Observations on the cure of cancer; with some remarks upon Mr. Young's treatment of that disease / [Thomas Denman].

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

CURE OF CANCER;

WITH SOME

REMARKS

UPON

MR. YOUNG'S TREATMENT OF THAT DISEASE.

BY THE LATE

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TO

B. C. BRODIE, ESQ.

ONE OF THE ASSISTANT SURGEONS TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

DEAR SIR,

I WILL not mention the affectionate regard I have ever entertained for you, as the reason of my particularly wishing to dedicate to you these observations on *Cancer*. Amidst your other pursuits, I take this opportunity of entreating you to continue your researches into the morbid structure of cancerous parts, and your remarks on the effect of medicines administered for the cure of the disease. I may perhaps be too sanguine in my opinion and expectation of a specific existing in the preparations of Iron; but this can only be satisfactorily proved by experiments judiciously repeated, in a variety of cases, and in a long course of time. Much has been lately done in this investigation, by men of distinguished abilities; and

those who have seen many instances of *Cancer*, must rejoice at the prospect before us, of a method of cure being at length discovered and established.*

I remain, dear Sir,
your affectionate friend,
and very humble servant,

THO. DENMAN.

MOUNT STREET,
November 1, 1815.

* Certainly some progress has been made towards the cure of *Cancer*, since the first edition of this account was published; and it is hoped that still farther improvements will be made.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages are presented to the public as being the last literary labours in which the Author was engaged. It was his anxious wish to see this work again in print. He had made the necessary alterations a short time before his death, and had the satisfaction of knowing that the greater part of it was struck off. The recent treatment of *Cancer* had of late occupied much of his attention. For a considerable time he searched into the probable causes, and endeavoured to find the best mode of treatment, of this painful disease. Having at length heard and approved of Mr. Young's practice, Dr. Denman was desirous of communicating that information upon the subject which might become the instrument of relief to many suffering individuals. To promote objects of this description was indeed the habitual aim of that gentleman, whose loss the public

are called to deplore. It is impossible to hear of the removal of such a character without feeling emotions of sorrow and regret; and whilst his memory will be cherished in the bosoms of his relatives and near connections, the Publishers cannot forbear adding their testimony to the worth and excellence of so inestimable a man. During a short acquaintance with Dr. Denman, which was occasioned by the reprint of some of his works, they experienced that degree of kindness and attention, which they are happy in having this opportunity of acknowledging. The exalted station which he occupied in society did not induce an ostentatious conduct towards those who were in any respect his inferiors; but, on the contrary, he manifested that gentleness of manners, together with a familiar intercourse, which so adorned his general deportment. In him were combined all those amiable qualities which at once form a *friend* and a *gentleman*:—he lived not for himself, but for the good of all around him,—not seeking his own interest, but that of his fellow-creatures; breathing universal benevolence to mankind; he spent a life which was protracted to a considerable length; and after having devoted his time, his talents, and his

property to the benefit of others, he is now entered into that rest, where he will enjoy the most exalted felicity throughout a perpetual duration. Such then is a very brief sketch of the private character of the individual of whom the world is deprived; those who best knew him are most able to appreciate his merits, both in his professional capacity and domestic circles. If it be the language of presumption to say, that he was the greatest whom the world knew, it may surely with truth be asserted that *a great man has fallen.*

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

CURE OF CANCER.

To all who are acquainted with the general structure of the human body, and with the peculiar and relative functions of the several parts of which it is composed, there never can be wanting a subject for serious contemplation. But the subject becomes far more important and interesting, if it comprehend the diseases to which the body is naturally liable; those which are produced by the necessary employments and occupations of men; those which are caused by accidents; those which are brought upon them by the irregular and unreasonable manner of their living; and above all, by the powerful influence which the uncontrolled passions of the mind are capable of producing in the body, by generating some diseases particularly afflictive, and by aggravating those which are unavoidable. The science of medicine, or the doctrine of diseases, may indeed be said to be

inexhaustible, from the variety and endless number of objects on which it is employed; as the same diseases are continually assuming new forms; and new or undescribed diseases are not unfrequently appearing. By the industry of men in general, but particularly by the exertions and persevering application of those who have dedicated their time and abilities to the practice of medicine, or by accidental occurrences, means have been gradually discovered by which the diseases the human frame is liable to, may be often prevented, always alleviated, and generally cured. It appears however from the earliest records of medicine, that notwithstanding their utmost endeavours, there ever remained a certain number of diseases, which were acknowledged to be *incurable*. By this term, it may be presumed, was only meant, that they were not to be cured by any means or methods with which the ancients were then acquainted. They, especially professional men, seeing what had been already done, were too wise to limit or circumscribe what, at some future time, might be accomplished by the continued efforts of enlightened men, separate or conjoined; or the advantages which might be gained by repeated and renewed experiments, registered for the consideration and benefit of successive generations. It is therefore the duty of every medical man to admit with much caution an opinion of the impos-

sibility of curing any disease or any degree of disease, seeing that remedies have been already discovered for many, which were at some period of time judged to be incurable.

