with diseased lymphatic glands are usually termed strumous. Eruptions on the back part of the head, roughness of the skin, particularly about the face, little ulcerations in the nose, and eruptions in different parts of the body, as they are very common to children that have other symptoms of diseased lymphatic glands, have also been ascribed to the same source.

The tinea capitis, or scald head, may not perhaps strictly be a symptom in itself of the Struma; but of a great number that I have had under my care, it has uniformly been accompanied with swellings of the lymphatic glands round the neck.

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The lips are frequently affected with considerable thickness, often accompanied by eruptions round the mouth, and, in bad habits, by deep and painful ulcers. The nose is also enlarged with ulcerations in the inside, and a considerable increase of mucous discharge, that proves very troublesome to children. The sides of the face just by the ear, upon the upper jaw, and near the eye, are occasionally diseased, and, without great care, very much disfigure the patient.

Those tumours, which we have mentioned as hard circumscribed swellings, without pain or discoloration of the skin, will, with an increase of the complaint, grow larger, look red in the middle, and become painful; and, as suppuration goes forward, the redness extends itself, the pain increases, and a fluctation may be easily felt. If no artificial opening is made, it is often a long time, in weakly  
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and debilitated habits, before these tumours break of themselves, and when that happens, the opening is generally very small, the size of a pin-hole. Sometimes there are two or three of these small openings, from which is discharged a thin serous liquid, sometimes mixed with matter, and occasionally with little white particles, not unlike a small portion of a nut-kernel, but by no means so hard. This discharge, which is often considerable in quantity, may, without proper assistance, continue for months, and sometimes even years.

The breasts of women are often the seat of this disease, sometimes from blows, or other accidents, and at the age of menstruation; but more frequently at the time this evacuation becomes irregular, when it deserves their particular attention. It also often happens while suckling, from cold, retaining the milk too long, and, without proper care, at the time of weaning the child.

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It frequently happens that the deeper lymphatics of the back, upper part of the thigh, and about the joints, are diseased; often, I believe, from external injury, by straining, or perhaps rupturing the lymphatic vessels in that particular part; at other times, from contusions, or inflammation. I have sometimes thought that there was a degree of resemblance between those tumours, and the aneurismal, and varicose, making a due allowance for the different order of vessels. It is often a long time before we are enabled rightly to determine what the complaint is, and its exact situation: children are the most frequently affected, and their information is commonly vague, and dissatisfactory; sometimes they complain of pain, in and about the hip joint, then of the knee, of the back, and of the groin. When the disease is in the hip, constituting what is called the *hip-case*, we should particularly attend to the action of that joint. I have met

met with many cases, where I had no doubt but the primary seat of the disease was within the capsular ligament, and at other times deeply seated among the muscles. The first case has been often mistaken for a dislocation of the thigh, which now and then happens in the progress of the disease; and there would be an error in endeavouring to remedy the complaint by reducing the dislocation which has been often attempted. The pain is sometimes very acute, especially during the night, sometimes there are cold shiverings and a subsequent fever. The appetite and pulse are variable, according to the degree of pain and other circumstances.

The first external appearance will be an enlargement of the upper part of the thigh, which will be best discovered by placing the child on its face, and comparing the two nates or buttocks. There is a weakness of the whole limb, and it soon becomes relaxed, and emaciated. From



the tumour being deeply seated, there may, at first, be no discoverable fluctuation; but, as the tumour increases, a fluctuation will be felt. The skin then appears stretched, and puts on a shining appearance, yet without any external inflammation, or great degree of pain upon examining it with the finger, if the limb is not moved. Thus it continues extending its dimensions, during, perhaps, the space of one or two years, the patient growing weaker and more emaciated. The tumour may now be supposed to have become very large, extending from the upper part of the thigh down towards the knee; the skin is then very thin, as well as more sensible to the touch, and often for some weeks it may be hourly expected to burst in one, two, or more places. When it is broke, the contents will be found, in most instances, to resemble the serum of blood or whey, and the white parts that float in it, not unlike the curd; at other times, it is mixed with matter. The quantity  
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is often very considerable, from one to three pints; after which, it will continue to discharge a thin serous liquid, in immense quantities daily, by which the poor emaciated patient is extremely weakened, and, in most cases, without the greatest attention, the disease proves fatal.

When this complaint is in the lower part of the back, we have still more difficulty in investigating the case; there is nothing to be seen or felt for a great length of time; but the patient complains of occasional pains, sometimes more acute than others, probably from the alteration in the habit of body; he complains most upon bending forward, and is observed to kneel in order to take any thing from the ground. It is nearly the same when the tumour points towards the groin; in this case, the patient bends to one side; and as this very often (like the hip-case) goes on for months, nay even years, the child, to avoid pain (though not very acute) from  
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the action of the muscles which press upon the part, naturally gives way, and becomes deformed.

The first appearance externally, will be a large extended tumour, without much pain or discoloration of the skin, until it becomes very thin, when it looks red, and is painful to the touch: these cases are nearly alike in their symptoms, contents of the tumour, and in the event. The symptomatic fever fluctuates according to circumstances.

When this disease happens about the joints, it is commonly called the white swelling. Though this term is generally applied to the knee, yet it is equally applicable to every joint affected with this complaint.

There may be diseases of the joint from different causes, but I shall confine myself to that only which arises from strumous affection.

affection. The lymphatic glands surrounding the joint are frequently affected, and exhibit the true white swelling. This, like other affections of the lymphatics, is at first but little painful, there is only a stiffness of the joint, or, in other words, a sense of pain in bending, or fully extending the limb. If we examine it carefully in this stage, we shall find one or more small tumours about the joint; as they increase in magnitude, they become more painful, and the action of the joint more circumscribed; the limb gradually wastes; and, as the tumour enlarges, a fluctuation will be felt. The skin becomes reddish, shining, and, according to concurring circumstances, the pain is more or less acute, especially when the part is touched; and, as has often before been observed, it is often a considerable time before it breaks. When this happens, the discharge is generally a white glary fluid; at other times mixed with matter, and in some instances, like the contents of the large tumours before



fore described. The concomitant symptoms are nearly alike. But I consider this as of less consequence to the patient, where the ligaments of the joints are not affected, than either of the preceding cases.

If the periosteum is morbid, whether from external injury, or any other cause, the bone will probably in the event become diseased. I have sometimes conjectured, that a ruptured or diseased lymphatic, depositing its contents between the periosteum and bone, may be one cause of diseased bones; and, indeed, I am inclined to consider this as the most common cause of the diseased small bones of the fingers and toes of children.

The first appearance of this complaint about the fingers or toes is attended with little or no pain, and the enlargement of the part affected is generally the first circumstance that calls for attention. The  
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part is hard, and will bear a certain degree of pressure without any extraordinary sense of pain; nor is the use of the finger impeded in this stage; but, as the tumour increases in magnitude, it is more painful, the skin becomes red and inflamed, and consequently more sensible. If left to break of itself, it will be often tedious; and, when that event has taken place, the discharge is but small in quantity, and there will still remain a hard extended tumour all around the finger or toe. The skin will be of a deep red colour; there will be a discharge of a thin serous fluid for a great length of time; and the disease generally terminates in an exfoliation of the bone.



## C H A P. X.

*P R O G N O S T I C.*

**I**N forming our prognostic, we must principally consider the habit of body of the patient; whether the complaint, under consideration, be local, or only a symptom of a generally diseased habit: when local, the particular situation of the part affected, and the immediate occasional cause. If the disease is confined to a particular part, in most instances it will be favourable to the patient; but where there are many parts affected, we must be governed in our opinion by the progress of the disease in the system, the time it may be supposed to have existed, and the degree of strength of the patient; not to mention the advantage of possessing the means which are requisite towards the recovery.

C H A P.

## C H A P. XI.

*P R E V E N T I V E S.*

**P**REVENTION of disease has long been considered of so much importance, as to become a proverbial phrase; and in no instance can the application of it be more proper, or deserve more serious attention, than in the disease under our present consideration.

In very young children, the prevention of a complaint so general and so alarming in its consequences, will principally depend upon a proper attention to air, cleanliness, exercise, and diet; and, when more advanced, the form, age, and constitution of the patient, will be the best guide for determining what kind of regimen, and



what other means may be best suited to this important object.

An impure atmosphere must be injurious to health at every period of life ; but particularly to young children. It is from this general principle that we have been induced to consider the season of the year when a child is born, as a probable object of importance to its future health. In the winter they must of necessity be much confined and breathe the air in a room warmed by fire, which is well known to affect persons more or less at almost every period of life. The air of large cities is of itself prejudicial ; in proportion to the narrowness of the streets, and the small size of the houses, and rooms, the number of its inhabitants, and the degree of cleanliness, will it be more or less noxious. Children thus confined, and obliged to breathe unwholesome air, may be compared to vegetables in a room, so tender, that a blast of air destroys them ;  
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and the habit of body of those children seems rather to invite disease, than resist its attack. The consequences are evident in all epidemic complaints. Children, and even adults, suffer more in large cities, and the confined parts of them, than in the country. Those, therefore, who cannot breathe the purer air of the country, but are of necessity confined to large cities, should adopt the best expedients for alleviating the bad effects of their situation. Cleanliness is absolutely necessary, and a free circulation of air by every possible means. It may also be necessary, when in the country, to change the situation. There is certainly a very essential difference, in the winter-time particularly, between the high hills of Highgate and Hampstead, and the places at the same distance on the Surry-side of the Thames. This distinction is more observable in the Northern counties of England, and those towards the South-West.

Cleanliness



Cleanliness of the person is of yet greater consequence than that of the habitation; as the want of it is often the immediate cause of disease. The ulcerations behind the ears, in the neck, under the arms, and in the groins of children, are very frequently owing to a want of cleanliness. There is a considerable discharge through the pores of the skin of young children, which, if not attended to, in a short time, excoriates and inflames the parts; and if these circumstances should be disregarded for a few days, the case will most frequently require surgical aid. If the discharge, through the pores of the skin, proves so soon detrimental, what must be the effect, if children are often permitted to lie wet and dirty, and that for a considerable length of time. I have somewhere seen this mentioned as one of the most common occasional causes of the Struma; but the least inconvenience of their lying wet, is, that it is soon followed by excoriations and ulcerations.

cerations. To prevent the ill effects of this plentiful transudation through the pores of the skin, various absorbents are applied; such as fullers earth, hair powder, common flower, and, what is not quite so innocent, a preparation of lead, called ceruse powder. But there will be little occasion for the use of these different means, if the linen is changed as often as necessary, and the child washed clean every night and morning, and then wiped quite dry.

Exercise is of vast importance. Some people will wonder what can be the exercise of infants: it is true, they can exercise themselves but very little; and, even in that, they are obstructed by their dress. If children are permitted, they will very soon exercise their limbs, and, in short, every muscle in the body. When moved up and down in the hands of the nurse, they draw up, and extend their legs and arms; and, if this was frequently done,  
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it would be very good exercise. After a few months, to those who cannot afford a servant for the purposes of nursing, I would strongly recommend placing the child on the floor in preference to the cradle. Besides the advantages already described of washing, the rubbing afterwards is extremely beneficial. This is a mode of exercise generally practised by the natives of the East, where, from the heat of the climate, they are prevented from using those exercises to which we are accustomed in Europe.

Young children are never so happy as when undressed; the best proof of this, is their actions, and the evident gratification it is to them, together with their crying the moment you begin to clothe them. This, I think, should be a sufficient reason never to dress them too tight; and, contrary to the general opinion, as soon as they are able, they should be exercised on their feet; for, when once they can walk,  
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if they are well, they want but little encouragement to that exercise.

With respect to diet, when children take the breast, (which is undoubtedly the method most natural and the best suited to their early months,) only one or two observations are necessary. These are, not to suckle them too frequently, or too long at a time. To keep them at the breast until their stomachs nauseate, is very improper; and it is not uncommon to see children empty their stomachs from the load it contained; but the next moment they are again applied to the breast, because they cry. The crying was most probably occasioned by the quantity of milk already distending the stomach, rendering respiration difficult, and creating that uneasy sensation, which is felt from nausea and vomiting: therefore, to suckle them again, is to renew that complaint, as well as to lay the foundation of others. If the mother's, or nurse's milk should be insufficient,



cient, which is sometimes the case, or, if it becomes necessary, to substitute another kind of food, the milk of animals, with the addition of the different farinaceous substances, and broths, is preferable to solid food. When they are more advanced, a small quantity of animal food, once a day, may be very proper, and is certainly preferable to heavy puddings and bad pastry. Children should be diverted from that pernicious general custom of eating from morning to night; I would not have them kept many hours without food; but by no means to be indulged with eatables of any kind for a continuance.

