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AN

EPITOME

OF

Infantile Diseases.

6

AN

EPITOME

OF

INFANTILE DISEASES,

WITH

THEIR CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, AND
METHOD OF CURE,

PUBLISHED A FEW MONTHS AGO
IN LATIN,

BY WILLIAM HEBERDEN, M.D.

PHYSICIAN EXTRAORDINARY TO THEIR MAJESTIES.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH,

With additional Notes and Observations,

BY J. SMYTH, M.B.

OF MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE.

UTTOXETER,
Printed by Robert Richards,
AND SOLD BY LACKINGTON, ALLEN, AND CO.
FINSBURY-SQUARE, LONDON.

1805.

TO

SIR LUCAS PEPYS, BART.

M.D. F.R.S. &c. &c.

PRESIDENT,

AND TO

THE FELLOWS OF THAT HONORABLE SOCIETY,

THE

Royal College of Physicians,

LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

To You, as Patrons of Literature, and Guardians of the Medical Profession, I have ventured to address the following pages, hoping to meet with your approbation, not from any illustrations on my part, but from the intrinsic value of the original, which flows with ease and elegance from the pen of a learned and worthy Member of your Society. From a perusal of the Work in its original, which insensibly attaches the reader to it, and commands his inmost attention, I was led into the pleasing hope of diffusing the knowledge and interest of the Publication, by

translating it into a language, more natural to us all, and more perfectly understood by the generality of medical Practitioners, who both by their precepts and practice, would be happy to promulgate the blessings which it inculcates. When philanthropy instigates, and duty commands, nothing less than torpid apathy can resist the injunction. This stimulating and coercive impulse forcibly urged the propriety of the present undertaking.

If I have in any degree contributed to the promotion of that laudable cause in which we are all engaged, I trust I shall obtain your concurrence and approbation: if not, the motive which projected the design, will, I doubt not, be a sufficient apology for the error.

THE

TRANSLATOR's PREFACE.

THE motive which induced me to step forward in the present undertaking, has been briefly but sufficiently noticed in the Dedication. How far my intentions may be crowned with success, is not for me to say at this period; but as this Epitome may possibly fall into the hands of some fathers or mothers, blessed with a numerous offspring, it may possibly prevent them from falling into some error, which time and prejudice have established, or it may possibly inculcate the means of extricating them from a difficulty, in which either accident or ignorance has involved them. Well knowing the anxiety of a parent, and the happiness which all feel in being able to extricate themselves from evils which have occurred, be the cause what it may, if the present publication should save the life of one child, or alleviate the afflic-

tions of one distressed parent, I shall consider my efforts as attended with heartfelt satisfaction.

The thought of publishing this translation has but lately suggested itself, and circumstances have occurred which have prevented me giving to it that consideration which I otherwise should have been inclined to do; in consequence of which, I hope all trifling inaccuracies will be overlooked.

The notes which are added will be found, I trust, of practical utility; and being only occasional, will not alter the original intention of the work. The only one of any considerable length, is under the head of Cow Pox, which I thought the present state of that disease required. The only additions besides these, are a chapter of reference on the Nettlerash, a chapter on the Pulse, and a chapter on the Fistula Lachrymalis.

Order of the Chapters.

PREFACE . . . . . Page xiii
Chapter i. . . . . Of the Food of Children 1
Chapter ii. . . . . Emetics 4
Chapter iii. . . . . Laxatives 5
Chapter iv. . . . . Absorbents and Astringents 6
Chapter v. . . . . Symptoms of ill Health 8
Chapter vi. . . . . Of Children who are born with the Vital Functions extremely feeble . . . 9
Chapter vii. . . . Of the Black Colour of Infants . . . 10
Chapter viii. . . . Of the Meconium 11
Chapter ix. . . . Of the Jaundice 12
Chapter x. . . . . Of the Thrush 13
Chapter xi. . . . . Of the Hiccup 15
Chapter xii. . . . Of the Acrimony and ill Digestion of the Contents of the Stomach 16
Chapter xiii. . . . Flatulence 17
Chapter xiv. . . . Watchfulness 19
Chapter xv. . . . Of Worms 19
Chapter xvi. . . . Vomiting 22
Chapter xvii. . . Of the state of the Bowels 23
Chapter xviii. . . Of a loose Belly 24
Chapter xix. . . . Of the falling down of the Gut . . . 26
Chapter xx. . . . Of the infantile Erysipelas 26
Chapter xxi. . . . Of the Hardness of the Skin 28
Chapter xxii. . . . Of Tetanus 29
Chapter xxiii. . . Of Difficulty of Urine 30
Chapter xxiv. . . Of Incontinence of Urine 30
Chapter xxv. . . Of Ruptures 31
Chapter xxvi. . . Of the Hydrocele 32
Chapter xxvii. . . Of Hydrocephalus, or Water in the Head 33
Chapter xxviii. . Of Convulsions, or Cramps of the Limbs 35
Chapter xxix. . . Of Dentition 36
Chapter xxx. . . Of the diseases of the Eyes 37

Chapter xxxi. . . Of Squinting 39
Chapter xxxii. . . Of Bleeding of the Nose 40
Chapter xxxiii. . Of Bleeding from the Natural Parts . 40
Chapter xxxiv. . Of the White Flux 41
Chapter xxxv. . . Of a Rheum or Catarrh, commonly called a Cold in the Head 41
Chapter xxxvi. . Of a Cough 42
Chapter xxxvii. . Of the Hooping Cough 43
Chapter xxxviii. Of the Croup 45
Chapter xxxix. . Of the Quinsey 47
Chapter xl. . . . . Of the Red Fever 48
Chapter xli. . . . Of the Measles 50
Chapter xlii. . . . Of the Small Pox 51
Chapter xliii. . . Of the Cow Pox 53
Chapter xliv. . . Of the Chicken Pox 57
Chapter xlv. . . . The Nettlerash 58
Chapter xlvi. . . On the Pulse 58
Chapter xlvii. . . Of the Infantile Fever 59
Chapter xlviii. . Of the Hectic Fever 61
Chapter xlix. . . Of Intermittent Fever 62
Chapter l. . . . . Of the Venereal Disease 64
Chapter li. . . . . Of Pustules 65
Chapter lii. . . . Of Ulcers behind the Ears 67
Chapter liii. . . . Of those things which destroy the Texture of the Cuticle 68
Chapter liv. . . . Of Chilblains 68
Chapter lv. . . . . Of the Scales or the Scald Head . . . 69
Chapter lvi. . . . Of Scrophula 71
Chapter lvii. . . . Of the Spina Ventosa 72
Chapter lviii. . . Of the Disease of the Hip 73
Chapter lix. . . . Of the Curvature of the Spine 74
Chapter lx. . . . Of the Rickets 75
Chapter lxi. . . . Of the Spina bifida 76
Chapter lxii. . . . Of the Hare Lip 77
Chapter lxiii. . . Of the Fistula Lachrymalis 78

WILLIAM HEBERDEN.
M.D. F.R.S.
TO
SIR GEORGE BAKER, BARONET.

Most worthy and exalted Sir,

I HEREBY deliver to your care and protection, these few observations, in which there may possibly be nothing new, nor any thing which has not been treated of by former writers. Yet it certainly is not unworthy of the greatest men, to reflect on the means of preserving the health, strength, and welfare of Infants, in order that they may live in full enjoyment of the same, and thereby be able to acquit themselves as worthy members of society. Very many of the best writers seem to have omitted this branch of medicine, and to have held the subject as beneath their abilities: yet as we have the greater hope of extirpating a disease, the shorter its duration has been, so likewise ought we to be solicitous

for the prevention of disease, as being so much more easy than the restoration of health when lost. Therefore I propose in some degree to call back that method of curing Infantile Diseases, from the vulgar errors of old women and ignorant practitioners, within the pale of science more consonant with the Profession, and I shall endeavour to effect this, not so much by the addition of new observations, as by abstracting those which are useless.

Do you favor my undertaking, and continue to be as an affectionate Father and worthy Patron, as you formerly wont to be, and permit me to enjoy the honor of reflecting, that this work appears under the approbation of the Chief of Physicians, the Patron of Learning, our worthy Friend and President.

THE

PREFACE.

SINCE it is to be wished, that the causes of disease should be opposed, as far as it is possible, in the beginning, so more especially is this desirable, when we treat of Infantile Diseases. Some destroy the strength of their body, and the energy of their mind, by luxury and intemperance; others by grief and anxiety, and others by sloth, by which they soon fall into disease, and are with difficulty extricated. Children in general are exempted from the evil consequences of some of these;

——— Non Massica Bacchi
Munera, non illis epulæ nocuere repostæ.

Their body, which is weak and infirm, requires constant care; and man is sent into life weak, and wanting all things; yet there is a certain faculty, the conservator of itself, naturally born in all, which although sometimes clouded and oppressed, can yet rally

without the aid of much medicine, therefore let art imitate nature, and tread in her footsteps. Let the bindings be loosed, let useless food be abstained from, let there be no restraint to the free motion and increase of the limbs, let not the stomach be oppressed, nor the digestion impeded. What deformity, what distortion of limbs are we obliged to witness and lament from these evil customs? How great a part of infantile diseases does indigestion produce? One while there is vomiting, another a purging, one while inflation of the stomach, one while griping, another while the swelling of the whole belly, and that is the most frequent fault when the food becomes acid. To indigestion, I know not whether we are not to attribute the thrush, worms, restlessness, and dreams, consumption, weakness, pustules, and distortions of the limbs, to all of which children are very liable. And since we see it has pleased God to send milk in the breasts of most women, why should not we in cases where the natural food cannot be had, prescribe food made as like as possible to the mother's milk? For what profiteth the aid and power of medicine, if food which is daily given is indigestible, and the parent

of constant mischief? He indeed, as it seems to me, hath contributed most to the health of children, who hath looked for the causes of disease in the food and manner of living, and hath furnished them with a guide for the preservation thereof, by the regulation of those things, and not he who has devised the greatest number of remedies in one day.

ERRATA.

Page 6, line 17 and 18, for *Blood-stone*, read *Logwood.*
—— 7, —— 9, the same error.
—— ib. —— 9 and 10 of Note, for *an occasional purgative*, read *occasional purgatives.*
—— 8, —— The medicines and doses mentioned in this Note, are the result of Dr. Heberden's Practice, and should have been acknowledged as such.
—— 14, —— 2 of the Note, for *mouth*, read *month.*
—— 19, —— 5 from the bottom, for *ground seed*, read *gourd seed.*
—— 24, —— 8 from the bottom, for *aromatic*, read *aromatics.*
—— 28, —— 18, for *laxative*, read *lax.*
—— 40, —— 3 from the bottom, for *without any apprehension*, read *without any reason for apprehension.*
—— 67, —— 8, for *besmeared*, read *anointed.*

AN

EPITOME

OF

INFANTILE DISEASES.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Food of Children.