Of all diseases deemed *incurable*, that which is denominated *Cancer* has been most generally allowed to be so, and probably all its derivatives, by whatever name distinguished. The frequency of this disease, and the dreadful sufferings of those who are afflicted with it, are universally known. An investigation of its nature, and of some means by which it may be prevented or cured, is therefore an object of the greatest interest, to all who direct their powers towards lessening the mass of human misery. Even unsuccessful attempts to discover a cure for *Cancer*, are entitled to some share of commendation; but the acknowledgment of ignorance ought not to be considered as a sanction for negligence or indifference, or as a screen from censure. In ignorance we must ever remain, if the motives for extraordinary exertions are to be discouraged; and the pleading of the term *incurable*, seems to have had that effect, as if the faculties of our minds were palsied by despair. But it would be more consonant to reason, and to a sense of duty, to continue our efforts by opening new sources of information, by devising new means, or more efficacious modes of using those with which we are

already acquainted. In such an investigation as in this case is absolutely required, an accurate natural history of *Cancer* would be of prime advantage; and ample materials for such an history we now possess. The first part of such an history should comprise a description of that kind of constitution, which has been observed to be most liable to *Cancer*, and which is pretty strongly marked in the complexion and general aspect; of the predisposing and immediate causes; of those parts most liable to, or most frequently the seat of, the disease; of the peculiar structure and functions of those parts; of the manner in which it commences and makes its progress; of the medium by which that progress is made, whether by absorption or otherwise; and it should be marked, whether the effects of *Cancer* vary according to the structure of the parts affected; or whether in its varieties, there be any specific alteration in the nature and qualities of the cauſe of the disease. If different diseases have gone under the general appellation of *Cancer*, the points of resemblance and difference ought to be strongly delineated, and no position is to be admitted as irrefragable, however great the authority with which it may be made, without submitting it to the most accurate and severe examination; by which our advancement towards the great object

of our aim would indeed be rendered apparently more slow, but far more correct and beneficial.

It is also necessary that we should understand the mode of connexion between distant parts, as the *uterus* and *mammæ*; or parts more nearly connected, as the *penis* and *testes*; whether any thing more be implied by the term sympathy, than that in similarly constructed parts, if one part be excited to morbid action, all the rest, of similar construction, necessarily assume a similar action; or whether more be intended, when distant parts are affected with the same disease, than that the general state of the constitution is prone to that disease.

Cancerous humour, is a term often used, as if it were the only or most certain way by which the disease was conveyed from one part or person to another. Yet it has not been proved by experience, or by any mode of analyzing, that the discharge from a cancerous sore has the property or power of propagating this particular disease; or is composed of different constituent parts: or is possessed of different qualities, than a similar discharge from any part ulcerated by an ordinary cause. It has been often asserted, and is generally believed, that by the concubinage of a healthy man, with a woman who has a cancerous *uterus*, he will not be infected with the disease, though he may suffer some unpleasant temporary complaints from such com-

munication. It may therefore be doubted, whether there be any such thing, properly speaking, as cancerous humour; or whether this disease is ever spread by the absorption of any infected humour transferred to other parts; and the same observation may apply to what is called cancerous action; for if inflammation, for instance, be excited in a gland or other part by a cancerous cause, it does not follow that there shall be any specific action, though the cause of the action be specific. Otherwise it would be very difficult to account for the abatement or temporary suppression of inflammation in a part affected with *Cancer*, by means which are proved by manifold experience, to have no influence upon, or power over the cause. We can hence readily conceive a difference between the cause, and effects of a disease in a thousand instances; and understand that a cause of a disease may exist in the body for an indefinite time, without producing any morbid effects. Where we have the power of confining the effects, though the cause remain, it may be said, that we prevent the disease, so long as the means used retain that power, and keep the part in a quiescent state. But when we have the power of destroying or extinguishing the cause, or can render the part and the constitution, unsusceptible of any consequences arising from that cause, we may with great pro-

priety be allowed to say, that we have cured the disease, though the consequences already produced may heal spontaneously, or be cured by medicinal treatment. It is also clear that different states of this disease may require different modes of treatment. Quicksilver has been found, by experience, to be inefficacious or injurious in every case of *Cancer*, as *Cancer*; yet it may be proper and useful in abating the inflammation caused by the disease. These observations will apply on many occasions to the subject we are now considering, and to other diseases, if any were known, which spread their influence in the manner of *Cancer*.

Various ways of pursuing the inquiry I am endeavouring to make have occurred to me. It was first my intention to have given an abstract of all which has been recorded on the subject of *Cancer*, beginning with the earliest writers, and tracing it down to the present time. In this I had made considerable progress, by the assistance of my learned and able friend Dr. *Pelham Warren*. But finding what had been said by them, mostly consisted of loose conjectures on the nature of the disease, of a list of medicines they had repeatedly used without success; that the generality of their works were copied from preceding writers, and that they universally concluded with admitting that the disease was *incurable*, I did not see the

benefit which could be gained by compiling a large book, which at last would be more curious than useful. Nor is this to be considered as an imputation upon the ancients, as if they wanted either understanding or attention; but it certainly is to be wished that we should not be so shackled by depending on the information they have given, as to prevent us from using our own faculties and exercising our own judgments. Is the practice of surgery, it may be asked, the same now that it was in the time of *Hippocrates*, or *Celsus*? yet there is surely nothing to be regretted in the change. The ancients understood and practised the art of building such ships as answered their purposes and necessities; but their art can only be considered as consisting of rudiments, and has not prevented their successors from bringing it to the state of high perfection to which it is now carried; yet this cannot be esteemed any derogation from the ancients. The same observations may be made of many other arts. But to shew an example of how little is to be learned from the ancients respecting *Cancer*, I will transcribe from *Ætius* what seems to have been the practice before, and long after his time. There is no occasion to mention an endless number of popular receipts for the cure of *Cancer*, some of which were purchased for large sums of money, especially if the name of some person of distinction

was tacked to them, all of them having fallen into discredit, and most being nearly forgotten.

Pro Cancro non ulcerato.

Lac, a quo multa pars exhalatione absumpta est—Erysimon—Psyllium—Capita Papaveris—Fraxini folia, mollia, aqua fluviatili cocta et trita, dolorem mitigant. (Alston says that Erysimum is used by *Dioscorides*, *Galen*, and *Paulus*, for the seed of that plant which agrees in virtue with the Semen Nasturtii, and the Bursa Pastoris.)