Cold bathing may be very properly considered as a preventive of the Struma, and, indeed, of many other diseases, particularly those which arise from relaxation and debility. That of the sea, experience proves to be preferable to fresh water, perhaps, from its being more temperate, accompanied

companied with a better air generally, and with more exercise.

Some attention should be paid to the manner of clothing children. In the winter they should be clothed warmer than during summer. This is not much attended to, notwithstanding the want of it is so often productive of very painful tumours and ulcers, and is a very frequent immediate cause of diseased lymphatic glands. When this happens, it is a clear proof of a defect in the natural warmth; and therefore we should have recourse to the best substitutes, such as warm clothing made of cotton rather than linen, a full diet, and brisk exercise. These attentions will appear very necessary, if we consult our own feelings, or reflect upon the great difference in the temperature of the atmosphere during summer and winter, to which we may in some degree, accommodate ourselves by different kinds of clothing.



One other circumstance is particularly deserving of notice, I mean the practice of encouraging children to sleep; than which there is not a greater error. Children are naturally too much inclined to sleep, and, therefore, when this habit predominates, some methods should be used to divert their attention.

If what has been said upon the subject of air, cleanliness, exercise, and diet, should have sufficient influence to excite the attention of prudent mothers and nurses, together with such improvements as will naturally occur from time to time, under their own inspection, I think there is no doubt, but diseases in general, as well as the Struma, may be in a great measure prevented; and though the preceding remarks have been confined to children, the application may be made to persons in every stage of life.

## C H A P. XII.

*Observations upon the present Method of treating the Struma or King's Evil.*

THE cure of diseases has always been justly considered as the ultimate object of physic; and there is no distemper incident to the human body, which has more exercised the artifices of those who pretend to a thorough knowledge of effectual remedies than that of the Struma. It has been, and I believe is, to this day, a principal support of *empirics*, and probably for the following reasons. The habit being for the most part generally affected before the symptoms of the disease are discovered, recourse must necessarily be had to alterative medicines; and, as these are slow in their operations, the impatience of the sick, or of their friends, for a more sudden change, which they had expected,

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ed, at length, induces them to abandon the prescriptions of regular practitioners, and resort to the assistance of *empirics*, who flatter them with the most positive, but fallacious assurances of a speedy and effectual cure.

Very numerous, and widely different in their effects, are the medicines which have been recommended for the cure of the Struma. Indeed, the whole *Materia Medica*, ancient and modern, has been ransacked for a specific in this disease; and it scarcely contains one medicine which has not, at some period, been reputed as useful against scrophulous complaints. But I shall quit this hypothetical subject, to inquire how far the present method of treating the disease under consideration, is either founded upon just principles, or recommended by its success.

The general idea of the Struma is, that it is a disease of debility, and therefore the  
great

great object is to invigorate the habit by every possible means ; the chief of which are, tonic medicines, and sea-bathing. Some are of opinion that in the case of young patients, this should be continued during the summer months, every year to the age of fourteen or sixteen. Many recommend it, not only in the summer, but throughout the year ; whilst others are for administering alteratives, principally the alkaline salts, with or without antimonials, and the different tonics during winter ; and the sea-water and sea-bathing, or cold bathing during summer, for a continuance of two or three years from the commencement of the disease : with this general observation, that they will out-grow the complaint. It is certain, if nature is enabled by these means to conquer the present indisposition, as they grow older, they will be less susceptible of this and other diseases. The chief external means are, fomentations of sea-water, and cataplasms made with the same.

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With respect to the regimen, some recommend a milk and vegetable diet, whilst others declare themselves no less warmly in favour of animal food and fermented liquors.

Having now, I hope, fairly exhibited the general methods at present in use of treating the Struma, it would be a subject of great importance to ascertain by unquestionable facts, how far they are really efficacious. As I have been particularly conversant in the cure of this complaint for many years, I can safely affirm, that in general, they are not, though I will not deny that in some instances, they may prove of utility. In early affections of the lymphatic glands, and from the want of a pure air and proper exercise, where children are delicate and irritable, a change of situation to the sea-side, together with bathing, when they have acquired some strength, must be exceedingly proper; and in gross plethoric subjects, who have diseased lymphatics, from improper feeding,  
and



and want of necessary exercise, a journey to the sea-coast may be very useful, particularly, if the salt water is drank often, and in a quantity sufficient to become purgative. This, with the novelty of their situation, which may naturally produce an increase of exercise, might answer every expectation; but these are the kind of cases, that with very little attention are easily cured. Do we find, however, the method above-described, to answer our hopes, where the disease is more general, when we have reason to believe the mesenteric glands are much affected, the lungs diseased; or, in hip cases, and those of the joints? It is common for the patients, or their friends, to suppose the complaint better at first; but, I believe, that arises commonly from the spirits of the patient or their friends, being raised by expectation, and the mind relieved by the change of situation; or, perhaps, a still more powerful cause, seeing a variety of objects, equally bad, or worse than themselves. For my own part, I have

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advised



advised many to use sea bathing, and it has been prescribed to a much greater number by others, but by far the majority of these, where the disease affected the general habit, if they lived to return, became gradually worse than when they went. Of its utility as a preventive, and in the early stages of the disease, too much cannot be said in its commendation.

Again, are the means, above-recited, such as would be thought adviseable in diseased lymphatic glands from other causes? Would it not be thought extremely absurd (generally speaking,) in buboes or diseased testes, whether from lues venerea, or any other cause, to recommend cold bathing and tonic medicines; or, in the case of a blow upon the shin, producing inflammation, affecting the lymphatic glands of the groin; or from the absorption of morbid matter, by a wounded finger, exciting induration of the glands of the arm and axilla? I believe, in such cases, cold bathing

thing and the bark, would be the last means thought of. Nor is the practice more rational to recommend cold bathing to poor weakly debilitated children, whose thin visage, enlarged belly, and frequent tickling cough, sufficiently indicate diseased viscera; such do not recover their natural warmth after cold bathing for hours, and their subsequent head-ache, livid lips, and pale countenance, are sufficient marks of its impropriety.

That a proper regimen, cleanliness, and a pure atmosphere, are great aids to nature, no one will dispute; hence it appears to me, that the most that can be said, in support, of the present plan, is, that seasonably applied, it may be in many instances, a good preventive; and, that it has the good effect of supporting the patient under the disease, leaving the curative part to nature. No one can less object to that mode of treating diseases where means of relief are not clearly ob-

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vious,



vious, than myself; but repeated experience authorises me to say, that nature's efforts, in the cure of this disease, are, at all times, exceedingly slow: and, where any considerable progress is made, very often entirely ineffectual in the end. I know of no complaint affecting the human body, where the interposition of art is more requisite, and, when properly applied, more conducive to the general good of the patient.

Electricity is also a remedy of late frequently recommended in strumous cases. It has its advantages, particularly in those cases, where, from length of time, the enlarged glands have acquired a degree of hardness and insensibility. I have sometimes known happy effects produced by electricity, in cases of this kind, where most other means had failed; but how far an application, productive of stimulus, may be used in glandular obstructions, must be

be left to the discretion of the surgeon, and the desire of the patient.

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### CHAP. XIII.

#### *METHOD OF TREATMENT.*

**I** Shall now beg leave to offer to the consideration of the medical profession such curative indications as are the result of repeated experience, and seem to be perfectly consistent with the established principles of the animal œconomy. To accomplish this as briefly as possible, it will be necessary for us to divide the different symptoms and appearances of the Struma, into two classes, or stages of the disease.

To the first, belong all those different symptoms that are accompanied with an inflammatory



inflammatory *diathesis*, and are in most instances local ; and to the second, the different symptoms and appearances, accompanied with great debility, or a more general affection of the lymphatic system. This distinction will be more necessary, as the mode of treatment will be very different.

If attention to air, exercise, and the other requisites, were necessary to the prevention of disease, it will be needless to point out their advantages in checking the progress of it, and their great utility in promoting a recovery.

Almost all the first symptoms of this disease, whether internal of the mesentery, bronchia, lungs, and liver ; or external, such as swellings of the lips, side of the face, under the chin, and round the neck ; or the different symptoms usually considered as strumous, viz. roughness of the skin, eruptions of the back part of the head, and different parts of the body, redness and swelling of the

the eye-lids and eyes; I say all these different symptoms are generally accompanied with an inflammatory *diathesis*, and by an early attention may be remedied with very little difficulty. The inflammation however has seldom been so great as to require bleeding, but I have never hesitated to take away blood where there has appeared the least necessity.

The medicine that I have found most efficacious in removing the symptoms here enumerated, is the *Mercurius Dulcis sub.* or *Calomel.* This medicine seems to have a peculiar quality in removing obstructions of the lymphatic glands. We ought to avoid giving it in such a quantity as to render it a powerful evacuant, either by the intestines, or any other way; I have usually given it in small doses at night going to bed. By that means, it remains longer in the intestinal canal, greater quantity is taken into the habit, and the patient is less susceptible of cold, than when  
taken



taken in the day time ; nor will it preclude any usual exercise, or employment the following day. The first, and perhaps the second dose, may prove purgative, which is in general a salutary effect, but afterwards, the same quantity will seldom do more than is sufficient to keep the body open ; and should it fail of answering that purpose, I have usually recommended some gentle purgative every third or fourth morning, according to circumstances. If there should be a prevailing acidity, a few grains of the *Sal Sodæ*, *Magnesia*, or some testaceous powder, may be added to the medicine. By this simple method, most of the symptoms before-mentioned will, in a short time, disappear ; but if the tumours should continue hard, and retain their figure without dividing into smaller ones, we may derive some benefit from external applications, particularly the steam of warm water. I have used a variety of medicated herbs with success ; but am inclined to believe, that the advantage was principally derived from the warm steam, which has this additional



additional circumstance in its favour, of not being in the least offensive. At other times, I have stimulated the part affected by electricity, insulating the patient, and drawing sparks from the tumour, until a slight degree of inflammation was excited. After the application of the steam, or the use of the electrical machine, I have sometimes rubbed a little of the *Unguentum Mercuriale* into the tumour, and neighbouring parts, or applied the *Emplastrum Saponaceum*, or *Mercuriale cum Ammoniaco* over the swelling, or a liniment with *Camphor. Ol. Olivarum* and *Sp. Terebinth.* this is an active application, and where the smell is not objected to, is more likely to be successful than either of the preceding. This will most frequently remove those obstructions; but supposing the tumours should be disposed to suppuration, we have nothing to apprehend in habits of this kind; they will suppurate kindly, and, in most instances, will not only heal without much trouble, but, by proper care, leave little or no cicatrix behind. To the eruptions of the head, may be

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applied



applied a little *Unguentum Saturninum*. —  
*Album Camphoratum*, or the *Ceratum Album*.  
*Cum. Merc. Præcipitat. Alb.*

The roughness of the skin, which is often followed by \* general eruptions, will also commonly require some external application. Lotions of the *Aqua Vegeto-Mineralis*, *Aqua Calcis*, solutions of *Sal. Tartar.* or *Mercurius Corrosivus sublimat.* may be made use of: this last will seldom fail to check the progress of the complaint, and dry the sores; and, in the quantity of ten or twelve grains to a quart of warm water, the use of it will not be productive of any pain. If the eruption should ulcerate, and require any unctuous application to prevent the adhesion of the linen, the ointment before-mentioned may be applied; the best remedy will be warm bathing, and, when practicable, the sea-water claims a preference. I have occasionally recommended those medicines

\* This is certainly as distinct a disease from the Struma, as that of the Dropsy; but as it very commonly accompanies enlargements of the glands under the chin, and round the neck, I have here taken notice of it.

that

that promote the motion of the fluids in the smaller vessels, viz. *Vinum Antimoniale*, *Tartarum Emeticum*, *Decoctum Lusitanicum*, *Decoctum Lignorum*, or, *Sarsaparillæ*; and have sometimes derived advantage from artificial drains; but this kind of eruption generally happens in the winter season, and often continues until the warm weather comes on. If that does not prove a remedy, it is generally very troublesome to remove.

Affections of the eye-lid may be easily remedied, if early attended to; when there is an increased secretion of mucus, we should make use of some astringent lotion, as the *Aqua Calcis Simplicis*, *Aqua Vegeto-Mineralis*, solutions of *Alumen*, or *Vitriolum Album*; and use some unctuous application at night, to prevent the adhesion of the eye-lids during sleep. The Saturnine ointment very well answers the purpose, or united with the *Ung. Citrin.* This, with a proper attention to regimen, and the



internal remedies here recommended, will generally be found to answer every expectation; but if suffered to go on for a length of time, or in people much advanced in life, they often prove very troublesome. Blisters laid upon the temples after the application of leeches, and the Tinct. *Opii*, dropped into the eye, are sometimes very serviceable; and, in delicate, and very irritable habits, the *Cortex*, and the general class of tonic medicines will be found very useful. The cure of the Tinea or scald head is often troublesome. By giving small doses of Calomel, and applying to the head the *Mercurius Præcipitatus albus*, with the *Unguentum Saturninum*, or a lotion with *Merc. Corrosiv. sub. in Aq. Calcis*, I have succeeded better than by any other means.