In the first months, nothing is so proper for children as the mother's milk; but since we are sometimes obliged to administer food, prepared in a great measure by art, care must be taken that the stomach is not overloaded nor the intestines disturbed by the food being of a nature different from their natural food. And as milk, the natural food of children, partakes of the nature of both animal and vegetable matter, so artificial food should be fluid, of thin consistence, and an admixture of both kinds.

Let this be the general rule, although it cannot always be adhered to. Let not a child's stomach, the moment it awakes, be

filled with wet bread, or the like, but let health and strength increase by suffering them to take proper exercise, and proper food, administered at proper intervals. To prevent children from taking too much food, and to imitate the mode in which they would take it from their mothers, the ingenuity of man has been called forth, and a small calves' horn has been used, when scraped and perforated at the bottom, covered with a bit of parchment, and punctured with a needle, whereby, when the horn was filled, the child might suck it as from a breast: or what is more elegant, a glass bottle, similarly shaped and used for a like purpose, sold by all glass or chinamen. By this means, food is taken often, and in small quantities.

In the first months, asses' milk, or diluted cows' milk, is the most proper food, without the admixture of any bread; afterwards a little bread, previously softened with hot water, may be allowed; also milk and water, in which has been boiled barley, oatmeal, or rice. Sometimes these may be taken, sometimes broth in which barley, or rice, or bread has been boiled. About the sixth month, puddings may be allowed, and about the eighth month a little flesh meat may be added to the food.

Some things again are proper when the body is bound, others when it is in a laxative state. In the former case we may give whey, or oatmeal gruel, with raisins, French plumbs, roasted apples, and other kinds of fruit, either fresh or preserved : in the latter case, the use of cows' milk is indicated, in which there is rice, or bread, in preference to oatmeal.

The most proper food for a child for the first year is the mother's milk ; and let not any mother consider it as an arduous task to suckle her offspring for four months at least, except she has a deficiency of milk, or she becomes thin, or loses her strength and appetite. Some consideration again is due to the strength of the child, it not being proper to wean the delicate and weakly so early as the robust and strong.

The most proper drink for children is milk and water, or barley water, or any light drink.

All children ought to be in a large and light room, where all things are as clean as possible.

Children ought to be awake in the day, and to sleep in the night.

They should have frequent exercise, and that which is equally pleasant and healthy.

Their garments should be loose, and changed whenever they are wet; at the same time, the body should be rubbed with the hand.

CHAPTER II.

Emetics.

THE most usual and proper things on this occasion are different preparations of Ipecacuanha and Antimony: for example, Powder of Ipecacuanha from 3 to 6 grains—Ipecacuanha Wine from 15 to 40 drops—Antimonial Wine from 10 to 20 drops; or the following solution---Tartarized Antimony* 2 grains, common water 4 ounces, the dose of which is two drams or two tea-spoonfuls, and must be repeated every quarter of an hour until it may excite vomiting; or 2 grains of Tartarized Antimony may be rubbed with half a dram of Prepared Shells, two grains of which or a little more will generally excite vomiting; or the top of the throat may be tickled with a feather.

* Emetic Tartar.

CHAPTER III.

Laxatives.

In the first months we may give one dram of Castor Oil, or 3 grains of Rhubarb with one grain of Jalap, or we may give about 4 ounces of thin and smooth oatmeal gruel by way of clyster (made lubricating by the addition of a little oil or butter, or stimulating, if occasion should require, by a little salt.)

Since all children have an aversion to medicine, those medicines are by far the most eligible which are efficacious in small quantities, and are void of a disagreeable taste; for example, Sugar 10 grains, with 4 grains of Jalap; or Jalap 4 grains, with Calomel one grain; or Powder of Scammony with Calomel 8 grains *(London Pharmacopeia.)* Some other things also are not unpleasant, although in greater quantities; for example, Electuary of Senna, or Senna Tea sweetened with French plumbs, or the like.

Or for this purpose we may give 6 drams of Senna Tea quickened in its operation by a little Tincture of Senna, or a few grains of

Rhubarb, or 3 drams of Tartarized Natron*, or Manna mixed with a little Purgative Salt; for example, Rochelle Salts, or Phosphorated Soda, or a scruple of Magnesia, with 5 grains of Jalap.

CHAPTER IV.

Absorbents and Astringents.

It is dangerous to bring the bowels into a state of constipation, unless they have been well previously cleansed of all impurities; after which we shall find advantage from 6 or 7 grains of Prepared Shells, with a grain or two of cinnamon or nutmeg; also from an ounce and half of the Chalk Mixture with a scruple of Aromatic Confection and 2 drops of Tincture of Opium, from a mixture composed of Extract of Hæmatoxyli or ~~Blood-stone~~ Logwood* half a dram, of Tincture of Opium 2 drops, spring water 2 ounces, two drams of which may be taken three or four times a day. Or great benefit will arise from the use of a common drink composed of the flowers of Pomegranate, of Red Rose leaves, of the rind

* Rochelle Salts.

of the Pomegranate, and of Cinnamon, each a dram, boiled in a pint of water and half a pint of milk to half the quantity, and sweetened with sugar. Advantage may be derived from 5 to 10 grains of compound Powder of Chalk, three times a day; also from 5 grains of powdered Catechu with Conserve of Red Roses, or 10 grains of Extract of Hæmatoxyli or ~~Blood-stone~~ Logwood taken in a spoonful of milk. Some give two or three drops of Ipecacuanha wine every sixth hour, or give a clyster of fat broth, or of 2 ounces of Mucilage of Starch, to which is added 6 drops of Tincture of Opium. *

The medicines chiefly used as purgatives for children, besides those above prescribed, are the following, which will answer the intention from the age of six months to the tenth or eleventh year. It will depend very much on the strength of the child, which should be adopted as the most proper medicine, but as a general rule it may be observed, that the first are most proper for young children, the latter for those who are older; much will depend also, whether it is intended as a temporary purgative, or is to be given for a length of time to correct habitual costiveness.—Those composed of Calomel and Jalap are the most proper for ~~an~~ occasional purgatives in case of foul bowels, more especially if it is apprehended that the child is troubled with worms; but as laxatives to be continued for a length of time, the other formulæ are most proper. The different formulæ are as follow:

Castor Oil one dram.
Rhubarb 3 grains, Jalap one grain.
Jalap 4 grains.
Jalap 4 grains, Calomel one grain.
Rhubarb 6 grains, Powder of Scammony with Calomel (L.P.) 4 grains.
Powder of Scammony with Calomel (L.P.) 10 grains.
Rhubarb 8 grains, Calomel one grain.
Rhubarb 10 grains.

Tartarized Natron (Rochelle Salts) 2 drams.
Ditto 3 drams.
Vitriolated Natron (Glauber Salts) 3 drams.
Vitriolated Magnesia (Bitter purging Salt) 3 drams.
Manna and Tartarized Kali (Soluble Tartar) each 2 drams.
Infusion of Senna 6 drams, Tincture of Senna 2 drams.
Manna an ounce.
Magnesia 10 grains, Jalap 6 grains.
Decoction of Prunes with Senna (L.P.) an ounce and half.
Electuary of Senna (Lenitive Electuary) half a dram.
Compound Powder of Senna (L.P.) 10 grains.
Infusion of Senna an ounce, with Rhubarb 8 grains.

The best vehicle for the saline purgatives is broth; the rest may be best administered in milk and water or gruel mixed therewith, the moment before they are taken, except they contain Calomel, which should be given either between two bits of bread and butter, or in some conserve, jelly, or sweetmeat.

CHAPTER V.

Symptoms of ill Health.

SINCE infants are not in any, or at least in a very imperfect manner, able to describe their feelings, it is necessary to point out those symptoms by which indisposition, or the approach thereto, may be ascertained: these are, watching or restlessness, tossing of the body, crying, sickness and vomiting, a purging of green or mucous matter; loathing of food, dry and foul tongue, stretching of the limbs, drawing up of the legs, the body becoming thin and relaxed; the skin dry and

hot; pustules arising, hiccup, sudden startings, and crying; hard and bound belly, difficulty of breathing, increased action in the arteries of the neck.

CHAPTER VI.

Of Children who are born with the Vital Functions extremely feeble.

CHILDREN frequently are born in this state, yet by care and attention they may be restored and preserved. The remedies which contribute chiefly to this purpose, are the administration of warm stimulating Clysters, the friction of the body by the dry hand and the weaker kind of ardent spirits, and by the inflation of air into the mouth of the child.

The same remedies are applicable in any cases, where life from any accidental cause is suspended.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Black Colour of Infants.

In some children newly born, there is frequently a black or livid colour in the face and breast, accompanied with purple lips and a difficulty of breathing, which, unless they soon vanish, are frequently the harbingers of approaching death. This arises either from a mal-formation of the heart, or from the impulse of the vessels being improperly regulated, the regularity of which is requisite for all animals, which live by and enjoy the blessings of a free and uninterrupted respiration.

This is a more frequent occurrence than is generally supposed.—Some years ago the Puer Cæruleatus of Dr. Sandifort stood on record as almost a solitary instance of this complaint, but Practitioners are now either more persuaded of the existence of a fact of which they were before ignorant, or cases of this kind are become more frequent. There remains little or no doubt, in my mind, but the disease arises from the Foramen Ovale not being closed at the time of birth, and consequently very little blood passing through the lungs to be oxygenated; whence arises the blue colour and frequency of respiration. I have seen several cases of this sort, but particularly one of a young lady now living and enjoying tolerable health and spirits, but who has constantly that livid appearance, and is unable to use much exercise or exertion. A few months ago I had myself an instance of this kind in the case of a calf, which respired as frequently from the time of its birth to the day it was killed, as if it had taken violent exercise, though it never made any efforts, but those which nature dictated. Seeing the improbability of rearing it, which was my intention, I ordered it to be killed, and afterwards exa-

mined the heart, when I found that the Foramen Ovale would easily admit a large finger, that the heart itself was nearly twice the size it should have been, by reason of the coats thereof being twice their usual thickness.—Thus we see, as the blood was less oxygenated, and consequently less stimulating; that the muscular power of the heart was proportionably encreased to act under the influence of a diminished stimulus.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of the Meconium.

For two or three of the first days after birth, the child is wont to discharge a black viscid matter, called Meconium, and which has during gestation been confined in the colon. This ought not to be retained in the body, therefore the first milk of all animals is generally of a laxative quality; otherwise medicines ought to be given which would produce the same effect. Therefore if in two hours after birth, there is no discharge of this kind, it will be proper to give a dram of Castor Oil, or 3 or 4 grains of Rhubarb. Some give Oil of Almonds and Syrup, each half a dram; or a dram of the solution of half an ounce of Manna, dissolved in 2 ounces of water. Sometimes more powerful remedies are requisite, and are borne with safety and advantage; for example, 2 drams of Senna Tea, or 3 grains of Powdered Jalap,

Proper intervals in the administering of these are to be allowed, until they have had the desired effect. Sometimes Clysters are useful, made of about 4 ounces of smooth oatmeal gruel.