Pro Cancro ulcerato.

Urticæ folia et semen—Dracontium—Pompholix—Plumbum—Solanum—Hyoscyamus.

℞ Spumæ Argenti (Lytharge)
Adipis Porcini
Ceræ Albæ ā ℔j
Olei ʒxvj
Vitellor. Ovi assatorum xij.

Spumam Argenti cum aqua et aceto tere, deinde parum olei affunde, et vitellos admisce. Postea in mortario terantur, et cera liquefacta admisceantur; et si dolor absit, Iridis, Aristolochiæ, Myrrhæ, singulorum drachmas tres adjice.

In another prescription, the same medicines are used with the addition of Diphrix, sive Æs cum Thure et Oleo.

(Pomet describes the Diphrix as the refuse left in making Bronze.)

℞ Spodii Cuprici, loti et exsiccati
Plumbi usti et loti.
Succi Rosarum *a* ʒiv
Misce cum ungento Rosaceo.

(Spodium Cypricum idem est ac Pompholix vel Tutia. Vide Castelli Lexicon.)

℞ Rhois Coriacii (Curriers Sumach) sive
Corticis Granatorum
Rotulorum Cupressi *a* ℔j
Gallarum immatur
Cassiæ optimæ *a* ℥vj
Vini fortis ℔ xxx

Maneant per quatriduum. Decoque tunc cola, et decoque residuum ad mellis crassitudinem.

Here it may be observed that it is doubtful whether any internal medicine is prescribed, so that all their endeavours seem to have been directed to the cure of the local tumour or ulcer, and this appears to have been their general aim. Now and then some new medicine was adopted, till at length, all

which have any relation to the cure of *Cancer*, even to our days, or till within a few years, were included. But as all these were proved by long experience to be ineffectual, it occurred to me that the most promising way of arriving at the knowledge of a remedy for *Cancer*, would be, to throw aside all that had been said by the ancients respecting this disease; to begin new modes of investigation, in order to discover the cause, and structure of parts actually in a cancerous state; to detect the peculiarities of the disease; to try new medicines with caution, and new modes of using them, in a simple or combined state, or in succession, and not to disdain any for their simplicity. But seeing that in this way of proceeding, we should be deprived of some judicious and important remarks, and the benefit of many fortuitous observations made in the course of comparatively a few years, I determined on the following method. To give, upon authorities which cannot be doubted, an account of the morbid changes of structure, in parts actually in a cancerous state; to discover, if it were possible, for the further explanation of these, some analogous appearance: and then to proceed to the method of cure; interspersing such conjectures and observations as have arisen in my own mind, or as I may have collected in conversation with my friends, or as have occurred in my own practice.

In the account of the morbid structure of a cancerous part, I shall commence with that of Dr. *Baillie*, who published, in the year 1799, A Series of Engravings, accompanied with Explanations, intended to illustrate the Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important Parts of the Human Body.

In this most valuable work, which must be of the greatest utility to all who are engaged in any branch of the practice of medicine, there is one *fasciculus*, illustrating the diseases of the *Pharynx*, the *Œsophagus*, and Stomach. The Doctor has observed that the *Œsophagus* is most liable to disease, at its upper and lower extremities, and the stomach at the *Pylorus* or smaller end. In the fourth plate of this *fasciculus*, fig. 2, is represented an ulceration of the *Œsophagus* of great extent, and in the explanation it is remarked, that "the coats of the *Œsophagus* were very hard and much thickened, and on the cut surface may be observed many *white, transverse lines*. These represent the cellular membrane, interposed between the muscular fibres, thickened by disease. This preparation may be considered as affording a good example of scirrhus in muscular parts."

In the sixth plate of the same *fasciculus*, fig. 1, there is a section of a circumscribed scirrhous tumour of the stomach, thus described; "it consists of a whitish substance, having a gristly hardness,

and in some parts it is slightly intersected by membrane." In fig. 2, of the same plate, " a stricture near the *Pylorus* is delineated, produced by a scirrhous thickening of the coats at the small end of the stomach, the cut edges of the stomach, at the stricture, shewing its coats to be much thickened. The scirrhus had not advanced to form an ulcer. The distinction between the external, muscular, and villous coats of the stomach, is well marked, and some *transverse, white lines* are observable, dividing the muscular coat. These consist of thickened cellular membrane."

In plate 7th of the same *fasciculus*, is represented a section of the stomach, near the *Pylorus*, affected with *Cancer*. In the explanation of this plate it is said, " the muscular *fasciculi*, are not only thickened, but the cellular membrane interposed between them has undergone the same change, putting on the appearance of *white, transverse lines*."

In *fasciculus* 9th, Plate II, fig. 2, is a transverse section of a scirrhous *uterus*; in this are represented " a prodigious number of *membranes* intersecting its substance in various directions, and several tumours are imbedded in its substance." In Plate VIIth of the same *fasciculus*, fig. 2, is a delineation of a scirrhous *ovarium*: " it is much enlarged in its size, and consists of a solid matter, intersected by *membranes*." This figure is most expressive of the disease.

To the best of my knowledge and recollection, these very conspicuous *white, transverse lines*, and *intervening membranes*, which insinuate themselves even between the muscular *fasciculi*, were first noticed and delineated in this work of Dr. *Baillie*. They are to be esteemed as the basis of the natural history and commencement of *Cancer*, and the knowledge of them will be of much utility in many points of practice. The fine membranes are not indeed mentioned as equal to the *white, transverse lines*, but I believe they are merely different forms of the same substance. *Piso*, whose works were published in 1579, says that *Cancer* still returns, unless all its *roots* are cured, which is impossible, when it is seated in the *uterus*; but its increase may be prevented by diet and medicine. It is often provincially said that *Cancer* always returns, unless the *strings* are cleanly removed; and empirics often speak of the claws of *Cancer*, as if it were a living animal.