In affections of the breast, two circumstances merit particular attention. These are, the age of the patient, and the immediate cause of the complaint.

In

In young women, about the age of puberty, the medicines before recommended will be found to answer every expectation. When from foreness of the nipples, or any other cause, by which the milk is retained too long, and the glands are enlarged, they sometimes subside, as the cause of their enlargement abates; but there are frequent instances, where, after suppuration has taken place, and a perfect cicatrix is formed, there will remain large hard tumours in the breast. We must here be careful in the use of *Calomel*, as we shall otherwise frequently find it produce little or no change upon the mother, but very much to affect the child; causing severe pains in the bowels, a considerable degree of fever, and sometimes even convulsions. In cases of this kind, I have been particularly successful, by the use of the warm steam.\* This will often produce

\* For this purpose, I have had made a small tin machine, that contains a pint and a half, or two pints of boiling water. From  
the



duce a sensible change during the application of it, which should be repeated twice or thrice a day, and a piece of flannel or skin afterwards applied. The body should be kept in a soluble state by some gentle opening medicine. Of such cases, the most tedious that I have met with, was occasioned by too long a neglect of the complaint. The consequence was, that one suppuration followed another, until the whole breast became diseased, and the complaint even extended to the axilla. Here in addition to the external means, it will be necessary to give some kind of medicine besides the gentle aperients before recommended: the different preparations of mercury, according to the strength of the patient, are to be preferred; and should they affect the child much, it will

the top runs a narrow tube, ten or twelve inches long, through which the steam passes; near the end that is moveable and curved, is a joint, for the greater convenience of applying the tube to the parts diseased. The water is easily kept boiling by a lamp under the machine,

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be proper to suspend suckling (at least for a time) and to prescribe some other nutriment. Diseased breasts often proceed from the obstruction or irregularity, of some customary evacuation, and if seasonably and properly attended to, may be easily removed by the general means I have already recommended.

In obstructions of the bronchial glands, in addition to the internal use of some mild alterative medicines, the patient should carefully avoid exposure to cold, and keep the fauces moist by frequently drinking warm diluent liquors. The steam of warm water, by means of *Mudge's Inhaler*, and the warm bath, will be very useful; and, externally, a piece of skin or flannel applied over the breast.

When diseases make their appearance externally, or are so violent in their onset, as to produce sudden changes in the body, no room is left for any doubt, with re-  
spect



spect to their existence. But great danger is to be apprehended from those insidious complaints that make their first attack upon the internal parts of the body, unaccompanied with any alarming symptoms, until they have made so great a progress, that it is uncertain whether the utmost power of art can stop their course, and prevent fatal consequences.

*Consumption* is one of those diseases that too often steal on unperceived ; and though mankind seem to be particularly jealous of this malady, yet, from unacquaintance with its different causes, they are not sufficiently upon their guard against its invasion. A diseased state of the lungs, arising from general, or particular inflammation, is commonly accompanied with pain, and other symptoms, sufficiently urgent to excite the attention of the patient, and every one about him ; but this is seldom the case when the disorder proceeds from a strumous affection. The  
present

present method of treating this disease is very exceptionable ; the business is left almost entirely to nature, though the want of success affords convincing proof, that something more than her efforts is necessary.

Regimen and antiphlogistic treatment often prove so far a palliative, that the urgent symptoms are alleviated ; but the slightest cause shall bring on all its usual symptoms afresh, and, sooner or later, in most instances, it ultimately proves fatal. Besides the regimen observed at present in consumptive cases arising from strumous affection, I would earnestly recommend the exhibiting such medicines as have a tendency to remove those obstructions which are the foundation of the disease. Balsamics and expectorants appear to do but little ; and, I believe, more patients have been hitherto preserved by a strict attention to regimen than by all the medicines they had taken. The idea of exhibiting

R                      mercury,



mercury, in any form, to a consumptive patient, is in danger of being generally exploded, as unwarrantable practice, though there seems reason to suspect, that this prejudice is, in reality, more precipitate than well-founded. It is true, the introduction of mercury into the habit, will, for a time, become a stimulus; so does the application of a blister, and, to consumptive patients, almost every kind of medicine, or even the lightest food.

But let us remember the distinction before remarked: patients who are consumptive in consequence of a strumous affection, have not that degree of irritability, which generally accompanies this disease, when proceeding from other causes. I am of opinion, that the milder preparations of mercury might be given with the greatest safety. I have, in several instances, experienced their utility, but never yet knew any case in which they proved detrimental.

mental. To a number of patients, who had external symptoms of Struma, and whose lungs, there was every reason to believe were likewise affected with the same disease, I have given some of the mild preparations of Mercury in various forms. The *Pil. Antistrum*.\* at the London-Dispensary will be found, upon experience, to be a valuable medicine. At other times, the *Cicuta*, or *Pil. e Styrace*, with a grain or two of Calomel, at bed-time, particularly where there is constipation of the bowels. The temperate salt-water bath may be of essential service, if the degree of warmth is properly attended to, by which the natural secretions and equable circulation may be promoted, and the strength of the patient not decreased.

\* R. Hydrargyri purific.

Extr. e Cicuta, āā p. eq. bene simul terantur in mort. marmor. donec globuli Hydrarg. visum fugerint; deinde, addito Cicutæ pulvere, omnia misce, ut fiat massa.



A removal to a milder climate, especially during the winter months, is the most beneficial resource with which we are hitherto acquainted.

But the most general, and therefore the most important object of our attention, is to remove early obstructions of the lymphatic glands in the mesentery. This seems to be the region primarily affected in most children; I mean those under the age of three years; and a morbid state of this part often lays the foundation of a diseased habit, which never can be afterwards eradicated. I have been particular in describing the symptoms usually attendant upon early obstructions of the mesenteric glands, because I am persuaded it is the most general complaint of children in this country. I fear that it is likewise the least known, or, what is yet worse, the least attended to.

It evidently appears, that, annually, great numbers die of \*consumption; yet I will venture to say, many more in the same space of time, die of diseased mesenteric glands, registered in the bills of mortality, under the head of worms, rickets, convulsions, and different diseases of the bowels.

This affection of the mesenteric glands was particularly noticed by *Wiseman*, the most eminent of any writer upon the subject; and he has so clearly declared his sentiments upon it, that I shall beg leave to present the reader with his own words:—  
 “ If the outward and more visible glands  
 “ remain whole, yet, generally speaking,  
 “ the inward ones, those especially of the

\* Atrophia est tabida corporis extenuatio ab obstructis mesenterii glandulis, indeque denegato chyli ad sanguinem transitu dependens, infantibus præsertim familiaris.

Heister's Compendium, p. 31.

“ mesentery,



“ mesentery, are obstructed, and swelled;  
 “ of these, I have seen divers examples and  
 “ have passed my judgment, that they  
 “ have been strumous, when the outer  
 “ signs could not so far justify my con-  
 “ jecture, as to make others of my mind;  
 “ yet when the patient has been dead,  
 “ the truth hath appeared upon dissec-  
 “ tion.”

The *Mercurius Dulcis sublimat.* is a re-  
 medy extremely well adapted to this com-  
 plaint. By keeping the body open, it serves  
 as the best palliative, at the same time that it  
 operates towards removing the cause of the  
 disease. I am not conscious of over-rating  
 its efficacy, when I affirm that it seems to  
 me almost a specific for this symptom of  
 the Struma. I have generally given it at  
 night going to bed, in a dose sufficient to  
 empty the bowels once, or twice, the fol-  
 lowing morning; and, according to the  
 strength of the patient, it is to be repeated  
 every other, or every third night. In some  
 cases,



cases, where the Calomel, given alone, has not answered this end, I have added a few grains of Rhubarb, and Sal Polychrest. or administered these auxiliaries in the morning. If mixed with a little common flour, it may be generally given without the least suspicion. If there should be a prevailing acidity, as is very frequent, a few grains of Magnesia, or any of the testaceous powders may be added, or it may be made into a small pill with Ex. Cath. pill. Aromat. or Sapo. It has repeatedly been observed to me, that the child has had a better night, after taking the medicine; without those startings in the sleep, which were otherwise usual, and waked with better spirits, better appetite, and more inclined to exercise, than in the intermediate days. It is a common observation, that children bear this medicine without the inconveniences that frequently accompany it in grown persons. The food should be light, and such as will be agreeable to the stomach: milk seems the least exceptionable. The temperate and warm bath



bath will be very beneficial, and better to be used in the evening than at any other part of the day.

The body and extremities should be well rubbed every night and morning, particularly after washing. This will have some tendency to remove that degree of languor, which often accompanies the general relaxation usually productive of this disease.

The various abdominal viscera\* are, as well as the mesentery, liable to scrofulous obstructions,

\* I was lately consulted about a child at the age of nine years, who had scarcely any part of the body exempt from the Struma, which had made its first appearance when the child was about a year old. The head was preternaturally large with strabismus, and this symptom encreased rapidly. In a few days after he complained of not being able to distinguish objects, of great weight and pain in his head, and of nausea, so that for several days nothing could be retained upon the stomach: and the child died. I had leave to open the body the third day after his death, and found nearly four ounces of water in the ventricles of the brain. The contents of the chest were free from

obstructions, but medical observation affords not such characteristic symptoms, as may, in all cases, enable us to determine, with any degree of certainty, what parts are affected with the disease. This defect of our knowledge, however, has, happily, little influence on practice. For whether we can ascertain the seat of the distemper, or only suspect its situation, the method of cure is, in general, the same with what has been above recommended in obstructions of the mesentery.

I shall now proceed to make a few remarks on the treatment of those symptoms and appearances, which result from a more generally diseased system, or are usually accompanied with great debility, and relaxation.

from any appearance of this disease, the lungs had some recent marks of inflammation, and slight adhesions to the pleura. The spleen and the mesentery were throughout diseased with little white tubercles, which, being divided, were found to contain a caseous substance, without any appearance of surrounding inflammation.

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It



It often happens, that the first appearances of obstructed lymphatic glands have been preceded by the small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, fevers of different kinds, and a habit considerably reduced, and weakened by bad nursing; or, what amounts in effect to the same, by latent obstructions in the mesenteric glands, preventing a necessary absorption of chyle.

When the debility is caused by diseased mesenteric glands, we can expect but little benefit from a restorative regimen, until the disease itself is, in part, or wholly, removed. To obtain this important object, I have very successfully employed the same general means as before recommended. We must here make choice of such medicines as will have the least tendency to ruffle the constitution; and of these I should give the preference to *Argent. viv. prurif.* intimately united with mucilages, or if possible the *Calomel*, or *Pil. e Sty-*  
*race,*

*race*, with *Calomel*. The *Unguentum Mercuriale*, likewise, has great advantages; particularly in facilitating the exhibition of this valuable mineral to young children. The ointment may be rubbed into the belly, or extremities, every, or every other night, taking care to watch attentively its operation. A tepid bath of milk, or milk and water, would be very proper, to assist the operation of the unguent, and might even contribute to support the patient.

The food should be of the lightest kind, such as asses, or cow's milk, broths not fat, and thin jellies of hartshorn, calve's feet, or isinglass. Moderate exercise should be used, and in a pure air. A dry healthy country, defended from the Northerly and North-East winds, is the best adapted; but low, swampy countries, or any situation near to large pieces of standing water, ought to be carefully avoided. The purest and most temperate air is that near the sea-coast.



Costiveness must always be guarded against; and when the disease has made considerable progress, so that there is a frequent purging of frothy offensive stools, we must have recourse to the occasional use of opiates, and astringent medicines; interposing, when necessary, a few grains of Rhubarb, to prevent any accumulation of acrid matter.

If during the use of these means, we observe the patient acquire strength and good spirits, we may be assured that a happy change has begun to take place in the diseased parts; and we may relax, or continue the use of the medicinal course, according to circumstances. For some time past, when opportunity has offered, I have \* weighed the child from time to time, by which means I was enabled, in a cer-

\* Merlin's statical ballance of Sanctorius answers the purpose very conveniently.

tain degree, to ascertain the probability of success.