When the Meconium hath not been sufficiently purged off at first, the body of the child is sometimes covered all over with little red spots, called the Red Gum, which commonly proceeds from the costiveness of the child—and here it will be proper to observe, that as the whole tract of the colon is filled with this viscid excrement, which hath been gradually accumulated for a considerable time; and as the small intestines, stomach, and gullet, are lined with a glary fluid or mucus, the child ought to take no other nourishment than pap as thin as whey, to dilute this fluid, for the first two days, or indeed until it begins to suck the mother's milk, which begins to be ecreted about the third day, and is at first sufficiently purgative to discharge these humours, and better adapted for the purpose than any artificial purge. Smellie, vol. 1, p. 432.

CHAPTER IX.

Of the Jaundice.

The Jaundice is a very common disease with new-born infants, and is evident from the yellow colour. It oftentimes will disappear on giving as much Rhubarb as will gently open the belly every third or fourth day. Sometimes a vomit is useful; for example, 15 drops of Antimonial Wine, or 3 grains of the Powder of Ipecacuanha; and lastly, 5 grains of Camomile with 12 grains of

Rhubarb, or other things of this sort, given once or twice a day for some days, will be very conducive to the restoration of health.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Thrush.

The Thrush are those little white ulcers, which begin upon the tongue and inner part of the cheeks, and in general spread themselves so as in a short time to cover the whole internal surface of the mouth. Sometimes the anus appears red, from a sharp acrid discharge passing through it. When the disease assumes a more serious aspect, the colour of the ulcers changes from a white to a livid colour. When it is mild, and is not increased in the course of a few days from the beginning; although it remains a short time, yet it is attended with no danger. The most troublesome circumstance is, that the nipples of the breasts of the nurse are often sore and painful. It is rarely attended with any degree of fever.

This disease occurs more frequently, and rages with more violence among the French,

and especially in their hospitals, &c. than in England.

The chief remedies are, as much Rhubarb and Magnesia as will loosen the belly; afterwards Prepared Chalk, or the Prepared Shells of Fish, joined with Powdered Camomile. Some advise a change of food in the nurse, and proper regimen must be strictly observed for the child itself.

The best applications to these little ulcers, are lenitives made of Honey and Borax, in proportion of eight parts of the former to one of the latter; or of Conserve of Red Roses and Alum in the same proportion; or the application of acetated Honey, or Honey of Roses, either of themselves or to an ounce of either of which are added 10 drops of diluted Vitriolic Acid; and lastly, the Decoction of Quince Seed.

This disease happens to children soon after their birth, generally within the month, and is probably owing to their ingesta becoming too acescent, from weakness of the stomach, and by the remora inducing this disease. In grown people there is a disease much resembling the Apthæ of children, viz. the Gastritis Erythematica of Dr. Cullen.

The Thrush, when it assumes the type of Typhus, is called by some the Black Thrush.

CHAPTER XI.

Of the Hiccup.

THIS most generally arises from something sharp and acrid in the contents of the Stomach; in which case 10 grains of Prepared Chalk with 3 grains of Rhubarb, will be found useful; but if the disease seems to originate from too great a degree of irritability of the nerves of the coats of the stomach, then recource must be had to a few drops of Compound Spirit of Ammoniac, (commonly called Spirit of Sal Volatile) or Camphorated Tincture of Opium, (commonly called Paregoric Elixir) or a little of any thing acid will probably afford relief. It will be proper also to anoint the stomach with a little Soap Liniment, (L.P.) either by itself, or to which a fourth part of Tincture of Opium is added; and to lay a blister on the part.

ARE not solutions of the vegetable or fixed alkalis, in some mucilaginous or demulcent liquor, such as solution of Gum Arabic or Barley Water or Linseed Tea, &c. preferable to the different preparations of Chalk and Magnesia, &c.?

CHAPTER XII.

Of the Acrimony and Ill Digestion of the Contents of the Stomach.

From the ill concocted state of the contents of the stomach, children are generally wont to cry and become restless; whence arise acid eructations, vomiting, sighing, green stools, and the habit of drawing up their legs. These mostly arise from the child having taken either too much food, or that which is indigestible.

The first object is to open the bowels with Rhubarb; afterwards must be administered either 7 grains of Prepared Shells, or the same quantity of Magnesia; or 3 grains of Camomile Flowers, or Root of Columbo powdered, or 10 drops of the Water of Kali, (L.P.) any of which may be administered in some weak bitter infusion.

These and similar remedies are useful in affections of this kind, which when they seem to be caused by improper food, more strict regard must be had in the alteration thereof; sometimes by taking less than usual, sometimes by taking more of flesh meat and less

of bread, or other farinaceous matter. But the same restrictions are not applicable to every case; it is therefore our province to investigate what is erroneous in every instance, and to rectify the same by carefully restoring whatever is wanting, by a due retrospect to the state of the body, to the place or season of the year, and to the habits or peculiarities of the constitution. In the mean time, proper exercise and friction are by no means to be omitted.

I once saw a child restored to health after the common remedies had failed in this complaint, by a powder composed of Powder of Camomile 10 grains, Ginger 3 grains, given twice a day.

CHAPTER XIII.

Flatulence.

Women, to whom the care of infants is committed, attribute much to the influence of Flatulence; for example, crying and screaming, the hiccup, restlessness and vomiting; and this they might do with impunity, if it did not lead to the habit of exhibiting medicines replete with danger, from a doating disposition after the manner of old

women; but those who think to dispel this complaint by the use of Pepper-mint, or any weak spirituous drink, must be cautious, otherwise instead of the disease they will dispatch the patient. But I would not wish to have it understood, that Flatulence never produces any pain, uneasiness, or trouble; neither am I desirous of impressing the mind, that when it is present, that it requireth no remedies. In many cases it may occur from the use of improper food, and sometimes from other causes; for the digestion of children is weak and easily deranged. The first object of attention is, that a child when unwell, should take no more food than it can digest, and that oftentimes in the day, rather than too much at one time. The food also should be light, and a little diversified occasionally. Moreover, it should contain a few grains of some bitter or aromatic taken once or twice a day, and at the same time as much Rhubarb as will have a gentle laxative effect.

The reasons are obvious why nurses prefer cordial waters to medicines—because they are palatable to the children, are easily mixed with their food, and the nurses can occasionally partake with the children—but a little aniseed or dill water, if given cautiously, and not too often, may give immediate relief, and be attended with no ill consequences.

CHAPTER XIV.

Watchfulness.

It is frequently necessary in this case to move the bowels gently, but nothing conduceth so much to the restoration of health as exercise in the open air daily.

CHAPTER XV.

Of Worms.

Many kinds of Worms trouble the human body. In some countries they are very common, in others more rare; and it may happen, that certain seasons of the year and different states of the atmosphere, may be more conducive to their propagation. The greatest of these is called the Tænia or Tape Worm, consisting of many small ones, each of which resembles the figure of a gourd seed, and when joined bears the appearance of a piece of flatted tape, from whence they derive their name. The second sort Physicians call the Teretes, which is round

and very like to an Earth Worm. The shortest of all are the Ascarides, and are like short pieces of thread, whence the name of Thread Worms.

Every species of Worms is indicated by the same symptoms; viz. fœted breath, itching of the anus and nose, more especially in the evening; an irregular appetite, sometimes voracious, sometimes none; pains of the head and stomach, gripings and swellings of the belly, vomiting, and mucous stools; a little fever, thirst, vertigo, grinding of the teeth, sleep interrupted, a little (commonly called a hackling) cough, and stretching of the limbs.

All these symptoms most generally accompany the presence of Worms, yet sometimes they will occur where no Worms are present; and on the other hand Worms will sometimes appear without any of the preceding symptoms, and therefore we cannot draw any positive inference, until they make their appearance in the stools.

In these cases recourse is generally had to Senna Tea, or Rhubarb, or Jalap, to which may be added a proper quantity of Calomel. These are to be given at proper intervals, according to the strength of the patient. Clysters are sometimes useful, es-

pecially in cases of Ascarides. Digestion is to be preserved by proper food, and by remedies suited to the state of the stomach.—It is then requisite to avoid too much seasoned food, which is prepared with too much care, and lest the body should be loaded with useless matter; for where the food is suitable, there the seeds of herbs, and the eggs of animals, quickly breed.

For the first species of Worms, viz. the Tænia, no certain remedy seems as yet to have been discovered, and many of the medicines used are certainly attended with unpleasant consequences, especially the exhibition of Tin; and as this species is very frequently several yards in length, and is generally supposed to possess the power of reproduction, if what we may term one joint only is left behind; it would seem that a perfect cure can scarcely be expected. I would by no means wish to discard the remedies hitherto used, but I feel a strong conviction that we should find a powerful friend in saline purgative Waters, particularly the sulphureous, as Harrowgate, Cheltenham, or Leomington, &c. drank early in the morning, the patient forbearing to eat any thing substantial to as late an hour in the day as the strength of his constitution will admit of; and then merely to satisfy the cravings of nature. The Waters should be used once or twice a day, according to their purgative power and the ability of the person to bear their operation. The second species of Worms may be discharged from the body by the common remedies, particularly Calomel joined with Jalap and Rhubarb. As to the third species the Ascarides, which nestle in the rectum; the usual remedies are Clysters, with infusion of Tobacco, or solution of Aloes, but in tender infants I would advise injections of a little Oil only, or with a small portion of Salt, or the introduction of mild suppositories rolled in Flowers or Milk of Sulphur.

CHAPTER XVI.

Vomiting.

VOMITING generally precedes other diseases; sometimes it is a disease of itself.—Moreover the matter vomited, is either crude and indigested, or assimilated and digested. Where that which has been taken, is returned crude and indigested, it most probably is from having taken too great a quantity, and abstinence will effect the cure; but when what is rejected, is digested and concreted, it will be proper to change the mode of living, or to move the belly gently; also to vomit and give an infusion of Mint, or a saline Julep, with a drop or less* of Tincture of Opium in each dose. Some are relieved by the Prepared Shells, or decoction of Bark taken twice a day. Sometimes the warm Bath is useful, sometimes a Liniment, sometimes a Blistering Plaster or anodyne Plaster, laid upon the stomach.

* The method in which a less quantity than a drop can be given, is by mixing one drop with a little water, and giving half or three parts of that water; so of other things, of which a small quantity is required to be given.

It is a common opinion, that Vomiting in infants is a mark of strength. Which I suppose to arise from this; viz. that a strong stomach is more powerfully excited, and if it has received any thing which is superfluous and useless, it is capable of relieving itself, both upwards and downwards; on the other hand those who are weak, for want of strength retain the contents thereof and become sick, pale, and languid, because they are not able to free themselves from it.

CHAPTER XVII.

Of the state of the Bowels.