Dr. *Baillie* has justly observed, "that the knowledge of morbid structure does not necessarily lead to the knowledge of morbid action;" nor does the knowledge of morbid actions, diversified as they are, lead to the discovery of that peculiar change of structure, which may be the consequence of such action. Yet a discovery of the cause of the action, with the effects produced by it being made, together

with that of the means and manner in which they are produced, would be such advantages, that we might proceed with confidence to the discovery of a method of cure; by correcting or destroying the cause, by preventing or suppressing the action, and ultimately its effects; or by rendering the constitution or the part capable of resisting the influence of the disease. But diseases have been most generally cured by experiments, and the trials of different medicines, and then explanatory doctrines have been deduced from the facts. I cannot consider the induration and thickening of parts affected with *Cancer* as the commencement of the disease, but as sequels to an action excited by the *white lines* or *membranes*.

In the year 1804 Mr. *Abernethy* published, Surgical Observations, containing a Classification of Tumours, &c.

In these observations, Mr. *Abernethy* has considered, and with great judgment arranged Encysted Tumours, as a skilful Anatomist and Surgeon, according to their structure, contents, and the method of treatment which they require. One of the distinctions which he makes on the subject, is called the *Carcinomatous Sarcoma*, and this is our principal concern; but I may be allowed to mention a few previous circumstances. He thinks, "that the cysts of enlarged glands, which are of different degrees of thickness, are composed of

many *lamellæ*, formed by cellular membrane." Of this there may be some doubt, supposing, that when any poison, (or any thing which acts as a poison) is formed, or received into any part of the body, there generally commences a process, as a general principle or law of the constitution, by which the farther progress of such poison shall, if possible, be prevented, and restrained to the part where it was originally lodged, and that the cyst is the mediate instrument of such restraint. For this purpose the adhesion of inflammation may be sufficient in the first instance; but it may be presumed that an effusion of some fluid from the adjoining parts takes place, and this fluid thickened to a substance afterward becoming vascular, as in the case of inflamed membranes, may constitute the cyst. Should the adhesion of inflammation, or the cyst when formed, be insufficient to restrain the poison to the particular part, it is in many cases transferred by the lymphatics to the nearest gland to which they lead, and if it escape this, or successive glands, it will proceed to the constitution, making its devastation according to the qualities of the poison. Thus in the case of poison received in some part of the hand or fingers, the life of the patient is often preserved by the swelling of the glands at the elbow, or the axillary glands; unless the poison be of so active a nature as to outstrip, as it were, both the adhesion and

the swelling of the gland. This may have been the case with the man who was bitten by the rattlesnake; for not only did the limb suffer, but the general principle of life was in an instant so nearly extinguished, that it could not be preserved without the strongest stimulants very frequently repeated. If it be said that this poison acted immediately upon the nervous system, and not through the vascular, this supposition may be undeniable. But it may be asserted with equal truth, that *Cancer* has also its peculiar mode of devastation, for Mr. *Abernethy* himself has very sagaciously observed, that its effects are sometimes conducted "out of the course of absorption, or of the participation of irritation," and this remark deserves particular attention; for in what other way can it be possibly conveyed, except by means of these peculiar white transverse lines, or intervening membranes already mentioned?

It is proved, in Mr. *Abernethy's* opinion, "that there is a secretion from the internal surface of the cysts, which after a certain time, ulcerate (mechanically) from the accumulation of the fluid so secreted; or by the activity of the morbid principle contained in them, escaping or overcoming the restraining power of the cyst." But it is his own observation, that long before the cyst gives way, the disease *(Cancer)* is making its progress

into the constitution or the neighbouring parts, by means of the *firm whitish bands*; of the truth of which he gives this satisfactory proof. "If, after removing a carcinomatous tumour, the surgeon attend to the part taken away, he will see if any of those bands have been cut through, and when this is the case, whether some of the diseased substance, which ought to have been removed, has not been accidentally left. This circumstance cannot be observed by looking at the bleeding surface of the wound, but may be readily ascertained by examining the part which has been removed." This is a most important observation, because the propriety of removing the breast, or any other local part presumed to be cancerous, has generally rested, I believe, upon the neighbouring glands being free or unaffected by the disease; whereas this observation proves, that *Cancer* may spread its influence, in other ways, "out of the course of absorption," when the glands are clear. The observation explains the reason also why operations performed with the most favourable prospect have often terminated unsuccessfully.

In the account given of the structure of a carcinomatous tumour, Mr. *Abernethy* says, "that generally the diseased part is peculiarly hard, and there are mixed with it *firm whitish bands*: that there is no other striking circumstance, which can

be mentioned as *constantly* claiming attention, in the structure of the disease. These *firm whitish bands*, as described by Dr. *Baillie*, run sometimes in all directions, from the middle towards the circumference of a carcinomatous tumour, like rays from a centre, having little intervening matter. Sometimes these bands assume an arborescent arrangement, ramifying through the diseased substance." He adds, "*firm white bands*, like thickened and compact cellular substance, are seen, as the disease advances, to extend themselves from the original tumour, amidst the fat in which it is occasionally imbedded, intercepting portions of fat in the irregular *areolæ* which they form. These led Dr. *Adams* (to whose observations on various occasions we are much indebted) to conjecture that the fat might be originally diseased, and that these *white bands* might be a thickening of the cellular substance, which ensued as a consequence," but no notice has been taken of the fat being in a diseased state in the first instance. However these remarks are strong and repeated proofs that these *white bands* may work through a cyst long before it has undergone any apparent change.