It most frequently happens, that there are some external appearances of the disease. If the glands of the neck, or other parts of the body, should tend to a state of suppuration, they will exhibit a very different aspect from those before-described. Their progress to this stage will be extremely slow, the skin will appear to be uniformly thin, and of a deep red colour, and the tumour will be flaccid, as if there was a reabsorption. I cannot help here strongly recommending the use of the lancet or \* caustic ; for if no artificial opening is

\* At this time, I have under my care a little boy about seven years of age, who has the complaint on his hand and fore arm, which first appeared on the back of the hand near to the last joint of the fore finger about eighteen months past. He may be said to be pre-disposed to this complaint by the thinness of the skin and a delicate form of body, but never had any appearance of the disease previous to that on the hand, which was supposed to arise from accident. The usual means of applying



is made, it will be a long time before the skin gives way; and when that happens, the aperture will not only be very small, but often unfavourable in its situation; the contents will frequently have a nearer resemblance to mucus, than purulent matter, or be a mixture of both; and the discharge will continue for a great length of time, if no remedy is applied. I have found a solution of Gum Myrrhæ, in

plying salt water hot and cold, salt-water poultices, &c. were employed. He was last summer at the sea-side, with all the advantages of Mr. Morley's applications and regimen to little or no advantage, as several subsequent suppurations took place. At the time he was brought to me, the bone of the last joint of the fore finger and metacarpal bone were diseased, and several ulcers on the hand and arm, two tumours were in the state above-described, the skin thin and flaccid, and the child's countenance pale and unhealthy. To those tumours a little liquid caustic was applied, which destroyed the skin without his complaining of much pain: those two have already healed, and some others that were coming forward have been treated in like manner with the same probable advantage. Many similar instances press forward to my recollection, but this is as striking a proof as could possibly be adduced of the disadvantage that results from the use of cold applications, and leaving strumous tumours to break of themselves.

Aqua

Aqua Calcis, used as a lotion, and the Ceratum Saponaceum, or some similar application, externally, the best method of treating this symptom. But our principal object must be to remove the disease from the mesenteric glands, and use our utmost endeavours to strengthen the system.

With respect to the general appearances of the Struma after the small-pox, measles, and long-continued fevers; in most instances, they will be found to be local, and, by a proper attention to the non-naturals, assisted by some deobstruent medicines, terminate favourably.

The worst species of the disease is that which proceeds from bad nursing. For here, exclusive of local affection, the constitution, in general, is contaminated; and if the disease should not terminate fatally during child-hood, the unhappy sufferer often remains a valetudinarian through life.

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To remedy cases of this kind, is certainly very difficult; yet, if the constitution be not greatly debilitated, nor the form so much injured, as to obstruct the free exercise of the different functions; if the disease be recent, and there remains time for the operation of a dietetical and medicinal course, before it has acquired an establishment; in these circumstances, the contingency of a perfect cure is far from being an improbable, much less an impossible event. Children who have been much deformed, as well as debilitated, have afterwards received benefit in both respects, and the deformities become gradually less observable; until, at last, the bones have recovered their natural shape, and the constitution its original soundness.

In the diseases of the deeper seated lymphatics of the back, upper part of the thigh, and about the joints, a variety of different



different means, both external and internal, have been recommended; such as issues, setons, and blisters, cataplasms of Cicutæ, sea-weed, and the different farinaceous substances moistened with seawater. Where there has been reason to apprehend that the complaint might terminate in a hip-case, I have rubbed the part well with some stimulating application; for instance, the *Volatile Liniment*; but more frequently a liniment of *Camphor and Oil with Sp. Terebinth.* every night and morning, for a considerable time. Directions were given that the food should be light, and easy of digestion, the body be kept open by the occasional use of a little Calomel, and moderate exercise be taken, and with such other internal medicines as the different circumstances might require. But, if our endeavours to promote a reabsorption prove ineffectual, the great object, in my humble opinion, is an early opening; for no possible advantage can be derived from leaving the tumour to in-

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crease



crease and break of itself. By such delay, the general debility is much increased; and the patient not only becomes more irritable, but, probably, \* deformed. From a

\* Adam Lepine, three years of age, very well formed, with a fine skin, light hair, grey eyes, and fair complexion, may be considered as predisposed to Struma. He was recommended to the London-Dispensary the 14th of March, 1792, by Mr. John Hammond, for a complaint of his hip, supposed to be an injury from accident. I had no doubt about the case, although, at that time, there was no enlargement or other external appearance of disease. The usual means here recommended were employed to considerable advantage, and he was thought to be sufficiently recovered to return thanks, the 8th of May, to the governor who recommended him. In October following, he was again brought to the dispensary by the recommendation of Mr Daniel Cook, and the same means were employed, but the complaint resisted every endeavour; and, in the course of a few months, the hip grew larger, and a deep-seated fluctuation was discoverable, with occasional fever. I proposed opening the tumour, which was objected to, and the letter withdrawn. The child is again brought to the charity, after having been often extremely ill and much reduced. The hip is now very large, and the tumour extends low down the thigh: his strength much reduced, and a distortion of the spine is to be apprehended; yet it may be a considerable time before the tumour would break of itself; and, unfavourable as the prospect may be, I think he may have a great probability of recovery by not delaying the opening any longer.

thorough

thorough conviction, that no good could possibly result from leaving the case to nature, I have, when I could prevail, made early openings with the point of a lancet: the opening need not be large, as the contents of the tumour will readily pass through a small aperture. After the contents were discharged, I have usually injected, with a small syringe, the solution of Gum Myrrhæ, applying the Ceratum Saponaceum externally, and a proper bandage; by these means, the quantity of discharge will be lessened, and it will become of a thicker consistence. If the patient's stomach will bear the bark, I have generally recommended it in some form, and the extract, as it is now imported, is by far the most convenient, occasionally administering, likewise, the *Flores Martiales*, *Sal Martis*, *Seltzer Water*, &c. with a milk, or light nutritive diet, and proper exercise.



When this disease happens about the joints, I believe it has often proved disgraceful to the professors of surgery, who have hastily given their opinion, that it was incurable, and precipitately recommended the amputation of the limb. I have had a considerable number of cases of this kind under my care; and by the diligent use of topical and internal remedies, the patients were happily restored to health, and the limb rendered very useful. A singular case of this kind happened to William Auvache, a boy about three years old, who had both the elbow joints affected with white swellings, which had been seen and examined by several surgeons, and the most unfavourable conclusions were the result of their different inquiries. When I saw him, in addition to the diseased joints, he had a large tumour of the same kind upon the shoulder; I proposed, instantly, to make an opening, which, at first, was objected to by the parents, from some previous information they had acquired; however,  
after



after taking a little time to explain my intentions, and the hopes I entertained from the means proposed, they readily consented, and I made a small opening, both above and below the *Processus Olecranon* in one arm, and a small opening below the *Olecranon* in the other, was sufficient. The tumour upon the shoulder was punctured at the same time, and all dressed alike, with the Solution of Myrrh, and the Soap-Cerate was applied externally. After some time, the enlargement of the joints diminished, and the action increased; I recommended them to use every means that could induce the child to move his arms; this method succeeded very well; and in the course of between three and four months, the sores were perfectly healed, and the limbs sufficiently useful for him, at this time, to get a living by weaving. If application is made in due time, the first object is, by every possible means to attempt a reabsorption. This I have found best effected by the application of leeches,



leeches, the camphorated liniment, blisters frequently repeated, and such methods as were before recommended. But where the disease has so far advanced as to make a reabsorption impossible, and there is an evident fluctuation, I have never hesitated to make a puncture with a lancet, and inject and dress it as before-mentioned, and often succeeded much to my satisfaction.

It very frequently happens, that the small bones of the fingers, \* toes, and the back of the hand, are diseased. Wherever the

\* John Downs, a very fine boy, six years of age, was recommended to the dispensary, by Mrs. E. Legrew, for a bad foot, which he has had ever since September last, without any other part being affected or any predisposition to Struma. The last joint of the great toe and metatarsal bone are diseased; and the part was much tumified and painful. After a little time, a depending opening was obtained, and a small portion of bone taken away, which has so much relieved him that he walks very well; and, although the walking may be considered as an impediment to his cure, I consider it much better, for preserving the size of the leg and his general health, that he should be permitted to take his usual exercise. In his present state no internal medicines are requisite.

bones

bones are affected, so as to produce exfoliation, the case will be tedious, and more so, when from strumous affection, than from any other cause; if there is great debility we must use our endeavours to invigorate the general system by tonic medicines, air, exercise, and diet, call in the aid of stimulating applications to the part affected, and a moderate pressure by bandage. This will prevent the great enlargements which I have often seen in cases of this kind, where this circumstance was not attended to.

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#### C H A P. XIV.

*Observations tending to remove some Objections against the Author's Mode of treating strumous Cases.*

THE remarks upon the present general mode of treating scrofulous patients, are not the result of prejudice but  
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an attention to facts. Some Gentlemen who differ from me in opinion, respecting the mode of treating strumous tumours, by artificial opening, and the use of mercurial medicines, appear to have misunderstood me on this subject, in imagining that the opening was to be made as soon as a fluctuation was discoverable, and that mercury was to be given without exception in every instance. But the fact is, I never entertained such an idea; convinced as I am, that the rational treatment of the Struma must always be regulated by particular circumstances, and not by general rules. In the former Edition of this Treatise, experience alone of the utility of the practice authorised me to recommend the opening strumous tumours, rather than to wait the event of time. I have since had an opportunity of examining several tumours of that description, and the result, I apprehend, will, in various instances, account for the difficulty in healing many ulcers of this kind, when permitted



mitted to break of themselves. A young woman about 24 years of age, applied to the Dispensary with the glands in the neck considerably enlarged. I examined them carefully, and did not discover the least fluctuation. The patient died soon afterwards by suffocation, and I was permitted to examine the body. Upon dividing those glands, I was surprised to find them encysted tumours; the contents were a caseous substance mixed with a wheyish fluid. The cyst was, in several parts, of different degrees of thinness; but what particularly excited my attention, was, that the two largest cysts, which were about the size of a pigeon's egg, were not only thinner in different parts, but in both of them thinnest towards the inner or back part. From this observation I judged it probable, that the aperture into the cyst may be differently situated from that of the integuments; or, if the opening should happen in the back or upper part of those glands, the contents, unless prevented by some adhesion,

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fion,



sion, will naturally glide downwards, and produce a disposition to suppuration in the integuments below. When the tumour opens in the inferior part, this is usually accounted a favourable circumstance; and provided that the external aperture corresponds with that of the cyst, the opinion is doubtless well founded; but those who have much practice in the treatment of scrofulous tumours, will be cautious of forming any sanguine expectation, until they have ascertained the real state of the diseased part.

The most material objection, I apprehend, will be to the proposed remedy; so many, and so strange, are the various accounts, said to be the consequent effects of taking Mercury, that many people would almost die of apprehensions, were they to know that it was necessary. I shall, therefore, endeavour to obviate some of the most common objections.

Mercury,



Mercury, by chemical and other processes, is converted into a vast variety of different forms, and, according to the intention, is rendered more or less active in its operations: many of the preparations may, and are frequently given, to infants, as well as to patients at every other period of life, with the utmost safety and propriety; and it is, I believe, at this time, administered in a greater variety of diseases, than any other medicine. Mercury appears to act more immediately upon the glandular system than any other medicine yet known, which seems to point it out, as a medicine peculiar to glandular diseases.

It will be said, most probably, that exhibiting the preparations of Mercury in strumous cases, has no novelty to recommend it. Nothing of that kind is pretended: that some of the preparations of Mercury were given, two or three hundred



years ago, is very certain; and if we may credit the authors of that time, in many instances very successfully. *Ballonius*, about two hundred years ago, recommended Merc. Dulcis Sublimat. as the best and most efficacious remedy in Struma and Scrophula, between which he makes a little difference, but considers them as kindred diseases. *Wiseman*, who was serjeant-furgeon to King Charles the First, and who has recorded a greater number of strumous cases than any other writer, gave the Calomel very generally, but in such large doses, that I am sometimes inclined to think, there must have been a very material difference in the preparation of the medicine. From the quantity given, it must, in most instances, have operated as a powerful purgative, or have salivated the patient; but, certain it is, under these disadvantages, it was his favourite medicine in the cure of the Struma; and so confident was he that *Mercury* was necessary, that he farther says, “ *without some*  
“ *preparation*



“ *preparation of Mercury our hopes are*  
“ *vain.*” *Belloste*, who was an army-surgeon in France, of great reputation and experience, was distinguished for his success in the cure of King’s Evil by a secret medicine called *Bellostes’ Pill*, but admitted by him to be a preparation of Mercury, in favour of which he appears almost an enthusiast. In the second volume of his *Hospital Surgery*, page 4, he says, “ *Mer-*  
“ *cury, whose virtues I here publish, is a*  
“ *miracle of nature, and the greatest gift*  
“ *of Providence in the whole Materia*  
“ *Medica;*” and, in page 44, “ *As nature*  
“ *is inimitable in her works, so is Mercu-*  
“ *ry in its operations.*” There were but few preparations of Mercury given as alteratives, when *Van Swieten* introduced the solution of Corrosive Sublimate, which preparation is still distinguished by his name: this was, at that time, said to do miracles, and was particularly spoken of, as almost a specific in this complaint; and its good effects in Struma, have been since mentioned by different authors.