A BOUND belly is not to be desired, nor yet to be dreaded. Too lax bowels indicate a weak—a bound belly a strong constitution. Yet a mean is to be observed, if possible; and if any infant should exceed thirty-six hours without a stool, medicine must then be had recourse to.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Of a loose Belly.

A LOOSE state of the bowels often arises from other causes, as well as from having taken too much, or improper food, and in choosing these great caution is requisite; but it frequently happens that a disease will abate of itself without the aid of medicine, it is therefore best to refrain one day at least, before recourse is had to medicine. The autumn is chiefly productive of this evil.—Sometimes a change of place will render the bowels laxative, and sometimes make a lax belly too constricted. In this complaint, to some a vomit is useful; to all as much Rhubarb as will deterge the intestines; and afterwards Chalk and Prepared Shells, and aromatics and bitters, which will restrain and strengthen the bowels. In many cases it will be requisite to exhibit repeated doses of Rhubarb, at proper intervals. For the evacuations are not only liquid, and more frequently repeated than usual, but they are at the same time mucous, or bloody, or in some manner or other of bad colour and consistence; when

any case of this kind occurs, it will be proper to give every other or every fourth day, as much Rhubarb as will gently loosen the belly, and in the mean time to give what will constrict, strengthen, and invigorate the bowels; and we must enjoin that sort of food which will have the same effect; such as Rice or Wheat boiled in Milk, or Water in which Hartshorn Shavings or Isinglass has been boiled, to which may be added, a little sugar and wine. Sometimes when the bowels are too strongly excited, glutinous substances, such as Compound Powder of Tragacanth (L.P.) or fat boiled in milk until it dissolves. Some things also injected into the intestines, as fat broth, or Mucilage of Starch, and with these six drops of Tincture of Opium. Whilst the strength and the appetite remain, a laxative state of the bowels is void of danger; but when the skin is constricted, and the discharge is of the colour and consistence of clay, it is dangerous.

CHAPTER XIX.

Of the falling down of the Gut.

THIS disease occurs sometimes in consequence of a lax belly, sometimes from a stone of the bladder, and sometimes from a disease of the intestine itself; sometimes weakness alone is the cause thereof, then we advantageously employ those medicines which strengthen the whole body as well as the parts themselves, as the Angustura Bark, or the Cinchona, or cold bathing. The intestine being returned, a fomentation must be applied composed of an ounce of Oak Bark boiled in a pint of water. The intestine is less likely to prolapse when a high seat has been provided, and the feet are raised so as not to touch the ground, especially at the time of going to stool.

CHAPTER XX.

Of the infantile Erysipelas.

A DISEASE of the erysipelatous kind seizes some children in the first month, and

chiefly those who are born in public hospitals. The mildest species of the disease is sometimes in the fingers and hands, sometimes in the feet or ankles; sometimes it attacks the joints, when shortly afterwards it puts on an ulcerated appearance. A more dangerous species first attacks the genital parts, and from thence extends itself on the thighs and belly. In a few instances it first shews itself on the neck. Wherever it is, the skin becomes livid and blue; the swelling is not great, but the parts seized with the disease, run into gangrene, particularly the scrotum, and at the same time the whole genital parts swell. Oftentimes the patient dies within a few days. The body when opened shews the intestines covered with a thick humour, and conglutinated, as it were, together.

Bark is the proper medicine as often as it can be taken by the mouth, and also injected clysterwise, to which may be added a little Aromatic Confection, or a drop or two of Tincture of Opium. Moreover, the parts themselves are to be fomented with an infusion of Camomile, in which there is a little Camphorated Spirit.

CHAPTER XXI.

Of the Hardness of the Skin.*

THIS is a most grievous and serious disease, and is often joined with the former, and on account of the hardness of the cellular membrane which often attends it, it has acquired the above name. It rarely occurs, except in public hospitals, and is more frequent on the Continent than with us. The skin becomes stretched and hard, and as it were firmly attached or fixed to the subjacent muscles, particularly in the cheeks, the joints, and the genitals. Then the colour is of a dirty yellow, as it were of wax; sometimes red, or livid. The skin is præternaturally cold, and the voice shrill and feeble. It generally seizes many at the same time, more especially those who are laxative in their bowels. In some the tendons of the joints seem tightly drawn, and the muscles of the jawbone are so rigid and contracted, that they are not able to swallow any thing. It attacks sometimes from the first hour of their birth, and those whom

* A description of this disease may be seen in the history of the Royal Spciety of Paris, for the year 1784.

it seizes generally die in a few days. When the body is opened, all the parts seem swelled, and the cellular membrane filled with hard fat.

Experience hath taught us nothing concerning the cure of this dreadful disease, but we should try what change of place will do, assisted by the flesh-brush, the warm bath, and the occasional use of mild purgatives.

CHAPTER XXII.

Of Tetanus.

TETANUS is a rare disease in new-born children in England, but in some countries it is not uncommon. It attacks suddenly between the sixth and ninth day, and is generally fatal.

Hyacinthus describes this as a common disease in Barcelona; as being the same in Minorca, it is authenticated by Cleghom; in the islands of America and other hot regions by Hillary; in an island of Scotland, called St. Kilda, by Macauley; and in the western part of America by Rush.

If any thing in the power of medicine can afford relief, it is the Warm Bath, the Flesh Brush, Purgatives, and Setons or Issues.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Of Difficulty of Urine.

To avoid the inconveniences of this disease, the Warm Bath may be used; also gentle friction of the belly, and lenient laxatives; also Clysters composed of equal parts of milk and water.

Few people can refrain from voiding both fæces and urine when immersed in warm water, even though a previous disposition did not exist —in this complaint, therefore, the warm bath promises immediate relief. In addition to the above remedies, nurses frequently rub the belly with a little Oil of Rue, and give internally weak decoctions of Parsley, Fennel Seed, &c. The practitioner will do well to consider, whether it may arise from a stone, or from sabulous particles of matter, commonly called Gravel; in both which cases there will be pain, which will be relieved by warm fomentations to the part, and a little Syrup of Poppies given internally.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of Incontinence of Urine.

This complaint, which is the reverse of the former, is most troublesome to young and delicate children, and more especially in the night. It continues in some cases for years,

but more often subsides, as they advance in life. Sometimes the Cold Bath is useful, sometimes a Blister laid on the loins; oftentimes no medicinal application is of any avail. It is proper to anoint the neighbouring parts with a little soft ointment, in order that the cuticle of the parts wetted may not be abraded.

In very young children this is too frequently owing to neglect of the nurse; and in children farther advanced, many void their urine in bed for fear of getting up in the dark of the night. When it is a real disease, the above remedies joined with Bark, &c. will seldom fail of a cure.—— Is it not frequently owing to a too great determination of fluids to the bladder, in consequence of obstructed perspiration?

CHAPTER XXV.

Of Ruptures.

A protrusion of the navel is not a very uncommon occurrence, and sometimes the intestine projects so far, that it is requisite to apply a bandage until the integuments which are collected as it were in a sphincter, are closed up.

For the inguinal rupture, I think no remedies should be applied in the beginning.—Some enjoin the use of the cold bath. The application of a strong bandage will be proper, but not before the completion of the second year.

A method which I have known useful for the umbilical ruptures, but chiefly in adults, is the following:—compress the sides of the navel together, sufficient to return the protruded part, then let an assistant apply a circular piece of the Emplast. ad Herniam over the part, full as large as the orifice of the navel, over this place a piece of thin flatted Tin of the same size and shape, and over that another larger plaster of the former kind; when these have lost the power of adhesion, let them be renewed.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Of the Hydrocele.

CHILDREN from their very infancy are liable to the Hydrocele or Dropsy of the Scrotum. It is true it will sometimes retire of its own accord, after which it rarely returns. Sometimes it will be sufficient to bathe the Scrotum with cold Water, either by itself or in which a little Sal Ammoniac is dissolved; and sometimes it is necessary to perform the operation.

FOR the different species of Hydrocele, I beg leave to refer the reader to Bell and other writers on Surgery.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Of Hydrocephalus, or Water in the Head.

CHILDREN sometimes have the Hydrocephalus before they are born, which when it so happens, the brain is often so extended, that you may on the birth perceive the membranes; at the same time the bones of the skull not as yet compact, are distended to a great extent. Those thus affected rarely survive four years.

Another species of this disease occurs between the age of two and ten years, and is not so easily discovered. In both cases, there is too great a quantity of water contained in the ventricles of the brain. The disease seems sometimes to have arisen in consequence of a blow on the head, but more frequently no evident cause can be assigned.

I once saw a boy who died of this complaint, and who declared that he had had two brothers and two sisters carried off by this disease. It is related by Underwood, that six boys in one family, in rotation, died at the age of two years.*

* Underwood on the Diseases of Children.

The symptoms of this species of Hydrocephalus, which arises between the second and tenth year, are the following :—a slight degree of fever, sudden pains of the head, nausea, dulness, inability to bear light, delirium, dilatation of the pupil, redness of the cheeks, sometimes drowsiness, sometimes stretching of the limbs, and lastly, death within the space of a month.

For this fatal malady there is no certain remedy. Most physicians advise the exhibition of mercury, so as to excite salivation, which is done sometimes by the use of Mercurial Ointment, sometimes by giving 2 grains of Calomel every night, until the effect is produced. Vomits also are given, and Purgatives. In many, Setons are cut in the neck, but it generally baffles all medical skill.

The motto of Anceps Remedium quam nullum is perhaps applicable here; and though in the present state of our knowledge respecting this disease, it cannot be expected I should offer any thing, as promising success, yet I would wish to submit to the consideration of medical men, the trial of Blisters to the whole of the head in subjects who can bear the remedy, together with fomentations of the head, with Acetated Water of Ammonia (Min lererus's Spirit) made warm, with the inward exhibition of Bark and Steel in the day, and of the Inspissated Juice of Hemlock at night; the perspiration being encouraged by the warm salt bath twice or thrice a week, but not continued long enough to relax; and the determination to the skin encouraged by a few drops of Succinated Spirit of Ammonia (Eau de Luce) and the occasional use of the flesh-brush.—— Would any advantage arise from Electricity or Galvanism? In the beginning of this disease, a brisk purgative should be given; and through the whole course, care should be taken that the urine voided is in sufficient

quantity. It is very necessary to be minutely acquainted with the symptoms of this disease, otherwise the practitioner will probably be deceived by the pulse; and for a strict and correct account of the different stages, satisfactory information will be obtained from Dr. Whytt's pamphlet on Hydrocephalus Internus.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Of Convulsions or Cramps of the Limbs.

This affection of the limbs is not uncommon with children. It sometimes occurs when we have no reason to apprehend danger; sometimes it is the forerunner of serious attacks, which terminate in death. They are generally the symptoms of worms, of toothing, of indigestion, and of whatever creates too great a degree of morbid irritation. Some are carried off by it, soon after they are born, and chiefly those of premature birth, or those in whom the powers of life are very weak. There is generally danger when the intervals between the attacks are very short.