Mr. *Abernethy* has also given an exact account of the structure of a carcinomatous testicle. After a decay of the looser parts of the diseased gland, by something equivalent to maceration, he says,

"the capsula remained perfect with a congeries of *flocculent fibres* occupying the interior part of it, which were doubtless the vessels and connecting cellular substance of the gland, not indurated by inflammation. There can be no doubt of the truth of the fact, if there be any of the explanation. This is sufficient for our present purpose."

But there is a circumstance or two more on which I beg leave to remark. He takes notice of two other cases. One of the tumours contained a fluid of the meliceritous kind, for which the patient was advised to use brine; of which application he perhaps speaks too slightingly, as the inflammation of the cysts thereby raised may be more complete, or the adhesion of the sides of the cysts facilitated, or the abolition of the cysts occasioned, and the contents more perfectly evacuated than by a small incision, or the feeble subsequent inflammation. Of the case of a wen cured by a number of small punctures into it, whereby a more serious operation was avoided, I entertain the same opinion, though the method does not meet with his approbation. It is not impossible but that at some future time both these methods, though not yet acknowledged in surgery, may be admitted into regular practice. In the case of *fungus hæmatodes*, the return of the disease after amputation is attributed to a part of the

cyst or disease being left behind. Of Mr. *Hey's* discovery of this disease Mr. *Abernethy* speaks most handsomely, as indeed does every other surgeon with whom I have conversed upon the subject. But in my apprehension, the diseased structure of the *hæmatodes* has not yet been sufficiently explored.

The whole of Mr. *Abernethy's* work shews the head and hand of a master; and should he live to finish what appears to be his plan, he will give a new face to doctrinal and practical surgery, as far at least as relates to tumours.

In the year 1805 Mr. *Home* published "Observations on *Cancer*, connected with Histories of the Disease." Of this work Mr. *Home* honoured me with the dedication, and I must ever acknowledge myself highly gratified by his good opinion.

Much credit is due to men of distinguished scientific abilities, and of high professional rank and character, who, whilst they are engaged in the active business of life, accustom themselves to keep regular accounts of cases, with the general result of their own practice, for the purpose of improving their profession. This observation applies with peculiar propriety to those gentlemen of whose works I have presumed to take this short review.

The first case related in these observations is that of a man who died with *Cancer* of the *penis*,

proceeding apparently from a violent injury received upon the part, some years before. The mischief done in the progress of the disease was really dreadful; but the great use arising from this remark is, "that while the disease was making its customary ravage on distant parts, it was stationary in the part first affected." This will incite us to make inquiry, what that state of the injured part is which disposes it to become cancerous; and it requires much consideration. For as accidents which seem to be of little consequence, as well as those which are more severe, are not unfrequently suspected to lay the foundation of, or to give rise to *Cancer*, especially in the breasts of women, we should by such inquiry be led to pay more attention than is usually thought necessary, in injuries of parts most liable to become cancerous. We may hope that when a cure for *Cancer* is once discovered, no long time will elapse before we acquire the knowledge of some method or means by which it may be prevented; of which perhaps this very case might have been an example.

In the second case it is observed, that from the ulcerated surface, a thin acrimonious fluid, limpid as water, was discharged in large quantities. This kind of discharge I have often known to be made in the beginning of *Cancer* of the *uterus*, and such

cases have in the sequel been of the most inveterate kind.

The first eight chapters of this work contain many extraordinary cases of *Cancer* in various parts of the body, interspersed with many very sensible and useful observations. Chapter 9th contains the author's observations on the nature, structure, and progress of cancer. Mr. *Home* is of opinion that "cancer is in every case, at one precise time, local in the strictest meaning of the term." The difficulty has been to fix the precise time when it ceases to be local, for this opinion will scarcely be controverted by any person who has made much inquiry, or thought much upon the subject. He also thinks "that *Cancer* is not a disease which immediately takes place in a healthy part of the body, but one, for the production of which it is necessary that the part should have undergone some change connected with disease." This may be easily comprehended, meaning, I presume, that there must be in the part a state favourable to the reception and progress of the germ of the disease, however that may be originally formed. In this chapter Mr. *Home* gives his very interesting and important description of the general appearances of a cancerous tumour, "when a section is made of such a tumour; in an early stage, when the structure is seen to advantage, it puts on the following ap-

pearances: the centre is more compact, harder to the feel, and has a more uniform texture than the rest of the tumour, and is nearly of the consistence (density) of cartilage. This middle part does not exceed the size of a silver penny, and from this, like rays, in every direction are seen *ligamentous bands of a white colour*, and very narrow, looking in the section like so many extremely narrow irregular lines passing to the circumference of the tumour, which is blended with the substance of the surrounding gland. In the interstices, between these bands, the substance is different, and becomes less compact towards the outer edge. On a more minute examination, *transverse ligamentous bands*, of a fainter appearance, form a kind of network, in the meshes of which the new-formed substance is enclosed. This structure accords with what Dr. *Baillie* describes to be the case in cancerous diseases of the stomach and *uterus*." He again observes, that "in a further advanced stage of the tumour, the whole of the diseased part has a more uniform structure; no central point can be distinguished; the external edge is more defined, and distinct from the surrounding gland; and the *ligamentous bands*, in different directions, are very apparent, but do not follow any regular course which can be traced. When the tumour has advanced to what may be called can-

cerous suppuration, which does not however always happen in the centre, before it has approached the skin and formed an internal sore, it then exhibits an appearance totally different from what has been described. In the centre is a small irregular cavity, filled with a bloody fluid, the edges of which are ulcerated, jagged, and spongy. Beyond these, there is a radiated appearance of *ligamentous bands*, diverging toward the circumference; but the tumour, near the circumference, is more compact, and is made up of distinct portions, each of which has a centre, surrounded by *ligamentous bands* in concentric circles. In some instances the scirrhus has no appearance of suppuration or ulceration in the centre, but consists of a cyst, filled with a transparent fluid, a fungous excrescence projecting into this cavity, the lining of which is smooth and polished."