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In Russell's treatise upon sea-water, in the cure of Struma, he very generally ordered large quantities of the Ethiops Mineral; and although the Ethiops is very far from being one of the most eligible preparations of Mercury, yet it will be but just to give some share of credit to a mercurial medicine, that is, doubtless, endowed with some degree of power.

In a paper by the late Dr. Fothergill in the London Medical Observations, upon the advantages of the *Cortex Peruvianus* in strumous cases, he united the Calomel in small doses, and recommends it as an auxiliary to the bark. In this particular, I shall beg leave to differ from so celebrated a character, and consider the Cortex as the auxiliary, and the Calomel, as the active efficient medicine.

That dangerous consequences might result from the improper use of this medicine, is beyond a doubt; and is at once a proof,



proof, that it should never be considered as a general medicine, that may be given carelessly, or by ignorant persons indiscriminately.

I have given the different preparations of Mercury to some thousands, and have never seen one single instance that has excited in me a moment's serious concern. Patients who are taking medicine without being confined, will be naturally liable to many inconveniences, from improper diet, change of weather, exposure to cold at unseasonable hours, and similar inconveniences. From these circumstances, little derangements have sometimes happened; but they are so trifling, as at all times to be remedied by a little attention, and a day or two's nursing.

Thus have I given a faithful, and I hope, sufficiently distinct, account, of my present mode of treating the different



rent symptoms of the Struma. I may add with equal truth, that it is the result of very extensive practice in this disease, and that, whatever opinion may be formed of these observations, I presumed not to offer them to the attention of the public, until I had previously, and repeatedly, found them to be confirmed, by the testimony of experience in a variety of circumstances; of experience embittered by solicitude, but, in general, compensated by success. Should the method of cure, which I have endeavoured to recommend, prove conducive towards establishing, more certain and determinate principles, with respect to the treatment of the disease, I shall not much regret the continuance of that opinion, which, must ever have many apparent proofs of confirmation. It will be sufficient for my purpose, if this speculative doctrine shall not be permitted to supersede the use of medicine in the more early stages of the disease.

C H A P.

## C H A P. XV.

*Observations on Sea-Bathing, particularly in Cases of Struma, or the King's Evil, and Diseases of the Skin.*

THE very general practice of sea-bathing, during the summer-months, by persons of fashion, and the great number of complaints that are relieved or cured by it, has made it almost a universal custom for the convalescent, the valetudinarian, and for great numbers of persons, as a means of preventing disease, to repair to the sea-coast. Of its great utility, not only as a prophylactic, but also as a remedy for many complaints, and essentially assisting the operation of medicine in the cure of many others, there can be no doubt; but, like most other things that are done indiscriminately, it is often productive of much harm.



The public are too apt to conclude, very little inconvenience, much less serious evil, can result, from any thing that is very generally practised; and on this principle they employ, or recommend sea-bathing, according to their own judgment, or the forms commonly prescribed, of bathing every other morning; without paying any regard to the great difference in the human constitution, the season of the year, the temperature of the water, or of the atmosphere. However, one moment's reflection will convince every one, that whatever may be the means, of suddenly producing considerable changes on the whole human frame, whether by internal medicines, or external application, must be productive of good or evil, and as such, it may be worth while to determine the probability, before the application; or at least to be informed, so that it may be repeated, or not, according to circumstances of advantage, or disadvantage. To ascertain  
that



that point in the present instance, let us inquire into the effects produced on the human frame by the cold bath, temperate or sea bathing, and the use of the warm bath. The common consequences of going into the cold bath will be an instant and unpleasant oppression, accompanied with great difficulty of breathing, the countenance becomes pale, the lips of a livid colour, often head-ache or a sense of fulness, a convulsive or involuntary chattering of the teeth and a trembling of the whole body. The action of the heart becomes quicker and stronger, to repel the the influx of blood from the vessels on the surface of the body, and the excretions by the kidneys particularly, and often by the alimentary canal are promoted, and these symptoms will produce consequent good or ill effects in proportion to the constitution of the person bathing, the time of continuing in the bath, the temperature of the water, and atmosphere. The great



ease with which water may be made warm by the action of fire, and the effect produced by the sun and atmosphere on its temperature, renders it much more extensively useful than it could otherwise have been.

The facility with which water unites with other bodies, or the power it has as a menstruum upon almost all saline substances, many earths, vegetables, and some minerals ; is the reason why we have so seldom pure water : indeed it can scarcely ever be pure, except it be rain-water, snow, or distilled water ; but if the substances united with the water, are not sufficiently powerful to influence its colour, taste, or smell, it is deemed sweet or good water, to distinguish it from water that is impregnated with saline, metallic, or earthy substances : we shall here only distinguish the qualities of sea-water from common good water.

Pure

Pure water is a perfectly transparent body, without colour, without taste, or smell: sea-water is less limpid than fresh water, of a greenish colour, with an unctuous or greasiness to the touch, salt and bitterish to the taste; it is specifically \* heavier than common water, strongly impregnated with common salt and Epsom salt, which, when taken into the stomach in a given quantity, operates as a purgative, and sometimes as an emetic. The exact quantity of salt in a given quantity of water, has been differently reported: it is pretty generally admitted to be in the proportion of 3 to 4 in a 100. It is also found to be more strongly impregnated in different climates, and the water of a hot climate to contain the largest quantity of salt. The temperature of the sea at diffe-

\* Boyle, in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 73, 1761, says the weight of the Thames water is to that of the sea as 41 to 42. — In the Cyclopædia, as 5 to 4.



rent depths is not found to vary much: it is said by \* Mr. Ellis to be from 12 to 15 degrees of the thermometer.

Dr. Hunter made some ingenious experiments to ascertain the temperature of the earth below the surface, in a paper read before the Royal Society, and published in the Annual Register, Natural History, p. 56. "The sea," he says, "admits of change of temperature more quickly than the earth, particularly near the shore. The mean heat of the sea at Brighthelmstone, during the months of July, August, September, and October, was as follows:

" July,  $63^{\circ} \frac{1}{7}$ .

" Aug.  $63^{\circ} \frac{1}{2}$ .

" Sept.  $58^{\circ}$ .

" Oct.  $53^{\circ}$ .

\* Mr. Ellis's observations, recited by Haller in the 2d vol. of his physiology, p. 29.

" The

“ The observations were made with a view to ascertain the temperature of the sea as a bath, and therefore the heat was taken about nine in the morning, the usual time and place of bathing. The water gets hotter towards three o'clock in the afternoon; so that it not only follows the monthly, but even the daily changes of the temperature of the air. In the four months just mentioned, the extremes of heat and cold are considerable: I have seen it as hot as  $71^{\circ}$  and as cold as  $49^{\circ}$ . In the month of August, Sir Henry Englefield examined the heat of the sea at the same time that I did, and we both found it  $71^{\circ}$ : it was about four P. M. of a very hot day. I may be allowed to remark that sea-bathing is a very different thing at different seasons of the year, and requires an acquaintance with the variations of the temperature to adapt it to particular cases.”



I would beg leave to add the probability of a considerable variation in the degree of heat at different periods of a flowing tide, especially upon an extensive and flat shore, when the sun is past its meridian, as must have been the case at the time of making the experiment by Sir Henry Englefield and Dr. Hunter.

After this short history of sea-water, it will be natural to give a very brief account of the body, upon which its effects are to operate. The human body is a mechanic hydraulic machine, so complex, yet so curiously constructed, as to surpass the utmost conception of the wisest mortal, for its great utility, extent of operation, variety of parts, order, and complete distinction: it is composed of bones, muscles or flesh, different orders of vessels, nerves, and various glands: the whole covered by the skin. Some parts of this wonderful machine are in perpetual and involuntary motion; such  
are



are the fluids in circulation. The nerves are the seat of all sensation, and the agents by which all the actions of the body are performed, from an influence within itself, which is by some termed the *anima*, or thinking principle, and by others the living principle. What this principle is, or its situation, has not yet been satisfactorily defined, nor is it necessary upon the present occasion to say more, than that the fact is admitted by all. The skin is a universal covering to the whole body, of different degrees of \* thickness in different persons. It is composed, like every other part of the body of fibres, with veins, arteries, and nerves, the extreme sensibility of which is defended by a very thin covering, called the cuticle, which is

\* In the collection of anatomical preparations at Rotterdam and Leyden, are some preparations of the human skin, and particularly one in which it is prepared as leather, and a shoe made of it; the upper part thin and the sole thick, and which is quite as thick or thicker than the sole of shoes in common use. This inelegant preparation is only mentioned to shew the difference in the thickness of the skin in different subjects.

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that thin membrane that often peels off the hands and other parts of the body without the true skin being at all affected, or which is easily removed when local and artificial inflammation is requisite by the application of a blister. The skin is very elastic, extremely porous, and, although the best glasses do not discover the excretory puncta, yet in perspiration we see the transudation very easily with the naked eye, but which was most probably, even in the smallest visible state, the united exudation of a great number of vessels, termed exhalents. There is also another equally important order of vessels, which are called inhalents or absorbents, and which may be supposed to be equally numerous and diffused over the whole surface of the body. It is by this system of vessels that moisture \* and nutriment

\* I once attended a gentleman to the hot bath for a suppression of urine : he continued in the warm water for half an hour, and when he put on his clothes he was surprised to find himself very considerably increased in size ; and, upon examining the abdomen, there was as clear a fluctuation as possible in a case of ascites,



nutriment are absorbed, and innumerable \* offices important to the constitution are performed; therefore it must be obvious to every one that a perfect state of good health depends very much upon the skin being in a state to admit the effect and operation of these different orders of vessels to perform their offices naturally and properly, and will readily account for the difference in the countenance of a person exposed to the causes of obstruction, whether from the application of cold air, or moisture, or from whatever cause such obstruction may take place, and whether the disease be the effect of the inhalents admitting too large a portion of cold air, or moisture, for the good of the constitution, or from the exhalents being prevented from

scites, which could not have been a previous disease, as the gentleman was in perfect health the preceding day. I accounted for the accumulation from a great absorption in the bath, and its not being received in the vesica, as there was no urinary evacuation.

\* For some farther particulars of this important system, read Chap. IV. of the preceding Treatise.



throwing off what may be injurious, it is of little import to the individual: the probability however is that the mouths of the exhalents are restricted, apparent from the dryness and roughness of the skin, and the means of relief, which is commonly by exciting perspiration. If we give credit to the experiments of several ingenious and learned phisiologists recited by \* Haller, we must admit the good condition of the skin to be of the greatest consequence to the whole frame; for by them it is proved, that the evacuation by the exhalents is not only more than equal to all other evacuations by the kidneys, alimentary canal, mouth, nose, ears and eyes, but that it exceeds the whole in the proportion of 15 to 12; consequently, when we consider what is the effect of a suppressed regular evacuation from any excretory organ, it must be admitted as impossible for a total or even a partial suppression of this great

\* Haller's Phisiology.

and



and important outlet not to be attended with the most serious consequences to the whole frame.

The skin is more immediately connected with the present subject. Bathing is an immediate application to the surface of the body, and which cannot in any form be applied without producing some alterations in the constitution. How frequently will a pediluvium relieve pains of the head and many other complaints, and produce an universal exhalation and perspiration. The skin is a part of the body, the condition of which is discoverable to every one by the countenance, and which could not be so easily ascertained by the pulse, the urine, or any other exclusive inquiry. The condition of the skin is perhaps the quickest notice of indisposition or derangement in the system, where the passions of the mind are not the immediate cause. What is the first sensation of too great a degree of cold or moisture applied to the body?



body? A paleness of the countenance, followed by cold shivering or chilliness, and a roughness of the skin; and the consequent effects, whether of long or short duration, depend upon the continuance or increase of the first cause, the degree of health and strength of the constitution receiving the injury, and the judicious application of proper remedies. It cannot be doubted that persons with a thin skin, or as it is often termed of a delicate constitution, will be sooner and more easily affected than those whose skin is of a thicker texture. How very soon cold affects the skin of that beautiful and powerful animal the horse, especially those whose skin is of a thin texture, commonly termed of the blood breed;\* a few minutes standing of a cold day will change the aspect of the whole surface of the body; the

\* This term is supposed to have taken place from the cutaneous vessels being large, and the thinness of the skin bringing them conspicuously to view after exercise.

hair,



hair, which was perfectly smooth and soft, will be raised and rough, even a little too much cold water will often for a time produce the same effects, and sometimes cause a cold shivering fit. In fact it is by the skin gentlemen are accustomed to judge of the constitution and condition of animals, and are enabled in a moment as it were to point out a defect; for if they discover the skin to be in an unnatural state, the inference is, that the animal has some internal disease, and in most cases the observation will be well-founded. If then cold can have such immediate effects upon the constitution of so powerful an animal as a horse, how reasonable is it to suppose the same causes will produce the same effects upon machines subject to nearly the same general laws, but infinitely more susceptible. This comparison may be considered a very coarse one, but persons of understanding will make the application, and it may be the means of directing their attention to a subject of infinite importance to themselves.



themselves or families, by exciting their early inquiries into the causes at the very commencement of indisposition, and which may be the means of preventing tedious diseases often attended with the most fatal consequences. The diseases of the skin are almost innumerable, and many of them after a length of time extremely difficult of cure, principally, I conceive, from neglect in the first instance.