It will be proper to inject warm milk or oil, and to give some gentle laxative, together with the warm bath, setons or issues, and the flesh-brush, or rubbing with the dry hand or flannel. Sometimes we must give Camphorated Mixture, or 2 drops of Rectified Oil of

Amber, or of Animal Oil, or 6 drops of Camphorated Tincture of Opium. Some of these must be taken every four hours.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Of Dentition.

THE first teeth generally shew themselves between the sixth and twentieth month; at the same time the symptoms which arise are sometimes more mild, sometimes more severe, and mostly the following: discharge of saliva, redness and inflammation of the gums, redness of the cheeks, a lax body, watchfulness, disturbed sleep, application of the fingers to the mouth, sudden screamings, stretching of the limbs, and fever.

The proper food is that which is thin, light, cool, and easy of digestion. Gentle laxatives must be given, and sometimes it is requisite to lance the gums.

To the above symptoms may be added, vomiting and loss of appetite. The most effectual and speedy relief is undoubtedly to lance the gums, provided the teeth are far enough advanced and are ready to push through the periosteum immediately after the incision, otherwise a cicatrix will be formed, and a stronger resistance offered to the protrusion of the teeth; which will require a second operation. When the second set of teeth are about to come, the mouth should be frequently

examined, as the second set are very apt to come behind the first, especially in the front, in which case the first should be drawn as the second come, by which means the latter will grow in their proper places.

In the fever which attends dentition it is frequently customary to give fever Juleps, composed of the Neutral Salts; for example, Nitre, Sal Polychrest, &c. with Vin. Ant. and the like, but I have good reason to think that in all infantile febrile complaints, the Kali Acetat is the most eligible Neutral Salt, in proportion of a scruple to an ounce of Water.

Though it is not strictly in place, yet as adults are frequently tormented with the tooth-ache, I shall subjoin a formula for a Tooth Powder, which I can recommend as being equally efficacious with any of the advertised remedies.

Take Alum purified, half a dram
Powder of Cinchona
——— of Liquorice, each a dram
Bole Armeniac, two drams.

Rub them well separately to a fine powder, and afterwards mix and rub them together in a marble or earthen-ware mortar. If it is wished to give a little aromatic flavor to the Powder, a drop or two of Oil of Cinnamon, or Cloves, or Nutmeg, or Peppermint may be added, and mixed well therewith. If a Lotion to use afterwards should be desirable, the Infusum Rosæ (L.P.) will be both pleasant and useful, and if a little bitter Brandy (as made by housekeepers) is added, it will have exactly the appearance, taste, and efficacy of Greenough's Lotion, when mixed in proper proportions.

CHAPTER XXX.

Of the diseases of the Eyes.

INFANTS often suffer from Inflammation of the Eyes, which frequently retires without any trouble. When it remains long, it will be right to give proper laxatives, to apply leeches to the temples, and a blister to the

nape of the neck. Oftentimes it will be adviseable to apply a poultice to the ball of the eye, composed of bread and milk, and wrapt up in a soft linen rag. Some instil into the eye, twice in the day, a drop or two of Tincture of Opium. At the beginning it is not proper, but some time having elapsed, the relaxed vessels will be strengthened and constricted by the application of cold water, either by itself, or to 4 ounces of which, half an ounce of Compound Water of Acetated Litharge had been added, or 4 grains of Acetated Ceruss, or as much of Vitriolated Zinc. But if the eyelids adhere together, a little soft and mild ointment must be applied to their margins every night.

There is a more rare complaint, in which a great swelling of the eyelids arises in a few days after birth; in consequence of which the eye is shut, and at the same time a purulent humour distils underneath from the cornea of the eye. Sometimes the eye itself is consumed and wasted away. The proper remedy is, to wash the eye frequently in the day with a lotion which is composed of 4 ounces of Distilled Water with a dram either of Compound Water of Alum, (L.P.) or of Water of Vitriolated Zinc with Camphor. (L.P.)

When from the violence of the inflammation, or any other affection, a white speck remains, the proper remedy is one grain of Hydrargyrus Muriatus (Corrosive Sublimate) dissolved in 4 ounces of water; two drops of which are to be dropped into the eye three times a day.

A suffusion, or cataract in infants, ought not to be cured by the hand.

For that preternatural dilatation of the pupil, which we call Gutta Serena, some advise Electricity, some Setons in the neck, and some Calomel. I have too often found, that nothing which medicine could suggest, was of any avail.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Of Squinting.

Those who are born with a squint, generally remain so, but if it happens after birth, it may often be removed. The only remedy is to close or cover the sound eye for a few days.

If the eye looks outwards, advantage will arise from putting a small black patch upon the nose.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Of Bleeding of the Nose.

BLEEDING of the Nose frequently happens to children which are weak, of a hot and passionate disposition. In general little or nothing is required more than the application of something cold to the nape of the neck, or to immerse the hands of the child in cold water. If the bleeding cannot easily be stopt, a tent should be put up the nostrils. But if the disease returns frequently, it will be proper to move the bowels gently with some Neutral Purgative Salt.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Of Bleeding from the Natural Parts.

IT sometimes happens that in a few days after birth, some blood will distil from the natural parts of female infants, and alarm the attendants without any reason for apprehension.—It often subsides without any assistance, and leaves no evil consequence.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Of the White Flux.

A copious white flux sometimes troubles infants at five years old; at which time frequent washing with cold water, gentle purgatives, cold bathing, and decoctions of Bark are useful, as also whatever strengthens the body.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Of a Rheum or Catarrh, commonly called a Cold in the Head.

This complaint is often very troublesome to children, particularly those at the breast, in whom the power of breathing through the nose is often obstructed, by the increased accumulation of mucus, which ought to be cleared away and the nostrils afterwards anointed with some Spermaceti, or some similar soft and smooth application; but if the discharge is great, gentle purgatives should be given, and a blister laid on the back.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Of a Cough.

In this complaint it is frequently necessary to open a vein in the arm, more especially when there is much pain and difficulty of breathing. If on account of their tender age, they cannot well bear it, two leeches or more may be applied to the arm, or a vein may be opened in the neck. At the same time gentle purgatives must be given, and a blister applied to the back, by so much the more as the cough seems to affect the lungs. Besides these, mild diluting drinks, such as Linseed Tea, or Solution of Gum Arabic, to which may be added 4 or 5 drops of Antimonial Wine, sweetened with Liquorice, and 10 drops of Syrup of White Poppies often in the day, or a dram at night. The belly is to be kept gently open, and all strong food to be removed. Where the disease continues for some time, it will be proper to change the situation, and to drink asses' milk,

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Of the Hooping Cough.

The Hooping Cough is in the beginning mild, but soon after increases in violence, when the food, or a thick mucus is vomited up, which circumstance indicates the nature of the disease. A little afterwards, the violence of the cough, accelerating the respiration, causes a peculiar sound, which is the characteristic of the disease. The fever which attends is but trifling. The fits of coughing come on suddenly, and as suddenly are terminated; in the intervals they seem very well, although the moment before they bore every appearance of being suffocated, as if by strangulation, for the face swells and is livid, the eyes are filled with tears, the stomach inflated, and blood sometimes flows from the mouth or the nostrils. The disease is of long duration, but seldom dangerous, except in tender infants.

It is infectious, and easily caught. In some it begins about the fourteenth day, after exposure to infection: in some sooner.—

Those who have had it once, are deemed secure against any future attacks.

When the stomach is oppressed with phlegm, it will be proper to vomit, for which purpose 5 grains of Ipecacuanha may be employed, or a dram or more of a solution of 2 grains of Antimon. Tart.* 2 scruples of Sugar, and 2 ounces of Water. In others it will be sufficient to purge with Rhubarb or Jalap. That food which is of the lightest kind must be eat and drank, and at night 2 drops of Tincture of Opium, or a dram of Syrup of Poppies may be given, to either of which 5 drops of Antimonial Wine may be added. Some give frequently in the day Antimonial Wine or Inspissated Juice of Hemlock.—Some anoint the back with a Liniment, in which there is Oil of Amber; but of all remedies, the most efficient is change of air. In this disease it is seldom necessary to bleed; but if the breathing is difficult, it is proper to apply a blister.

Occasional vomits, and the constant use of the Inspissated Juice of Hemlock, generally are sufficient, provided the latter is made in a proper manner, and from the herb at the proper time. The most troublesome is what we may call a Chronic Hooping Cough, which continues to a length of time far beyond the usual period of this disease. In this case the air must be changed at all events, and small doses of Tincture of Cantharides given twice or thrice a day, and continued until it shall produce a slight degree of ischury. It may then be discontinued, and demulcents prescribed; for example, Solutions of Gum Arabic, Linseed Tea, Barley Water, &c.

* Emetic Tartar.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Of the Croup.

THE Croup is an acute and dangerous disease, which generally attacks children before twelve years of age. It is attended with a great difficulty of breathing, and the air being confined in passing through the windpipe, emits a shrill sound, which bespeaks the nature of the disease; at the same time there is a considerable increased action of the arteries, and in most instances a cough; sometimes also some mucus is forced out. In some the upper part of the windpipe is somewhat painful and swollen. The accessions of the fits, which are often violent, attack after some interval of time, which the sick seem much to fear. Some even, after the paroxysms are over, seem for an hour or more as it were to die, or faint away. It is doubtful whether this disease is infectious or not, or whether it attacks the same person twice, or whether it is more easily generated in places on the sea coast, or in a wet or cold season. Before the present generation, it was scarcely known.

On the dissection of bodies who have died of this disease, it appeared that the windpipe, and also the bronchiæ or branches of the windpipe, were much inflamed, and totally obstructed by a tough mucus resembling a membrane.

At the beginning, when the fever is violent, it will be proper to bleed, either by the lancet, or by leeches applied to the breast; in all cases a blister ought to be applied. Vomiting is sometimes useful, as also Squill, and Antimony, and Gum Ammoniac, or Assafætida, which assist difficult respiration; also warm vapours received into the mouth. Neither would a few drops of Syrup of Poppies, or of Camphorated Tincture of Opium, be foreign to the intent. It is by all means necessary for any one who is lying down at the attack of a paroxysm, immediately to sit up, lest he should be suffocated by the violence of the disease. The food ought to be thin, light, and easy of digestion.

Dr. Heberden seems to consider the disease partly inflammatory, partly spasmodic; but with us in the country, the inflammatory symptoms are so urgent, that the most powerful antiphlogistic remedies are indispensible; such as bleeding once, twice, or three times, according to the urgency of the case; blistering, vomiting, and purging with calomel. A case lately came within my knowledge, which although the child was only six years old, it was requisite to bleed three times in forty-eight hours, aided by the remedies above mentioned. This disease seems to be coming more frequent, and would seem to counterbalance the blessings derived from the discovery of the Cow-pox. It seems to be propagated by the immediate connection of children, but not by the intervention of a third person, as the medical attendant, nurse, &c.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Of the Quinsey.