In a subsequent part of the same chapter, Mr. *Home* has given a description of a tumour taken from the breast; " when the tumour had been macerated in water, for three days, in a cold season of the year, and was re-examined, its substance had become looser and more distinct; *ligamentous bands*, of a very slender texture, were readily observed in every part, forming a net work, in the interstices of which, a substance resembling imperfect granulations was included;" which sub-

stance so changed, I presume to have been effected by the influence of the *white* ligamentous bands.

Throughout this work, there will be found a great number of observations which will be of infinite use to all who wish to inquire more minutely into the structure of cancerous parts, and the manner in which the disease makes its progress; but the foregoing abstract is sufficient for the present purpose.

It is worthy of particular notice as a happy concurrence of circumstances, that when Dr. *Baillie* had mentioned the *white lines*, two men of great eminence should have taken up the subject, and besides the addition of many other observations, have applied the knowledge to practice.

I may venture to say that no facts admitted into the records of medicine, at any period of the world, were ever supported by more substantial and respectable testimony, than those which have been brought forward to prove the truth of the following inferences:

First, that in the structure of *all* carcinomatous glands, there exist those substances which Dr. *Baillie* has called *firm white lines*; Mr. *Abernethy*, *firm whitish bands*; and Mr. *Home*, *ligamentous bands*, of a *whitish colour*.

Secondly, that these substances have not been

found in any tumours, excepting such as were of a carcinomatous kind.

Thirdly, that these lines or bands, are not only found in the part where carcinomatous diseases originate, but in every part which becomes subsequently affected with the disease.

From these premises, we might be justified in coming to this further conclusion; that these lines, filaments, or bands, are constituent parts of *Cancer*, without which it never exists; to which may be added, that they are not only constituent parts of *Cancer*, but the medium by which the disease is conducted from one part to another; Mr. *Abernethy* having told us that "lymphatic glands, though out of the way of absorption, or of the participation of irritation, may become affected with the disease."

At some future time it may perhaps be discovered, what is the origin and ordinary course of these substances, whether they are vascular, and what kind of fluid passes through them; what is their uniform and exact arrangement; whether they are composed of links like the tape worm, or make their passage, like the ivy, by throwing out at short distances, little projections or holders. When a still more accurate knowledge of them is gained, our conjectures and opinions concerning them would be ascertained, and the principles of

practice probably very much improved. It may be a long time before the anatomist meets with a subject favourable to such very nice investigations, but in the mean while, practice may be much improved, by what has been already done, by repeated experiments, and by acute and persevering attention. It seems to be an indubitable fact, that far more information has been acquired of the nature and structure of *Cancer*, within a few years, than was known to all the generations of men which have gone before us.

The evident effects of various diseases, beginning with inflammation, and terminating in suppuration or ulceration, may be similar, though the cause be widely different; and the difference will be ascertained, by the antecedent circumstances and progressof the disease, by the effects of medicines, and by the previous knowledge which experience has afforded us; but not by any particular appearance in the purulent discharge consequent to such suppuration or ulceration. Thus we inoculate with matter taken from a variolous pustule, with a view of producing the same disease in another person, in a milder form; but we inoculate with the gross matter, though not apparently different from any other matter, presuming that in such matter, the specific particle or principle, capable of producing the disease, may be en-

veloped; yet of the existence of such specific particle, there is no other proof than in the particular effects which follow its insertion. The purulent matter discharged from a *bubo* or chancre in the venereal disease, has the appearance of matter produced by common inflammation, but the peculiar quality of the matter is proved by the effects it may afterwards produce, and by the operation of certain medicines in that disease. Suspicion may indeed be entertained of the nature of the disease, from the situation of the *bubo* or chancre, or by their appearance, but these are not positive proofs of their being venereal, because those disorders have been known to happen, in such situations, from other causes. Certainly men of experience in that disease are seldom mistaken in their opinions, but that is sometimes the case, of which there is an example in the first case of *Cancer* of the *penis* given by Mr. *Home*, which at the commencement, from its resemblance to a common chancre, was supposed to be, and treated as, the venereal disease.

The *Lupus* is attended with many symptoms common to *Cancer*, and it is often so named; yet it is almost certainly cured by some preparation of quicksilver and the decoction of *Sarsa*; and applications of the former to what may be called Lupous sores or ulcerations are beneficial. But

every preparation of quicksilver having been found to be always prejudicial in cancerous cases, we may conclude there is no identity between the cause of *Lupus* and of *Cancer*. Moreover, I think it has been observed, which will serve to distinguish the two diseases, that when the nose is affected with the venereal disease, the bones are commonly injured; but if with the *Lupus*, the cartilages are destroyed. The former also produces corroding, or deeply eating, as well as spreading ulcers, but the latter, an alteration of structure, not unlike an honeycomb, which, if not checked, proceeds to the throat, *œsophagus*, and stomach, and at length destroys the patient, by altering the structure and depraving the functions.

I am not sure of being right in my notion of *Noli me Tangere*, which has been described by authors in various ways, but by none of them very distinctly. I take it to have been intended to describe an enlarged and indurated part, suspected to be cancerous, or of a malignant kind; which, while it remains in a quiet state, we ought not to disturb by any interposition. Should it assume any action, the name of the disease is changed, and it is to be treated according to the state it may assume.