Let us now inquire into the effects produced on the human frame by temperate or sea bathing, and the use of the warm bath: and to do it with more precision, and with the hope of making our observations as nearly applicable as possible, we shall make a similar distinction in the constitution as remarked in the preceding treatise, with this difference only of making two classes, viz. persons of a robust and strong constitution, and those whose frame of body and constitution may be considered as more susceptible of change,  
and



and thence more easily and frequently indisposed.

With respect to those persons who are happy enough to possess constitutions forming the first class little need be said; for they are accustomed to use all the non-naturals more as they like, than to be influenced by any regulations which to them seem wholly unnecessary; but notwithstanding the goodness of their constitution, they must know that great and repeated indiscretions are often the cause of complaints, and generally of the class termed acute or violent. I shall therefore only submit one observation to their reflection, viz. that it must be very improper to use the sea or cold bath early in the morning after sitting up late the preceding evening, after strong exercise, eating hearty of seasoned foods, and drinking plentifully of strong wines or any other strong liquors: under such circumstances it may be better to wait until the effect of the stimulus is

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gone



gone off, when the bath would not only be refreshing but salutary.

To those persons whose frame and constitution are more delicate, and whose skin is of a finer texture, it is of importance to know by what means their constitution may be strengthened so as to prevent frequent indisposition from trivial causes. To obtain so desirable a purpose, sea-bathing under proper regulations, is well adapted it being perhaps the best possible means of invigorating the human frame where there is no existing disease and when attention to the non-naturals is the primary object. This will appear unquestionable if we reflect on the consequent good effects of sea-bathing. The countenance is rendered more lively, the spirits raised, the whole body refreshed, the circulation quickened, and all the secretions and excretions promoted, which are the true means of obtaining and preserving health. But it may be proper to observe, that whatever under  
prudent



prudent management is capable of producing such salutary effects upon every part of the human body, may by misapplication produce effects just the contrary. What then are the circumstances that may be considered as producing this difference? It is occasioned by the variety in the human constitution, either naturally, or rendered so by indisposition, and therefore it becomes an object of importance to know how different constitutions, under different circumstances, may employ the same means to produce the same good effects. I conceive it must be by attending to the season of the year, the weather at the hour of bathing, the temperature of the water, and the time of continuing in it.

Persons of tender constitutions should not commence bathing on a cold day, particularly in the spring of the year, nor when the wind is high, and from the East or North, which will have a considerable effect on the temperature of the water, nor



at an early hour in the morning, nor when there is a moisture in the atmosphere, but choose either a favourable morning, or wait for the sun having made the water more temperate, and only plunge in and out again immediately, taking care to be wiped perfectly dry. By observing this precaution, the bath will become as it were a temperate bath, and the effect will be less violent.

The morning is undoubtedly the most favourable, and the most convenient time in general for bathing ; and when persons have used the bath for a given time, they may venture to take an earlier hour, particularly when the weather is very hot, accompanied with little wind. In fact we see the most delicate persons, when habituated to it, will bear not only sea-bathing during the colder months but even the cold bath during winter, which would be almost sufficient to destroy persons of similar

ar constitutions, if unaccustomed to the use of it,

It is no unfrequent occurrence to see a number of delicate young persons and children, who are sent to take the benefit of the sea, going to the machine for bathing at an early hour of a cold windy morning, when most probably they will not recover the effect of the bath for many hours and often not for the whole day: instead of refreshing them and exciting them to take exercise, it produces head-ache, languor, paleness of the countenance, want of appetite, and disinclination to exercise or amusement; yet they are recommended to persevere, under the idea that these are the common effects at the commencement of bathing; but they may, in a great measure, be remedied by the advice here given, and it may be added, much mischief be prevented.

In



In the instance of children or grown persons predisposed to Struma, it is of infinite consequence to them to be early attentive to the best means of strengthening their constitution, but particularly when any symptoms of the complaint shall appear. The most general indication of derangement in the system is on the surface of the body; the skin becomes dry and rough, the countenance is pale, the complexion fallow, the lips pale and dry, the skin of the neck of a darker colour than is natural, and the arms rough, the palms of the hands dry and harsh; very little perspiration, and that partially, sometimes accompanied with little eruptions about the body, often with children in the back of the head; indurated lymphatic glands in the neck, breast, arm-pits, and in the groins, a thickness of the upper lip, and eruptions about the mouth and nose, inflamed eyes and eye-lids; most of these symptoms are accompanied with little or no pain, from the insensibility



insensibility of the parts diseased, and the consequence is that they are little attended to. In the case of a whitloe, or any trivial accident occasioning pain or the loss of a little blood, all are alarmed; but in the other instance, where the disease is going on for weeks or months, daily increasing its influence on the constitution, little or no notice is taken, until the complaint has made sufficient progress in the habit to resist and often to conquer every endeavour to counteract its injurious consequences. In almost every case where there are affections of the skin, the warm salt bath, for a few times, will be better than sea-bathing; and when the skin is got to be soft and natural the precautions before-recommended should be strictly attended to, otherwise all the symptoms will recur upon going into the sea at an unreasonable period. The same method should be observed when accompanied with hoarseness or cough, which indicate some affection of the bronchia, or lungs. In either case,



case, or indeed where there is just reason to suspect any visceral affections, the moderately warm salt bath is to be preferred.

It is not unfrequent to see strumous patients, in almost every stage of the disease, employing sea-bathing, and in most cases unseasonably, often while tumours are in a state of suppuration; at other times where there is undoubtedly visceral affection, and frequently when there are eruptions and other indications of a disease on the skin, from an idea that the complaint is scorbutic. If nature is enabled to struggle through all the difficulties put in her way, the sea-bathing has the reputation, and in case it does not succeed, it is thence to be inferred the case was wholly incurable: this, I apprehend, is in a great measure owing to the levity with which persons are apt to view what is so commonly practised without reflecting upon the great change produced, and also that the most efficacious medicines are often the engines  
of



of destruction from being improperly administered.

If we examine into the effects of the moderately warm salt bath, we shall see how much greater is the probability of its being salutary, than the cold or even the temperate bath, in all cases which come under the class just described. In the first instance, no unpleasant apprehensions are entertained to disturb the mind; the warmth of the water is perfectly agreeable to their feelings, the circulation is moderately quickened, the skin is invited to recover its office by relaxing and softening the cuticle, and the heart is invigorated to overcome little obstructions in the course of its circulation by its additional powers; a gentle moisture upon the whole surface of the body is produced, all the secretions are promoted, absorption is excited, the spirits raised, and the person leaves the bath with regret, from the gratification they experience; sleep is almost the invariable

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desire after bathing, and which may be admitted to give nature time to proceed with her operations towards amendment, provided they are covered with light clothing so as not to produce profuse perspiration and not permitted to sleep too long to interfere with their usual hour of going to rest. If we refer to what has before been said upon the probable effect of impeded evacuation by the surface of the body, we shall be inclined to admit the greater degree of probability of relief by the moderately warm salt bath than by the use of the cold or sea bath, especially when the subject itself is considered by form of body and constitution naturally delicate. This delicacy of frame does not preclude the evil consequences to the constitution, by retaining in the system a part intended by nature to be thrown off, and which, I apprehend, occasions that apparent accrimony in the constitution of persons and children, by whose mode of living and habits of life it cannot be accounted for. Under  
such



uch circumstances I have seen very salutary effects from the moderately warm bath, and have sometimes attributed the good consequences, not merely to its effect upon the skin, but to the absorption of the warm water, which it is conceived unites with the fluids in circulation, and may be equally serviceable with the innumerable medicated decoctions that are said to do so much service, and which, with children, there is great difficulty in making them take in sufficient quantity to be useful.

The morning is certainly a proper season for bathing; but, by the present practice, it should seem as if it were the only time for it. To persons in health, and who bathe for pleasure or as a preventive of disease, they naturally study convenience; but the valetudinarian should not take the robust and healthy for his example in this instance, any more than he should for his mode of living or amusements, but exercise his own good sense; and, upon most

A a 2                      occasions,



occasions, his own feelings will be the best guide. In the very hot months of summer, bathing, both in the morning and in the evening, must be very salutary. It is the invariable custom of a very large proportion of the inhabitants of the East; and, from its being considered as a religious ceremony, there can be no doubt of its having been found absolutely necessary; and, I should think, must be a very probable means of preventing the great lassitude that weakly relaxed persons often experience from perspiration during night. In cases where there are no other evident causes for too profuse an evacuation, by the pores of the skin, than relaxation or debility, bathing must be a very probable and a very agreeable remedy. Persons in such circumstances should bathe early in the morning and in the evening near upon sun-set, and also, as near as practicable, at high water, when it is imagined the water will be colder than at any time preceding



teding that period, especially upon an extensive and flat shore.

As it was not my intention to go at length into the application of the advantages and disadvantages of bathing in diseases generally, I shall beg leave to close these few observations with the maxims for bathing as laid down by Hippocrates.

Persons should not bathe immediately after eating, nor eat or drink immediately after coming out of the bath; to abstain from the bath when the body is too open or too costive, or when very weak; also when there is nausea, great loss of appetite, or bleeding at the nose. According to this great physician, the advantages of bathing consist in refreshing and moistening the skin, making the joints pliant, increasing muscular strength, and promoting the excretions, particularly by the kidneys.



## CHAP. XVI.

*Cases of Scrofula.*

THE few cases that are now added to this Treatise on Scrofula, or King's Evil, have been selected from a great number and variety, which occasioned no small embarrassment in their selection and arrangement. The chief objects are, to point out the different modes of treatment under different circumstances; to direct the attention to those cases where there was hereditary, or pre-disposition, and where there was not, which has been faithfully done; and, thirdly, to point out where a deviation from the common method of treatment had been attended with the most flattering success.

Misrepresentation, for the purposes of imposition, has degraded the practice of publishing cases, which was the foundation of physic and surgery, and which, in  
diseases



diseases that are tedious and difficult, gives consolation to the practitioner, and affords to him the most satisfactory information. A just representation appeared to me the most convincing argument, where there could be no doubt of the reality. To obviate every suspicion on that head, in the cases now given, the date refers to the books of the charity when the patient was admitted; and I have taken the liberty of adding the name of the lady or gentleman who recommended them, and also the name of the patient.

The publication of this edition has been going on at leisure, during which I have received many letters of gratitude and offers of testimonials from some of the most respectable characters in this country, and for which I now beg leave to return my most sincere acknowledgements; but a public charity affords ample variety, where the truth speaks for itself, devoid of the high colouring that often flows from the grateful



ful heart, or the warmth that naturally accompanies personal friendship.

The cases were taken from the patient's Letter of Recommendation, and the chief object has been to make them as concise as possible, beginning with the earliest period, when the complaint has occurred to the author's observation, and proceeding progressively to the latest.

## C A S E I.

Catharine Hall, at 14 days old, was recommended to the London-Dispensary, March 24, by Mr. D. Ponderdant, for a large tumour under the chin. It was the size of half a pullet's egg, very hard, no external inflammation or discoverable fluctuation. A swelling was observed by the nurse two days after birth, which had continually increased to its present size, the  
child

child was in other respects a healthy fine girl. A cold at the time of her birth was most probably the cause, which was accompanied with considerable heat for two or three days, but gave way to the remedies prescribed by the nurse. — Ordered an opening-powder with a grain of Calomel every night. — March 31st, the tumour was somewhat less. — April 5th, very little variation since the 31st of March: the powder did not sufficiently open the body. — Repeated the powder every night with six grains of Sal Polychrest every morning. — 12th, the tumour appeared as if divided into smaller ones: continued the same medicines to the 18th, when the tumours were nearly re-absorbed, and she was ordered to have the Calomel every other night only. — 24th, she was discharged perfectly well.