The Quinsey is one of those diseases, the infection of which spreads very easily among children, and is frequently fatal. The fauces when under the influence of this disease, swell, grow red, and become ulcerated; at the same time there is an acute fever, the strength fails, and the mental faculties are disturbed. In most instances, the breasts, arms, or whole body, are covered with redness, a sharp humour distils from the nose, and mouth of some; to which, if there is a difficulty of breathing, it is dangerous. It seldom seizes the same person twice.

In this disease we must abstain from all medicines which move the bowels violently. A blister is useful, and also whatever supports the declining strength, such as the Bark, in any the most suitable form, to which may be added a little Aromatic Confection, or Aromatic Tincture. Gargarisms must be used, made of Infusion of Roses, or of those things which have honey and vinegar, and astringent

wine, such as port or claret. Some wine added to their common meat and drink will be proper and salutary.

This is the Cynanche Maligna of Dr. Cullen; and for farther particulars respecting it, I would refer the reader to Huxham, Drs. Fothergill and Johnstone, and to Dr. Withering's Inaugural Dissertation, published at Edinb. in 1766.

N.B. By the term Quinsey, is generally understood the Cynanche of Dr. Cullen; but in this case I apprehend it alludes to the Cynanche Maligna.

CHAPTER XL.

Of the Red Fever.

In this complaint, there are the common marks and symptoms of all other fevers; moreover the breast and arms, and the whole body are preternaturally red. This colour is either in one continued sheet, or it is distinguished into spots. From this affection they are very feeble and languid, and oftentimes delirious; at the same time most complain of a pain about the jaws. The glands under the ears, or elsewhere, often swell and sometimes suppurate. At the termination of the disease the whole cuticle is renewed. Those who have once been under the influence of this disease, are free from future attacks.

This disease and Quinsey, although not one and the same disease, yet require the same method of cure, such as decoction of Bark, and Aromatics, and Wine, and Blisters. The strength must be supported by all means.

Both diseases generally shew themselves on the sixth day after the infection has been received.

One important question is—how soon, those who have been ill, may associate with the rest of the family, without fear of contracting the infection? I have known some children associate with their brothers and sisters on the fifth day after the redness was gone off, and the skin had been washed, and they received no injury from it.

This is the Scarlatina of Dr. Cullen, is an inflammatory disease, and may be subdued by antiphlogistics, proper attention to temperature and regimen, in a few days—but it is sometimes joined with the Cynanche Maligna before described, when it assumes the nature of Typhus, and must be treated accordingly.

CHAPTER XLI.

Of the Measles.

THESE are the signs of Measles—fever, dry cough, discharge of tears and weakness of the eyes, swelling of the eyelids, and sneezing. To these, on the fourth day, are added small red spots, first in the face; afterwards on the arms, and on the rest of the body. After four more days, those spots change into a branny substance, and shortly after, all the unpleasant consequences subside. In a few, at that time the fever and restlessness increase, and sometimes sudden death comes on; at other times a slow consumption supervenes.

A cough and difficulty of breathing require bleeding at any stage of the disease. The heat and fever are to be mitigated both by their food and medicine as much as can possibly be done. To procure sleep, a dram of Syrup of Poppies, or 3 or 4 drops of Tincture of Opium, is requisite. Lastly, at the termination of the disease, it will be proper to give a gentle laxative.

This disease lingers in the constitution sometimes ten days, sometimes fourteen days, before it shews itself.

CHAPTER XLII.

Of the Small Pox.

SINCE it has been the custom of propagating the Small Pox by means of Inoculation, it certainly must be reckoned among the diseases of children. First of all, therefore, I will speak of the age most proper for inoculation; afterwards the usual symptoms attendant: and lastly, the most proper method of treating them. And since more than sixty times as many die of the natural Small Pox, as by that which is created by art, it is evident that this disease by inoculation ought to be excited at any time, provided there is any apprehension of taking it by the natural way. Yet those who live in the country, and are less exposed to the infection thereof, can wait until their children have completed their second year; but they ought by no means to suffer the sixth year to pass without inoculation; for which purpose it is only requisite that the point of a needle or lancet, stained with variolous matter, should be inserted a little way under the cuticle of either arm. About the fourth day afterwards, the little

wound or puncture begins to grow hard, and soon afterwards enlarges; on the ninth day, there is a little fever, and in the same evening in some instances, there is a rigor or shivering of the limbs; for the next three days, the pustules break out; for the three days afterwards they form matter, and where they are very numerous, there is an exacerbation of fever; in a short time afterwards they dry and fall off.

Since children in these times are so slightly indisposed with the Small Pox, they do not require much medicine, neither is it necessary to deviate in their food much from their general habits. Yet a little abstinence from flesh meats will hurt no one, neither will a gentle laxative, especially if the body be plethoric, or heated by any means. It will be requisite to repeat the laxative, after the pustules are fallen from the face; but if the pustules are very numerous and troublesome, frequent diluent drinks will be proper, and a dram of Syrup of Poppies, or two drops of Tincture of Opium taken at bed-time, or even in the day-time. Oftentimes also, as in other diseases, it is right to cool the body when heated from fever, by exposure to cool air; and the same plan of cure is to be observed as in other fevers, namely, if the powers of life

seem oppressed, and as it were struggling with the disease, the bowels are to be solicited and urged to a discharge, and a blister to be applied. Where there is great restlessness, fomentations will give relief to the wearied body, or tepid clysters, or opiates. When the strength is languid and declining, we must call in the aid of wine, aromatics, and bark.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Of the Cow Pox.

TOWARDS the end of the eighteenth century, a new species of pox has been discovered, which, because it derives its origin from the teats of cows, has been called the Cow Pox. This disease grafted in the constitution, whether by accident or design, seems to preserve mankind unsusceptible of infection from the common Small Pox. Howbeit, it is distinguished from these by peculiar marks, viz. it is not contracted by contagion, neither does it excite pustules generally over the body, nor is it attended with much fever. There is generally only one pustule, which

is circumscribed, and about the sixth day contains a thin humour. On the tenth a red circle surrounds the pustule, and on the twelfth a black cicatrix begins to be formed on it.

As this disease has been but recently discovered, and promises so many blessings to mankind, I am rather surprized Dr. Heberden did not dwell upon it a little longer; but the reason probably was, that the disease is a very mild one, and the practical part of it a matter of general notoriety; yet I think it will not be improper to make an observation or two upon it.

The merits of the discovery and the stability of this as a prophylactic to the common Small Pox, has by many been disputed, by some probably from interested motives and emotions of envy; by others, possibly from an honest conviction that it was not a preventative of the Small Pox; and this latter has arisen either from using vaccine matter which had been taken at an improper period, or if taken at a proper time, had been suffered to remain on the point of the lancet, until by exposure to the air or by contact with the lancet, aided by the heat of the pocket, it had undergone a certain degree of decomposition, which rendered it incapable of propagating the true and genuine disease.

For the more perfect information and satisfaction of my readers, I shall subjoin a short account of the progress, and cautions requisite to be observed with respect to this disease, extracted from the works of Dr. Jenner.

Let the vaccine fluid be taken for the purpose of inoculation, from a pustule that is making its progress regularly, and which possesses the true vaccine character, on any day from the fifth to the eighth, or even a day or two later, provided the efflorescence be not then formed around it. When the efflorescence is formed, it is always most prudent to desist from taking any more of the virus from that pustule.

To obtain the virus, let the edges of the pustule be gently punctured with a lancet in several points. It will gradually ooze out, and should be inserted upon the arm about midway between the shoulder and the elbow, either by means of a very slight scratch, not exceeding the eighth part of an inch, or a very small oblique puncture.

A little red spot will appear on the punctured part on the third day, if the operation succeed, which on the fourth or fifth becomes perceptibly vesicated. It goes on increasing until the tenth day, when it is generally surrounded by a rose coloured efflorescence, which remains nearly statio-

many for a day or two. The efflorescence then fades away, and the pustule is gradually converted into a hard glossy scab, of a dark mahogany colour. These progressive stages of the pustule are commonly completed in sixteen or seventeen days.

A single pustule is sufficient to secure the constitution from the Small Pox: but as we are not always certain the puncture may take effect, it will be prudent to inoculate in both arms, or to make two punctures in the same arm, about an inch and half asunder, except in very early infancy, when there is a great susceptibility of local irritation.

If the efflorescence surrounding the pustule should be extensive, and occasion much local heat upon the arm, it may be cooled by the repeated application of pieces of folded linen, dipped in cold water: or still more expeditiously by a strong solution of the Water of Acetated Lytharge in Water; an ounce for example of the former in five or six of the latter.

In some very bad cases, the pustule will look black and gangrænous, will slough out and leave a large and troublesome ulcer. In this state Dr. Jenner recommends the pustule to be dressed with an ointment composed of one part of the Cerate of Yellow Resin, (L.P.) and two parts of the Compound Cerate of Acetated Lytharge, and over that the application of a plaster of the strong Mercurial Ointment.

If the scab should at any time be prematurely rubbed off, the part may be occasionally touched with the undiluted Water of Acetated Lytharge.

Vaccine virus, taken from a pustule, and inserted immediately in its fluid state, is preferable to that which has been previously dried: but as it is not always practicable to obtain it in this state, we are compelled to seek for some mode of preserving it. Various means have been suggested, but from the test of long experience it may be asserted, that preserving it between two plates of glass is the most eligible. Let a piece of common window glass be cut into squares, of about an inch each, so that they shall lie smooth when placed upon each other. Let the collected vaccine fluid be confined to a small spot, (about the size of a split pea) upon the centre of one of these glasses; which should be suffered to dry in the common heat of the atmosphere, without exposure to the heat of fire or of sun. When dry it should be immediately secured, by placing over it the other piece of glass. Nothing more is necessary for its preservation, than wrapping it in clean writing paper.

A method of preserving the matter, in addition to the one above recommended, has been adopted by several Practitioners; viz. the taking of it on the point of quills, cut after the manner of a toothpick, and kept in a phial well corked, and when wanted, taken from the quill on the point of a lancet, having been first moistened as in the case above mentioned.

The virus thus preserved, when wanted for the purpose of inoculation, may easily be restored to its fluid state, by dissolving it in a small portion of cold water, taken upon the point of a lancet. It may then be used in the same manner as when just taken from a pustule.

The vaccine fluid is liable, from causes apparently trifling, to undergo a decomposition. In this state it sometimes produces what has been denominated the spurious pustule; that is, a pustule or an appearance on the arm not possessing the characteristic marks of the genuine pustule. Anomalies, assuming different forms, may be excited, according to the qualities of the virus applied, or the state of the person inoculated. But by far the most frequent variety, or deviation from the perfect pustule, is that which arrives at maturity, and finishes its progress much within the time limited by the true. Its commencement is marked by a troublesome itching; and it throws out a premature efflorescence, sometimes extensive but seldom circumscribed, or of so vivid a tint as that which surrounds the pustule completely organized: and (which is more characteristic of its degeneracy than the other symptoms) it appears more like a common festering produced by a thorn, or any other small extraneous body sticking in the skin, than a pustule excited by the vaccine virus. It is generally of a straw colour: and when punctured, instead of that colourless transparent fluid of the perfect pustule, its contents are found to be opaque. That deviation from the common character of the pustule, arising from vaccine virus which has been previously exposed to a degree of heat capable of decomposing it, is very different. In this instance it begins with a creeping scab, of a pale brown or amber colour, making a long and slow progress, and sometimes going through its course without any perceptible efflorescence. Its edges are commonly elevated, and afford, on being punctured, a limpid fluid.