In scrophulous cases, it seldom happens that one gland only is affected, and the case is usually judged by the seat of the part, as the parotid or sub-

maxillary or cervical glands; but whether one or more of the glands be diseased, no specific cause is suspected. The whole would be considered as a general indication of debility of the constitution. When this was amended or restored to its proper standard, the gland or glands affected, however numerous, would by common treatment be repaired, as far as a gland, the natural structure of which has been altered by disease, can be repaired. The means used for the cure of the venereal disease, are not administered in *Scrophula*, because they have been found injurious. It may therefore be said, that there is no connexion between the cause or effects of *Syphilis* or *Lupus* and scrophulous diseases; or between those and *Cancer*, unless debility of constitution be considered as such. It is to the anatomists we shall be obliged for an accurate account of the changes of structure in these different diseases.

In the opinions given respecting cancerous cases, we are very much guided by the situation of the part affected, as well as by the state of the part. Lumps in the breast, as they are popularly called, are at all ages esteemed to be of a suspicious nature, especially if their surfaces are unequal, though they have not always a cancerous tendency. For there have frequently been instances, in which these lumps have appeared in females in early life, yet

were cured by such means as have been judged proper in scrophulous disorders; and sometimes, I believe, when it has been thought proper to extirpate them with the knife.

Till it is otherwise proved, let us take it for granted that *Cancer* is a disease *sui generis*, different as to its cause, progress, and manner of making its progress, from any other disease with which we are acquainted. It was before observed that, though the cause be specific, inflammation, which is the first obvious effect, is common, as it not unfrequently yields to the means used for the abatement or suppression of it by the ordinary treatment, such as local bleeding, cooling medicines, and applications, and by strict diet. If suppuration follow, this may proceed in the manner common to all suppurating parts, but the specific effects of the cause of *Cancer*, do not appear before the abscess breaks or is opened. But while the external inflammation or suppurating process is going on, the specific cause seems to be acting with vigour in the substance of the part. The effects of this action appear to be, first, the destruction of the natural structure of the part, and secondly, the conversion of the substance so destroyed, into the means by which its own peculiar structure may be fabricated; or, as Mr. *Abernethy* has well expressed it, may build its own edifice; or as the worm in the nut first devours the

kernel, afterwards perforates the shell. So in the progress of *Cancer*, when all its devastation is committed in one part, its own powers of making progress are advanced, and its resources in the part first affected are exhausted; it then breaks through its confinement, and proceeds to other parts, where it again produces equal devastation. This may perhaps explain the observation of Mr. *Home* in the case of the cancerous *penis*, "that the disease was stationary in the part where it originated, while it was making its horrible devastation in distant parts."

In cases of *Cancer*, there seem then to be two diseases existing at the same time: one proceeding from the specific cause; the other, being no more than common effects, though arising from that particular cause; but the effects are not the principal disease. The first seems to proceed from the spreading of the disease by the intervention of the *white filaments* or *bands*, but lately discovered and described; the other from inflammation or suppuration, raised by the positive injury done by absorption, or by the alarm given to the part invaded by those *bands* or *filaments*. If a consultation were to be held on the propriety of removing a cancerous breast, or other part, one of the first things done would be, to examine the state of the neighbouring glands. When the skin of the breast becomes wrinkled, or drawn

into lines, or when the nipple is retracted, it is to be apprehended that the whole breast is affected with the disease, and the operation would fail, if those parts so affected, especially the nipple, were not removed. But if those glands are found clear of disease, consent is given to the operation, because it is believed that every diseased part can be removed by it. But if any adjoining gland, those of the *axilla* in particular, be enlarged, or inflamed, there is always some hesitation, or it is not agreed upon, presuming it to be impossible to remove the whole disease. This reasoning is founded on the old opinion of *Cancer* consisting in diseased humours. Mr. *Abernethy* has spoken very distinctly on the subject of dividing the *white filaments*, or *bands*, in operations; that if a part of these be accidentally left behind, the disease will return. There is a person in Lancashire of the name of *Taylor*, who has an extensive, popular character for the cure of many diseases, especially of *Cancer*. It is a rule with him, at least since the filaments or bands were first described by Dr. *Baillie*, to endeavour to pick or drag out those, whenever an operation has been performed, or a cancerous tumour becomes open; with the intention of preventing the return, stopping the progress, or removing absolutely the disease. How far he may succeed in his endeavours, I have not been

informed, but his intention is right. *Taylor* is a very plain homely man, with much resolution, and a good natural understanding. He reads more than is suspected, or some person reads for him, so that if illiterate, he is not ignorant.

If one gland only be affected, or not many, and these can be safely come at with the knife, the operation is ventured upon and performed. Yet with all these precautions, the operation is often unsuccessful. This must happen, because the *white filaments*, which constitute an essential part of the disease, have advanced beyond the breast or glands, which appear to be diseased. In some cases also the operation has succeeded when one or more of the axillary glands have appeared to be diseased; and this, it may be presumed, happens when an absorption from the breast has preceded the advance of the *filaments*; and the swelling or induration has disappeared after the operation. When on the removal of the evidently diseased glands, the deeper seated ones are found affected, whatever care the operator took, the operation, as far as I know, was never successful. It is probable that if *Cancer* in the breast be a creature of the constitution, the operation, *cæteris poribus*, will be less likely to succeed, than if it were the consequence of an injury inflicted on the part. Such has been the uncertainty of these operations, in cases supposed to be

cancerous, that surgeons are become far less desirous of performing them, than seems to have been the practice formerly; when without much hesitation they removed the whole breast, or tumours of any kind, because they had the power of removing them. In the same manner abscesses were opened whenever the fluctuation of matter was perceptible, without judging of the relative or consecutive circumstances. To the credit of discovering the proper method of treating large abscesses Mr. *Abernethy* is entitled.