## C A S E II.

John Miller, eight months old, was recommended to the Dispensary, January 10th,

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by



by Mr. James Dewey, for several enlarged glands in the neck and inflammation of the eyes, accompanied with a troublesome cough and difficulty in breathing; the skin rough and dry; and he had been ill almost from his birth. This poor child, by his form of body, was strongly pre-disposed to Scrofula, but there was no apparent hereditary disposition. A blister was ordered between the shoulders, and kept perpetual with the Vegetable Water as a collyrium, and a few grains of Pulv. Basilicus at night.—The 15th, his eyes and breathing were better, the blister and collyrium were continued, and the powder every other night.—22d, the tumours were considerably less, and his general health much mended.—Continued the same remedies to the 29th, when the blister was healed, his eyes were very much better, his cough had left him, and, by the use of the same medicines, he was discharged cured the 3d of March.

C A S E



## C A S E III.

Mary Ashby, ten months old, was recommended to the Charity by Mr. Charles De St. Luc, for large scrofulous tumours : one very large under the ear, and others under the chin and around the neck, which had been a considerable time, and were now in a forward state of suppuration. To the tumours were applied a \* caustic solution, and the Pulvis Basilicus internally every night.—29th, the powder was ordered to be given every other night, and the wounds to be dressed with a stimulating ointment, made by adding a small proportion of the *Ærugo Æris* to the Unguent.

\* This solution is the *Lapis Infernalis* in *Aq. Pur.* with a pretty large quantity of *Opium*. I do not know if the *Opium* does any good ; but, as it does not at all impede the action of the caustic, and as it has been thought to lessen the pain, I have continually used it, and, comparatively speaking, this is the mildest and most effectual application of the kind I have met with.



Basilicon.—31st. She was ordered a table-spoonful of decoction of Bark three or four times a day.—Feb. 5th, the wounds were perfectly clean, and a milder application was employed: the Soap Cerate and the Mel. Anglican. which makes a very pleasant and useful ointment.—12th. She was considerably better, the sores healing very fast.—Omitted all kind of medicine, but continued the ointment to the 22d, when she was discharged cured.

In this case, by the immediate application of the caustic, much time was gained; and what is of great consequence, the impediment to general health immediately removed. While suppuration is going on, there is almost always occasional symptomatic fever: even in Scrofula, there is some derangement in the system, whether from absorption, or whatever the cause may be, that produces restlessness, loss of appetite, and affects the temper and disposition of the child, by which they soon become weakly and

and irritable, and which I conceive may be often prevented by a timely application, in the way here recommended.

#### C A S E IV.

April 25, Phœbe Leach, 15 months old, was recommended by Mr. Joshua Hopkins, for large tumours in the neck under each ear. There was no pre-disposition in this child, and the mother a very healthy good-looking woman. It appeared to me, that the child was too often suckled.—Ordered the Pulvis Basilicus and Rhæi every night, which was continued, without any alteration, every, or every other night, according to its operation, for nearly three weeks, when the tumours completely disappeared.

#### C A S E V.

Sarah Williams, 18 months old, was recommended, the 22d of March, by Mr. James Long, for a severe pain and swelling



ling of the knee. The enlargement around the joint had been observed for some time but the pain increasing, the mother's fears were alarmed from the apprehension of a white swelling. The child was fair and delicate, and may be considered as pre-disposed to Scrofula. The Camphorated Liniment, with Terebinth, was applied to the knee twice a day, and a few grains of the Pulvis Basilicus, with five drops of the Tinct. Opii every night, and a scruple of Sal Polychrest every morning.—27th. The pain was somewhat abated: continued the same application and medicines to the 5th of April, when the swelling was less, and the pain much relieved. The child slept better, without those startings that had before been very frequent.—12th. She was in all respects better, slept quiet, and had an appetite which hitherto had been very indifferent.—Milk in different forms, and broths, were recommended.—The Opiate and Sal Polychrest were omitted, but the Pulv. Basilicus continued.—18th. The child's countenance was  
very



very much mended, she slept comfortable, the knee was nearly the natural size, and she received a letter of thanks to the Governor.

This was a fortunate termination: all complaints about the joints, particularly when accompanied with acute pain, are alarming; and, notwithstanding this was a delicate child, she was briskly purged for twelve days successively. In young children there is more to be expected from keeping the bowels empty, than by topical or any other evacuation. While at the breast, it is almost constantly given them when fretful or in pain; and, if they have left the breast, they are too frequently fed, and often with very improper things, with a view to keep them quiet, so that it becomes very difficult to ascertain the quantity given them in twenty-four hours, which makes me a great advocate, in many cases, for purging young children.

C A S E



## C A S E VI.

James Macarthy, 16 months old, was recommended to the Charity, October 19th, by Mr. Hawkins, for an ulcer in one of the groins, and a large tumour in the other. The belly was much too large and hard, and there could be little doubt but the mesenteric glands were diseased. He had often complaints in the bowels, which were supposed to be from worms, and for several weeks had a very fetid discharge from within the ear, which was ordered to be kept very clean with the Vegetable Water, and two grains of Calomel given every night, and the ulcer to be dressed with equal parts of Soap Cerate and Basilicon.—The 26th, the Calomel had well cleansed the bowels and very much reduced the belly and relieved the child. The discharge from the ear was less fetid and less in quantity, and the ulcer in the groin had a better appearance.

pearance. The Calomel was occasionally repeated to the 16th of November, when the ulcer was perfectly healed, the belly was soft and much less, and the tumour in the groin so much reduced, as to require no farther attention, and he had a letter of thanks to the governor.

## C A S E VII.

Charles Silk, 3 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, March the 15th, by Mr. Richard Mullis, for inflammation of the eyes, both lips much swelled, and scorbutic eruptions, as they are commonly termed, in different parts of the body. The skin was dry and harsh, with a good deal of heat, accompanied with thirst. He was ordered the Calomel every night, and the Sal Polychrest in the morning, a perpetual blister between the shoulders, and the Saturnine Water to the eyes.—17th. He was somewhat better:

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continued



continued the same to the 24th, when his eyes were considerably relieved, and the lips nearly the natural size, the countenance was pale, and a good deal of general debility. He was ordered the Cortex in decoction three times a day, which was continued to the 7th of April, when his general health was much better: the blister had been healed for some days, and the skin was clear of the eruptions. The Bark was continued twice a day to the 12th, when he was discharged cured.

This cure, in all probability, would have succeeded in a shorter time by the use of the warm salt bath.

### C A S E    VIII.

Mary Purfur, 5 years of age, was recommended, August the 12th, by Mr. Brooks, for a supposed white swelling of the knee, which she had complained of for some time,



time, and for the relief or cure of which a variety of medicines had been taken internally, and numerous fomentations and poultices applied externally. The knee was much enlarged, tender when touched, and occasionally very painful, particularly during the night, when she frequently waked screaming with pain. The child had for some time been confined to the bed, and finding a bent position easiest to the limb, it was now impossible to extend the leg, and, although many means were devised to effect this intention, it did not well succeed. The knee was fomented with hot salt water, and afterwards bathed with the Camphorated Liniment and Terebinth. She was ordered to take two grains of Calomel with five drops of Tinct. Opii at night, and Sal Polychrest in the morning. This was continued for ten or twelve days, when she was in less pain, and could better suffer the part to be rubbed with the liniment. Finding we gained but little in our endeavours to extend the limb,



and as she grew better in her general health, she was ordered to be got up, and induced to move about as much as possible without crutches. — September the 10th. Her general habit was much better, she slept pretty well, and often passed whole nights without disturbing the family. The pill was omitted, but the powder and liniment were continued. — October the 10th. The knee was much reduced in size; very little painful; but the leg still much bent. She was ordered a heavy shoe, and the weight to be gradually increased. — October 30, she was discharged. The knee well reduced without the least pain, and enabled to walk, with a little assistance, tolerably well.

### C A S E IX.

James Lally, 7 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, October the 1st, by Mr. Brooks, for an ulcer upon the back of the hand, which was supposed to have arisen



arisen from a blow some months before. A variety of applications had been ineffectually applied. On examining the part, the metacarpal bone was found to be diseased, and the surrounding parts much thickened with two tumours, one on the wrist, and the other on the fore-arm. His general health but indifferent for the preceding three months. The tumours were rather in a flaccid state, the skin, in that part, of a deep livid hue, and his countenance fallow. The tumours were opened with the caustic solution, the wound on the hand dressed with the Tinct. Myrrhæ in Aq. Calcis, and he took the Calomel and Aromatic Pil. at bedtime.—17th. The sloughs had separated, and the wounds were dressed alike with the solution of Myrrh and the Soap Cerate over it, with a decoction of Bark, to be taken three times a day.—14th. His general health considerably better: removed a pretty large exfoliation of the bone: continued the dressings as before, and the Bark.—21st. The thickening on the back of the hand  
much



much reduced, and the ulcers that were opened, in a fair way of doing well.—November the 4th. The ulcers nearly healed omitted the Bark; and dressed the hand as before.—11th. Removed another exfoliation from the hand: the ulcers on the wrist and arm not quite so well as last week ordered Sal Polychrest every morning.—18th. He was much better, and the foreskin had again a very healthy appearance: omitted the powder.—24th. The foreskin on the wrist and arm were quite healed: ordered the hand to be pumped on every morning, and dressed as usual, which was continued to the 10th of December, when he was discharged cured.

It has often occurred in the course of practice, that some apparently very trivial exfoliation of bone has proved sufficient to derange the whole habit. It appeared to me to be the only cause here, and when removed, the tranquillity in the system was restored,



restored, which this little irritating cause so much interrupted.

## C A S E X.

William Auvach was recommended, March the 23d, by Mr. C. Poole, for a large tumour in the axilla, which had been gradually increasing in size for some weeks. He had enjoyed general good health since he was discharged cured of his \* elbows and shoulders at the Dispensary. The common emollient cataplasm of bread and milk was applied for a few days, when the tumour was opened, and dressed with the Ointment made of Soap Cerate and † Mel, which was continued without any internal medicine to the 26th of April, when he complained

\* See Case, p. 140.

† This ointment is peculiarly well calculated for dressing sores in the axilla, or any similar situation, where most ointments very soon become offensive.



of an itching all over the body, probably from the change of season; for which he was ordered an electuary of the Sarsaparillæ, and was discharged perfectly cured the 11th of May.

### C A S E    XI.

Elizabeth Glas, 7 years of age, was recommended, March the 2d, by Mr. L. Fichett, for tumours in the neck: the upper lip was very much swelled and ulcerated, the skin dry and rough, the cuticle frequently coming off in different parts, the habit delicate, and may be considered as having hereditary disposition, as the mother was strongly pre-disposed to Struma. The child was frequently ill, and the mother remarked, when the child was beginning to be unwell, her lip broke out first, and that her hair stood up unnaturally. This was the first time I ever heard the remark made, but I can conceive it to be very general with

with children of weakly constitutions, labouring under the want of warm clothing in the winter-season.

The bowels were opened by the Pulvis Bafilicus every other night, with Sal Polychrest and Rhubarb the following morning.—March the 9th, the stomach and bowels were quite cleansed, and the lip much less; she was ordered a tea-spoonful of the \* Mars Saccharatus twice a day.—The 19th, the lip was increased in size, probably from cold, or some acrimony in the constitution. Ordered a blister between the shoulders, and the Pulvis Bafilicus at night.—26th, she was considerably better. Ordered the Decoctum Corticis, which was continued to the

\* This is an acquisition in medicine: it is extremely difficult to get children to take medicine of any kind, in quantity, for a length of time; but this form is extremely well calculated to receive them, and they take it very readily.



16th of April, when she was discharged cured.

The warm salt bath would most probably have expedited this cure very much.

## C A S E XII.

James Dede, 9 years of age, was recommended, October the 14th, by Mr. John Bernard, for several tumours in the neck and eruptions of the head. He was ordered the Calomel every night and the Sal Polychrest the following morning, with the Ung. Hydrarg. Albæ to the ulcers on the scalp.—21st. He was considerably better: the ulcerations nearly healed.—November the 2d, the tumours were much reduced in size, and the ulcers quite well. Ordered a continuance of the powders only to the 16th of November, when he was discharged cured.

I have

I have had this child several times under my care; and was happy enough to cure his sister, after nearly two years attendance, of a hip-case: she is not the least lame, and both are, at this time, perfectly well. It is worthy of remark, that the only symptom of pre-disposition in this family, is a very thin skin; the complexion, hair, and eyes, are very dark, and, in short, not one of the usual exterior marks of hereditary or pre-disposition to this disease.