A little practice in vaccine inoculation, attentively conducted, impresses on the mind the perfect character of the vaccine pustule; therefore when a deviation arises, of whatever kind it may be, common prudence points out the necessity of re-inoculation, first with vaccine virus of the most active kind, and secondly, should this be ineffectual, with variolus virus. But if the constitution shews an insusceptibility of the one, it commonly does of the other.

When any constitutional symptoms appear in inoculated Cow Pox, they are commonly first perceptible (especially in children) on the fourth or fifth day. They appear again, and sometimes in adults, not unlike a mild attack from inoculated Small Pox, on the eighth, ninth, or tenth day. The former arise from the general effects of the virus on the habit, the latter from the irritation of the pustule.

If the effluvia of the Small Pox have been received into the habit, previously to the inoculation of the vaccine virus, the vaccine inoculation will not always be found to stop its progress, although the pustule may make its advances without interruption.

The lancet used for inoculation, should always be perfectly clean.—After each puncture, it is proper to dip it into water and wipe it dry.

The preservation of vaccine virus upon a lancet, beyond a few days, should never be attempted; as it is apt to produce rust, which will decompose it.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Of the Chicken Pox.

The Chicken Pox attack with some slight degree of fever. At the beginning they are like the true Small Pox; except that they increase more quickly, and are sooner terminated; they are different in size, but are not very numerous. On the first day they are red; on the second, they have their apices full of water; on the third they grow yellow, and being often burst by scratching, they collapse; on the fourth or day afterwards, they are covered with a thin crust.

The infection of the Chicken Pox is wont to shew itself on the eighth or ninth day, after the disease has been contracted.

It will not be improper to abstain from wine and flesh for a few days, and to take care, that any one under its influence is not overheated by any means. Besides these cautions, few things are requisite.

CHAPTER XLV.

The Nettlerash.

SOME few observations might have been inserted here, by Dr. Heberden, but as they are omitted, I shall briefly state, that this disease appears under two different forms, the one inflammatory, which must be treated like other eruptive disorders, in the inflammatory state; and the other is a chronic eruption, and is described by the late worthy father of the present Dr. Heberden, in the Medical Transactions, Vol. 1. Art. 18.

CHAPTER XLVI.

On the Pulse.

IN addition to the last chapter of reference, to the Chronic Nettlerash, by the late Dr. Heberden, I shall here add a table of the state of the Pulse, which the Practitioner may expect to meet with in health; the accuracy of which, as a general outline, has been established by the long and extensive

practice of the worthy author above alluded to, and published several years ago.

	No. of Pulsations in a minute.
Of an Infant on the day of its birth	from 130 to 140.
Mean rate for the first month	120
First year	from 108 to 120.
Second year	from 90 to 100.
Third year	from 80 to 108.
The same rate will serve for the 4th, 5th, and 6th years.	
Seventh year	from 72 to 85.
Twelfth year	—— 70 —
Adults	from 60 to 80.

An intermittent pulse in adults, but more especially those advanced in years, is very common, and arises frequently from very trivial causes: but in children it is a very rare occurrence, and is the sure forerunner of some serious and important malady, and portends great danger.

For this observation, I am indebted to the present Dr. Heberden.

CHAPTER XLVII.

Of the Infantile Fever.

THIS fever is in the beginning, mild, slow in its increase, and uncertain as to the time of its termination. When it attacks, children

are generally dull, and some in consequence thereof have rigors; the lips are dry, the hands hot, the pulsation of the arteries increased, respiration frequent, they are unwilling to move or to speak; one while the bowels discharge but little, at another time too much, oftentimes mucus or worms; at the same time their sleep is disturbed, and their food is vomited up; some rave, or are dull and nearly senseless; many for a while are almost mute or dumb.

In the beginning are to be exhibited those things, which cleanse the bowels well; and a gently laxative state is to be kept up, during the whole of the disease; or must be urged by the aid of medicine. Rest and mild diluting drinks must be enjoined; and at the latter end of the disease, the effect of debility must be counteracted by decoction of Bark, or remedies of a similar kind. This fever never seems to be infectious.

The considerations for the Practitioner in this case are, whether these symptoms arise from foul bowels, from dentition, or whether they are the forerunners of some infectious disorder. In any case the remedy prescribed will be found useful.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Of the Hectic Fever.

It is called a Hectic Fever, where the strength gradually decays, together with the loss of the pleasing and engaging cheerfulness, generally attendant on children, and a slow and general emaciation of the body.—This mostly arises from some inward fault, which if it can be detected, ought to be the first object of our attention to remedy. The cause is often involved in obscurity, but if it is not concealed, yet will not admit of any certain and known remedy, it will be sufficient to abstract that matter which seems to offend from the intestines, and at the same time to support the strength by all possible means. But if any part, as the bowels or stomach, seem to be affected more than the rest, we must apply a seasonable remedy to the more pressing evil.

It will be proper in most instances to give a few grains of Rhubarb every three or four days, and in the mean time Decoction or Extract of Bark. In some, great advantage will accrue from change of food, and passing

into a more healthy air, and to take moderate exercise, according to the strength.

That species of Hectic Fever which attacks with swelling and hardness of the belly, sometimes with purging and emaciation, seems to arise mostly from inflamed or obstructed mesenteric glands. The cure of this is the same as that which I have laid down, except when the belly is bound, the use of laxatives ought to be sufficient to keep the bowels gently open; for which purpose we must give Senna, or some Neutral Salt, or Rhubarb, with Calomel, every fourth day, and on the intermediate days to drink an ounce of Decoction of Bark morning and evening, either by itself, or to each dose of which 8 grains of Prepared Natron is added.

This is generally considered as a scrophulous affection; the treatment therefore which is proper in that disease, will be found to be appropriate in this instance.

CHAPTER XLIX.

Of Intermittent Fever.

Children, as well as adults, are frequently attacked with Intermittent Fever, and are cured by the same remedies. There-

fore on the approach of a fit, it is proper to give 5 grains of Ipecacuanha, and be urged to vomit; afterwards to give the Bark. But as children cannot take as much of this medicine as is requisite for the cure of the disease, different vehicles have been invented, which make it more palatable—and the most eligible of these is milk; in an ounce of which may be given a scruple of Powdered Bark, or as much of the Extract with an equal quantity of sugar. Some instead of milk use the Milk of Almonds, or by the addition of syrup make the bark into an electuary.—Lastly, if nothing of this kind can be taken, then we must inject three or four times a day, 3 ounces of the decoction of Bark to which may be added either a little Powdered Bark or Extract, and three drops of Tincture of Opium, or as much as is requisite to ensure its retention in the bowels.

In case of infants being attacked with Ague, other methods beside the above have been resorted to, and with success, such as wearing waistcoats with powdered bark quilted between the folds, bathing in a semicupium made of the decoction of Bark, or rubbing the spine with equal parts of Tincture of Opium and the Soap Liniment (L.P.).

CHAPTER L.

Of the Venereal Disease.

WOMEN labouring under the influence of the Venereal Disease, often bring forth dead children; but it may be doubted whether this happens in consequence of the disease itself, or from the remedy employed for its cure.—Of those who are born alive from syphilitic parents, some enjoy good health: in others little ulcers infest the inner surface of the mouth, and the cuticle of the whole body is destroyed. They pollute also their nurses with an ulcerous consumption, but whether it should be called Venereal or not, is uncertain. I know not whether children born of healthy parents, are altogether free from this species of disease. The best remedy seems to be sea bathing; but if any child is seized with the true Venereal Disease, the Mercurial Ointment must be used without delay.

CHAPTER LI.

Of Pustules.

CHILDREN are liable to many kinds of Pustules. Oftentimes red spots arise scattered up and down, which unequally occupy the face, or the breast, or the whole body. Sometimes they arise a little above the neighbouring skin, or are filled with a fluid.

In another kind they are scaly, some being moist and some more dry. These chiefly arise on the forehead. Although they sometimes continue long, yet there is seldom any danger to be apprehended, and no cicatrix is left behind.

Sometimes red Pustules arise on the breast and face, or whole body, and remain three or four days, which resemble the Red Gum or the Measles. Yet since little or no fever attends this eruption, I think it ought not to be classed with either of the above diseases, which opinion I am the more confirmed in, because I have seen children attacked with these, which children I have before attended and cured of the Red Gum.

There are other kinds of eruptions, to describe each of which would be unnecessary. They all require the bowels to be kept gently laxative; and if there is nausea, to give Prepared Chalk, Magnesia, and Rhubarb; but when the general health is not much affected, it is best to abstain from medicine, to avoid exposure to cold, and use food which is light and easy of digestion.

For the more troublesome and obstinate diseases of the skin, the outward application must be Decoction of White Hellebore, or the Ointment of the white Calx of Quicksilver, or the ointment composed of equal weights of the Ointment of Nitrated Quicksilver and the Ointment of Hog's Lard.—Inwardly must be given, Senna or Neutral Salts, or any medicine which will open the belly. In the intervals, the body must be strengthened by the Bark.

It may possibly be expected, that those eruptions commonly called Scorbutic should have been noticed here. Suffice it to say, that the term is only a vulgar error, and misapplied as such to all cutaneous eruptions, by people in general not conversant with the nature of the different species. The term Scorbutic is applicable only to seafaring people, who from confinement and salt provisions contract a disease very different from that which is commonly called Scurvy. The species of cutaneous diseases are very numerous, and perhaps have been too much refined upon for any practical utility: but those who wish to be fully conversant with them, may consult Dr. Willan on Cutaneous Diseases.

CHAPTER LII.

Of Ulcers behind the Ears.

A VERY common disease of children is a discharge and ulceration behind the ears. For this, repellant applications are improper. It is mostly sufficient to wash them with warm water, three or four times a day, afterwards to apply linen rags, besmeared with some mild ointment.

But if the complaint should extend to the neck, accompanied with pain, and should have insinuated itself deeply into the substance of the flesh, a little of the Ointment of the White Calx of Quicksilver will be advantageously used. It is necessary to apply fomentations, and use occasional purgatives, and in the mean time Extract of Bark.—— Sometimes a blister is useful, by diverting the humour to some other part.

CHAPTER LIII.

Of those things which destroy the Texture of the Cuticle.