### C A S E    XIII.

Susannah Brown, 11 years of age, was recommended, July the 11th, by Mrs. Eliz. Green, for a large swelling in her right thigh. She had complained of pain in her knee and hip for more than twelve months, but which was not much attended to, as there was no exterior appearance of disease for several months. For the past four

D d 2

months



months the swelling gradually increased in size, and had been very painful; during which, various fomentations and different applications had been employed. When first saw her, the tumour extended from the upper part of the thigh to within three or four inches of the knee, and her general health was much reduced. The tumour was soon afterwards punctured in the depending part, and a large quantity of this matter with portions of undissolved cellular membrane came away. It was dressed in the manner here recommended, by occasionally injecting the Tinct. Myrrhæ in Aq. Calcis, with the Cortex internally, and she was discharged cured the 3d of January.

In this case there was no apparent hereditary or pre-disposition. I have seen her frequently since, and she is not the least lame, but a fine well-grown girl.

C A S E



## C A S E    XIV.

Richard Holmes, between 9 and 10 years of age, was recommended by Dr. Lettsome, January the 8th, for a large tumour in the neck under the left ear: there were also others, but smaller. The boy was thin, and his countenance rather unhealthy, the pupil much dilated, with a very thin skin, and thence pre-disposed to this complaint: in other respects well formed. The contents of the tumour were deep seated, and the fluctuation rather obscure: not the least mark of external inflammation, and not very painful or tender when touched. In this case, I had no doubt, if we had waited for apparent inflammation and external opening, we should have been disappointed, and the contents of the tumour would have found an easier passage through the ear, which every practitioner must have met with, and  
found



found very offensive to the patient, and troublesome to cure. This circumstance has induced me, for some time past, to make an opening, in such cases, as soon as the fluctuation was discoverable. In the present instance it could not have been done well by caustic, as the external opening need not be large, and the matter was deep-seated. The point of a lancet was therefore preferred: the contents of the tumour pressed out, and a solution of Myrrh injected, with the Emplastr. Saponaceum externally. I was more anxious, in this case, to get an opening as soon as possible, from the boy having a cough and a great dryness of the skin, which were proofs of general affection, and of more importance than the tumour. He was ordered an electuary, with Gum. Myrrhæ and Sarsaparillæ. This was continued, occasionally injecting the solution of Myrrh, to the 16th, when his cough was better. Continued the same to the 23d, when the enlarged glands round the tumour were  
much



much reduced: the discharge inconsiderable. Omitted the electuary, but continued the plaster to the 30th, when he was discharged cured.

### C A S E XV.

Sarah Pitt, 11 years of age, was recommended, February 4, by Mr. James Walker, for a large hard tumour in the left breast, which had been for several months, but not being painful, she had not mentioned it to her mother. She was a well-formed girl, but rather delicate, and from the fallowness of her complexion, and the roughness and dryness of the skin it appeared she had been for some time indisposed. She was ordered the Calomel with the Aromatic Pill at bed-time, and a scruple of Sal Polychrest every other morning, which was continued for ten days, when her general health was considerably mended, and the tumour in the breast somewhat less: the pill was continued



continued every night and the powder twice a week, with a decoction of *Sarsaparillæ* for ordinary beverage to the 28th, and she was discharged cured.

### C A S E . XVI.

Henry Parsons, 13 years of age, was recommended, November 7, by M. Michell Esq. for a distortion of the back-bone, accompanied with great pain and weakness. It was about six years before this period that the distortion was first discovered, when he was under my care, and discharged cured. He continued well, until within the past six months: that he occasionally found his back painful, particularly after exercise, which daily increased and obliged him now to give up his employment in the gentleman's service who recommended him. He was rather tall and stout of his age, with fair hair and complexion, grey eyes, and according to the general opinion, may be considered  
as



as pre-disposed to Scrofula. The spine projected considerably, about the 5th, 6th, and 7th, vertebre. The muscles on each side were ordered to be well rubbed twice every day with the Camphorated Liniment, and the Aromatic Pil. with Calomel to be taken night and morning.—The 20th, he complained much of pain in the back, and difficulty in walking. The pill had satisfactorily answered the purpose of keeping the body open. He was recommended to walk as little as possible, and to prefer a horizontal position. The pills and external application were continued with a decoction of Bark three times a day. — 27th. He thought himself no better, his nights were restless from pain in the back, and his appetite very indifferent. Conceiving every intention to be answered by the Calomel, viz. the removal of obstructions in the mesentery ; he was ordered to omit the pills, and to take a mixture with the Ferri Vitriolati and Kali, ter die.—December the 6th. He thought himself rather better: the

E e

same



same medicine was continued to the 20th, when he was evidently better, and enabled to walk without much pain. This, however, was not encouraged to the extent of fatiguing him. He complained of his stomach rejecting the medicine. He was ordered the Mars Saccharatus every morning, and the mixture twice a day; this was continued to the 4th of January, when he was considerably better, but complained of constipation: he was ordered his former pills to take occasionally. — January the 11th. He was much stronger, had better nights, and a tolerable good appetite, and the distortion apparently less. — 18th. The same means were continued. — 28th. He was increasing in strength daily, and enabled to take several hours exercise in the course of the day. He was ordered a repetition of his medicines, which were continued with great attention to the 19th of February, when he was discharged cured.

I have

I have great pleasure in adding, that this plan has succeeded in many instances of distortion of the spine.

### C A S E   XVII.

Mary Hadden, 32 years of age, with red hair, fair complexion, grey eyes, and a very thin skin, was recommended to this Charity, March the 4th, by Mr. Powell, for a complaint in her breast, which, in the first instance, she attributed to cold many years back; and to remedy which, a variety of means, both internal and external, had been employed. She was much reduced in her health, and her breast now formed one solid hard irregular tumour, with two very small openings, one above, the other below the nipple, around which, the skin was of a livid colour, particularly towards the axilla, where there was a sinus of confide-



rable length, and a pretty large tumour in the axilla. The discharge was thin, and considerable in quantity. The sinus was dilated, and dressed superficially with the Basilicon and Honey, occasionally touching the other sore with the Caustic Solution. The Antistrumous Pill was ordered every night for six nights, and the Cortex, in decoction, with a small quantity of the Stomach Tincture twice or thrice a day.—The 11th. Her general health was somewhat better: she was recommended to take the pill night and morning with the Bark, as before. — 25th. The breast had a more natural appearance, the hardness much less, and the sores in a fair way of doing well.—Continued the same remedies to the 15th of April, when the ulcers were quite healed, and her general health very much mended. The gums were a little spongy: omitted the pill in the morning, but continued it at night with the Bark, as before.—29th. The sponginess of the gums was quite gone off, the breast more natural in its appearance, and



and the hardness nearly gone. — Continued the same means to the 15th of May, when he was discharged cured.

### C A S E XVIII.

Humphrey Parry, 22 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, November the 10th, by Mr. Thomas Revell, for an ulcer in the upper and inner part of his right arm, which communicated, by a long sinus, with another ulcer in the arm-pit: the humerus was diseased, and, according to report, had been so many months. The part was ordered to be kept clean, by injecting a solution of the Gum. Myrrhæ in Aq. Calcis, with a superficial dressing. This was continued for some time, until, upon a favourable occasion, a pretty large exfoliation of the bone was removed, when it was injected with an active solution of the Vitriol. Roman. which answered the purpose remarkably well, by exciting a  
little



little inflammation, and both wounds healed very soon afterwards. He was discharged perfectly cured, the 19th of February, in very good general health.

### C A S E    XIX.

Mary Danton, 24 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, March the 28th, by Mr. Brellatt, for several very large tumours in her neck. They formed a cluster from the ear to the collar bone and much disfigured a woman, who was in other respects, handsome and very well formed. She was a native of Lancashire, of a fair complexion, with grey eyes, and light-brown hair, and previous to the past six or eight months, when the tumours first appeared, enjoyed perfect good health. She attributed her present complaints to a severe cold, from exposure to rain. The Calomel Pill was ordered every night, and the Sal Polychrest every morning, with the Camphorated Liniment to the parts affected.—

Apri

April the 13th. The tumours were considerably reduced. — 27th. The tumours gradually decreased in their magnitude, and her complexion resumed a natural and healthy appearance. — May the 11th. She was discharged perfectly cured.

At this time every person would have thought it a crime to say this woman had any hereditary disease in her constitution; but, had the tumours suppurated, there would have been incontrovertible proofs to those who insist on this complaint being hereditary.

## C A S E XX.

Hannah Fieldhouse, 37 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, February the 24th, by the Rev. Doctor Stafford, for an ulcer in her neck, which had been very troublesome to her, and for the cure of which, a variety of different unguents had been



been employed for more than twelve months previous to her coming to the Dispensary. She was a delicate fair woman, with natural pre-disposition to Struma, but, by inquiry, she was the first of her family that had the complaint. The general means here recommended were employed, and she was discharged cured the 29th of March.

### C A S E    XXI.

Joseph Bellamy, 49 years of age, was recommended to the Dispensary, January the 3d, by James Vere, Esq. for the cure of a very large scrofulous tumour in the groin. He was ordered to rub the part affected every night and morning with the Camphor and Terebinth, and to take the Calomel at night, with Sal Polychrest in the morning. — The 10th. He complained of having been very actively purged, but the tumour was divided into several distinct glands. The Calomel was omitted, and the Antistru-mous Pill given every night, with the Sal Polychrest

lychrest and Rhæi in the morning. — 17th. He was better in his general health, and the tumours considerably decreased. He was ordered the Antistrumous Pill night and morning, which was continued to the 7th of March, when he was discharged cured.

## C A S E XXII.

John Barr, 56 years of age, was recommended, January the 15th, by Mr. Charles Kemp, for the cure of an ulcer on the back of the right hand, and another on the breast. The hand had been bad three years, and a variety of different means externally and internally had been employed by regular practitioners and empirics. His general health was much impaired, he complained of loss of appetite and restless nights, from pain in his hand, probably from the application which I conjectured to be some stimulating ointment. The discharge was considerable in quantity, and very offensive.

F f

To



To the hand was ordered the common emollient cataplasm, with an opening-medicine directly, and an opiate at bed-time. To the breast the Solution of Myrrh and Soap Cerate: the bones in each were exposed. — 18th. The opiate gave him better nights, by which he was considerably relieved. — It was therefore continued, with the same external applications, and the Cortex three times a day. — 24th. The ulcers looked better: the hand less painful: omitted the cataplasm, and dressed it as the breast: continued the opiate, with an occasional opening powder. — 30th. He was in better health: omitted the pill, but continued the Bark, which was repeated to the 13th of February, when a pretty large exfoliation came from the breast-bone. — 20th. His general health was much improved: the same means were employed, occasionally removing exfoliations of the bone, to the 25th of April, when he was discharged perfectly cured.

THE END.

# I N D E X.

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| <i>face</i>   | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| <b>C H A P. I.</b>  |             |
| <i>Arrangement of the Subject</i>   | 19          |
| <b>C H A P. II.</b>   |             |
| <i>Explains what is meant by hereditary Disease</i>   | 21          |
| <b>C H A P. III.</b>  |             |
| <i>Explains what is meant by Pre-disposition to Disease</i>   | 26          |
| <b>C H A P. IV.</b>   |             |
| <i>Short Explanation of the Lymphatic System</i>  | 28          |
| <b>C H A P. V.</b>  |             |
| <i>Describes what Kind of Constitution may be considered as pre-disposed to Scrofula, or King's Evil</i>  | 33          |
| <b>C H A P. VI.</b>   |             |
| <i>Describes the external Appearance of a susceptible Constitution, and the probable Period and Circumstances that may render it liable to the Attack of Scrofula, or King's Evil</i> | 36          |
| <b>C H A P. VII.</b>  |             |
| <i>A Refutation of the Arguments commonly adduced as Proofs of Scrofula being a hereditary Disease</i>  | 41          |
| <b>C H A P.</b>   |             |



# I N D E X.

## C H A P. VIII.

*The proximate Cause of Scrofula, or King's Evil* -

## C H A P. IX.

*History of the Disease* - - - -

## C H A P. X.

*Directions for forming a just Prognostic* - - -

## C H A P. XI.

*The best Means of preventing the Disease* - - -

## C H A P. XII.

*Observations on the past and present Method of treating Struma, or King's Evil* - - -

## C H A P. XIII.

*Method of Treatment recommended* - - -

## C H A P. XIV.

*Observations tending to remove some Objections to the Mode of Treatment here recommended* - - -

## C H A P. XV.

*Observations on Sea-Bathing, particularly in Cases of Struma, or King's Evil* - - -

## C H A P. XVI.

*A Variety of Cases of Scrofula, from 14 Days old to 50 Years and upwards* - - -