In Infants, more especially those who are fat, and in the summer, the cuticle often is destroyed, especially when it lies in wrinkles, and is made wet frequently by urine, or sweat, or any other cause. Those places ought to be washed often in the day with warm water, and afterwards to be sprinkled with some fine powder, as starch, or burnt clay, commonly called Boles, or the seeds of Clubmoss. It will be proper also to anoint the parts with some soft and mild ointment.

The most usual application is what the nurses call Dust, and is Lapis Calaminaris very finely powdered and sifted.

CHAPTER LIV.

Of Chilblains.

Chilblains occur in winter, and attack the fingers, the toes, and the heels. They are red, accompanied by a moderate degree

of inflammation, and sometimes they ulcerate. The pain from them is not very great, but the itching intolerable. When they arise from cold, they ought above all things to be guarded from it. Many rub them with Camphorated Spirit, with Soap Liniment; others, and I think with more propriety, apply something as the Cerate of Lapis Calaminaris, the Soap Cerate, or the Plaster of Lytharge, spread upon linen or thin leather; and these may be used even after they are become ulcerated. Sometimes it is necessary to apply Poultices. Would Electricity be useful in case of ulcers?

CHAPTER LV.

Of the Scales or the Scald Head.

The Scales or Scald Head is a disease in which little scales or scabs, as it were, arise among the hairs, attended with itching and a loss of hair. It occurs sometimes without ulcers, and sometimes is accompanied with ulcers. Sometimes it extends itself, until the whole head is covered with a filthy scab. It is contagious, and most easily diffuses itself

among children, who use the same combs, or pillows, or hats.

The proper remedies are the Ointment of Nitrated Quicksilver, the Ointment of the white Calx of Quicksilver, also a solution of the Muriated Quicksilver, or a decoction of white Hellebore, or of Tobacco.

These sometimes will quickly cure it in an incipient state. Oftentimes it will continue for two months or more, in which case the head should be shaved, and washed with water, in which soap or some alkaline salt is dissolved, and afterwards anointed with some of the above, or with the Ointment of Tar. These should be applied, until all relics of the disease are shaken off and subdued, and there is the appearance of hairs coming as before. Little advantage is derived from internal medicines.

Sometimes a pitch plaster has been applied all over the head, and when properly adhered, has been torn off, so as to bring away both the scabs and roots of the hairs. This I believe to be an effectual remedy in obstinate cases, which have resisted the usual means, but it requires a considerable share of fortitude to submit to it.

CHAPTER LVI.

Of Scrophula.

SCROPHULA is a disease, where the lymphatic glands swell and sometimes inflame and suppurate. This happens in most parts of the body, but more especially in the neck. In children the Mesenteric Glands also are liable to the same malady, from which the belly swells, but the body at large grows lean.

Scrophula is wont to shew itself between the second and twelfth year, sometimes later. It attacks those chiefly who are born of scrophulous parents, and whose body is weak, complexion light, nose and lips swollen, and eyelids liable to frequent inflammations.

Another and more dreadful species of the disease is in the fingers and joints, which swell and ulcerate, and are almost eaten away.*

To obviate if possible the disagreeable effects of Scrophula, it will be advisable to reside on the sea coast, and to sea bathe, provided the person attacked is free from fever. At the same time it seems wholesome for some people to drink as much sea water every

* This is the Scrophula (Americana) cum frambæsia conjuncta.

third or fourth day, as will keep the body gently open. In almost all cases the Bark is useful, or medicines containing the Bark and Natron.

The most proper drink is the Malvern or Distilled Water. The food ought to be light, and such as will nourish the body, but not aggravate the disease.

CHAPTER LVII.

Of the Spina Ventosa.

This disease which is called Spina Ventosa, belongs to the head of Scrophula; in which the knee for a long time swells and is painful, and at length the bones themselves are destroyed. Under these circumstances there is generally hectic fever and consumption.

The remedies when the disease is recent, are the same as those of Scrophula; moreover it is proper to make issues near the joint, and to continue them for a long time. Yet it is often necessary to cut off the leg.

This is what is generally called a White Swelling. The epithet Spina has been derived from its occasioning a pricking in the flesh like the puncture of *thorns*, and Ventosa from its feeling, when touched, as if it was

filled with *wind*. It has by some, in its incipient state, been called Hydrops Articuli, and seems to me to begin with an undue accumulation of ill prepared synovial juice, attended with inflammation affecting the ligaments, cartilages, and periosteum; and finally destroying the solidity of the bone itself, and the contents thereof, demonstrated by enlargement of substance, mollities, and caries.

CHAPTER LVIII.

Of the Disease of the Hip.

ANOTHER species of Scrophula arises in the hip, attended by suppuration, which by degrees destroys the whole joint. In these cases, the knee is more painful than the hip, at the same time the leg of the affected side becomes longer, and the thigh becomes lean and weak, and is not capable of sustaining the body. In the mean time the person affected gradually falls away by slow fever and emaciation; some languish for three years before they die; some few recover, but these always are lame. Death sometimes prevents the discharge of matter, but oftentimes there is an open ulcer, which accelerates the death of the patient, already hastening to the grave.

The Cinchona must assist us in this disease, and two or more issues must be made near to the joint. The strength must be supported

by all possible means, and if any thing had been devised to obstruct the fatal career of Scrophula, there would be hopes that something more applicable than the present remedies might be invented at some future period.

CHAPTER LIX.

Of the Curvature of the Spine.

This is another disease which the upper parts of the body are liable to, and which occurs more frequently to children, though it may happen at any age. In this case the upper parts of the vertebræ become painful and ulcerated, in consequence of which there are stretchings and weakness of the lower limbs; the bones being corroded, the vertebræ project. The only remedy is to cut issues on each side, and to keep them open for some time; and it will hurt no one to take a little Bark at the same time. In addition to these remedies, some use a kind of machine, by which the sick person is as it were suspended by the neck, by which the body is kept more erect, and the deformity lessened.

CHAPTER LX.

Of the Rickets.

In the seventeenth century, the Rickets seem to have been a very common disease in many parts of Europe, but more especially in England.* Whatever may have been the cause of them, they seem within the last century to have become more rare. They seize children generally from the first to the third year. In this, the skin becomes loose and flaccid, the joints and belly swell, the bones become crooked, the teeth are eroded, attended with general debility.

To oppose the dire effects of this complaint, the body must be exercised and nourished, together with the use of friction, country air, the cold bath, and bark.

* See Glisson on the Rickets.

CHAPTER LXI.

Of the Spina bifida.

A SOFT tumor from any part of the spine, more especially about the loins, is a sure indication of the presence of the Spina bifida; for the process of one or more of the vertebræ are altogether wanting or are cleft; and the membrane which contains the medulla, projects from a liquor being collected within it. After that is burst, inflammation of the spine and death not far distant follows. Those who labour under this disease, rarely survive fifteen months.

Is it possible that the fluid would be absorbed, if aided by gentle and constant pressure? Or would it be proper to let it out, by a small oblique orifice? *

* In the Transactions of the Royal Medical Society of Paris, for the year 1784, page 66, we have an account of a young man, eight and twenty years of age, who had a tumor of this kind in his loins, on the day of his birth. When he was twelve years old, and the swelling was become of a great size, the surgeon perforated it and discharged the matter, and neither death, nor even great debility ensued, but in a short time afterwards the tumor returned. When he arrived at his twentieth year, it had again become the size of his head, and he by accident lay upon it, in consequence of which, inflammation and gangrene supervened, and the patient was in the greatest danger: yet beyond all expectation, the humor was absorbed, and a firm cicatrix formed by the skin collapsing, and he continued to live, although in a very weak state. Dr. HEBERDEN.

From the wonderful effects which metals have on the nervous system, as is daily proved by experiments in electricity and galvanism—Would caustic of any kind be more eligible than a metallic instrument? Should it be thought proper to discharge it by either means, it should not at any rate, even for a moment afterwards, be exposed to the access of the outward air.

Scrophula is a dreadful malady in every shape and form, whether it attacks the spine, the joints, or the glands. It is a constitutional disease, affecting the whole lymphatic system, and in those predisposed, the predisposition is very strong, and very slight occasional causes will call the disease into action. One of the most approved remedies at this time is the Muriat of Lime, a medicine highly spoken of by Dr. Beddoes. The utility of it in this complaint was first suggested by Fourcroy, as I was informed by Dr. Black. The patient in this complaint is generally worn out by pain and discharge, more especially in that species termed a Psoas Abscess. And it is very probable that in every scrophulous affection, (although it may not be always evident) that the mesenteric glands are more or less affected, whereby the body will not receive its due share of nourishment. The waters of this place have long been celebrated for Scrophula, as also for Consumption and Diabetes; and more especially since the days of the learned Dr. Short, of Sheffield, who wrote so fully upon their virtues. I shall here take the opportunity of giving a caution to mothers and others concerned in the care and superintendance of children—which is, not to pass over as unworthy of their attention, the slightest accident which may happen to children in consequence of a fall or blow; from such neglect, dreadful evils often arise, more especially in scrophulous children, who from seeming trivial accidents may become cripples during life. A vial of Camphorated Spirit kept in the nursery, will always be at hand in case of an accident, and will amply repay those who may think such precautions unnecessary. In serious accidents medical advice should by all means be had recourse to.

CHAPTER LXII.

Of the Hare Lip.

This fissure in the lip is sometimes to be cured by manual operation; and the time for its performance is, either when the child is so

young that little or no food is required, or so far advanced that it can conveniently be reared by the hand; therefore it must be performed either on the day of its birth, or when I believe is much safer, not until they are upwards of four months old. In some the palate also is affected, from whence the voice is imperfect, and the liquors taken into the mouth too frequently pass into the nose.

The operation for the Hare Lip comes within the province of Surgery, and has had an improvement lately suggested by Mr. Reig, Surgeon, at Mentz.

CHAPTER LXIII.

Of the Fistula Lachrymalis.

By this is generally understood, such a disorder of the canals leading from the eye to the nose, as obstructs the natural passage of the tears, and makes them trickle down the cheeks. This may be considered as an obstruction of the duct only, rather than a fistula, and in this state it is termed an epiphora. The causes of it may be various, but the cases of this simple kind which have come within my knowledge, have arisen in consequence

of the patient having been severely afflicted with the natural small pox. The second stage may be more properly termed a fistula, when together with obstruction, there is inflammation of the ducts and discharge of matter, generally with the tears, but sometimes without, especially during sleep, when in this stage the matter is mild and bland, and the disease may yield to gentle remedies, such as mild astringent collyriums; but when the matter, instead of being pus laudabile, becomes fœtid and acrimonious, it will corrode the adjacent parts, and cause a caries of the bones. As this disease very frequently requires a surgical operation, I would refer the reader to Sharp's "Operations of Surgery," and on the chapter which treats of this disease, he will find a plate annexed, descriptive of the diseased parts. Most writers on Surgery treat on this subject, but Mr. Pott has written a treatise expressly on the Fistula Lachrymalis.

THE END.