I may take this opportunity of speaking of another part of this subject. The extirpation of a cancerous part is usually spoken of by empirics, as if they had cured *Cancer*; but this cannot be allowed to be a proper or just mode of expression, though it may answer the purpose of enhancing their merit. The amputation of a leg is not curing a compound fracture, or a diseased foot.

There are two ways of removing cancerous breasts, by the knife and by caustics. In regular practice the former method has generally been preferred; by empirics the latter. What is the difference? The removal of the part by the knife is attended with pain comparatively of short duration, and not more violent probably than that occasioned by the caustic. So far the comparison is greatly in favour of the knife. The question

then to be decided is, whether after the extirpation of a cancerous tumour with the knife, the disease be more or less liable to return, than after the caustic. Here I feel inclined to prefer the caustic to the knife for a reason assigned by Mr. *Abernethy*, that if the *white filaments* are divided, and a part of them left behind, the disease will return; but if the caustic were used, then all the adjoining fatty substance for a considerable distance is left discoloured, and somewhat altered in its texture, from the influence of the caustic; and there is reason to believe, wherever that influence extends, the *white filaments* will be destroyed, which may be called the instruments of the disease. The trials made at the *Edinburgh* Hospital to prove the comparative security of the patient from a return of the disease, when much or little skin was preserved, clearly shewed the propriety of removing as much of the skin, cellular membrane, and fatty substance, as could be safely done; though it had not then been observed that the *white bands* or *filaments* were often imbedded in the fatty substance.

The old way of employing the caustic as described from *Fuchsius*, I think, was by covering the whole of the diseased part intended to be removed with the preparation, which was usually arsenical, duly mixed, and renewing the application afterwards, till it had corroded through the diseased to

the healthy parts. Latterly it has been the practice, I understand, to draw a line round the diseased part, and to apply the caustic to the line only, repeating the application at proper intervals, till the whole substance within the circle was dug out. This has been ostentatiously exhibited as *Cancer*, the decayed substance on the surface of which was described as claws or small extremities of the disease. Nothing can be well imagined more painful than this operation; but such is the dread of this disease and of cutting, that here are at all times people found, who submit to it. It is necessary to give large doses of opium when the caustic is applied, and to supply the patients frequently with cordials to enable them to support the torture it occasions.

If it should happen that the *white filaments* do not outstrip the absorption of the matter from the axillary or other neighbouring glands, but remain confined to the breast, when this is removed, the whole disease may possibly be taken away; and the absorption to the gland being considered as an accidental circumstance, and no constituent part of the disease, the operation will succeed, and the axillary gland will be restored to health soon afterwards. It may be possible, by careful observation, to distinguish between these cases. But every gland becoming diseased by being a new nest, as it were, of the disease, forms also a new centre from

which it spreads to other parts, probably in the manner before described. In examining the structure of a cancerous gland, early in the disease, Mr. *Home* observes, there is but one centre, but in the advanced state, there are many centres, and that *filaments* or *bands* run in concentric circles. Hence it may be supposed, that if one of these centres were entirely removed, little progress would be made towards a cure, as every circle may be a different root of the disease.

If *Cancer* be allowed to be a disease *sui generis*, it appears to be so only by the *white bands* or *filaments*, which have not yet been discovered in any other disease. If they were, that disease would probably be as difficult of cure as *Cancer*, by whatever name it might be called. It is not therefore to be expected there should be an exact resemblance between *Cancer* and any other disease to which the human body is subject. Should it be further inquired whether there be much resemblance or analogy between *Cancer*, and any disease to which animals are subject, the answer would be doubtful; for though they are known to have wens, and ulcerations of different kinds, which admit of a cure with much difficulty; some resembling *scrophula*, more particularly in swine, the *herpes exedens*, and the like, it is not said that they have *Cancer*. We may then inquire why are animals exempt from

Cancer? is this exemption to be assigned to the different structure of their bodies, or to their living a more natural life, the greater part abstaining from animal food, and all of them from fermented liquors? We may then inquire whether that part of mankind which lives in the free and unrestrained use of all kinds of fermented liquors and certain kinds of diet, are more liable to *Cancer* than those who abstain from them, or use them more sparingly. It will then in all probability be decided, that those who live indulgently, keeping their bodies in a state constantly bordering on fever, are more liable to this disease, than those who live temperately. It is also thought, if not proved, that those who become corpulent or fat, through indolence and indulgence, are more liable to *Cancer* and many other diseases, than such as are of a thin habit from scanty living and regular exercise. It is also ascertained that *Cancer* is a more rapid and intractable disease in the corpulent and fat, than in persons of a spare habit. Fat, in every animal body, seems indeed to be a substance perfectly useless to their present well being; it may be considered as a store laid up for the sustenance of the body when deprived of external means of nourishment, and, like other stores, is more likely to be superfluous than deficient.

It is admitted that *Cancer* more frequently af-

fects parts concerned with the venereal appetite than others; but it has not appeared how far the unreasonable indulgence of that appetite may dispose to this disease, though it may to many other punishments. The proofs of this might be taken from those who lead a life of common prostitution; but these most unhappy beings become sacrifices at so early a period of their lives, few of them reaching the thirtieth year of their age, that the opportunities of making correct observations are generally lost.

With the following information I have been favoured by my friends to whom I applied for their remarks on this subject.

Dr. *Pelham Warren* observed that in the most violent pain attending cancerous diseases, the vascular system was little disturbed, the pulse often remaining quiet and regular. I do not recollect that this circumstance occurs in any other disease.

Dr. *Robertson*, who has been for many years physician to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, tells me, that he could only recollect seven cases of *Cancer*, and then it happened to old men. We may hence conclude that there is nothing in the diet or circumstances of a seafaring life which disposes to this disease.

Dr. *Ruddiman*, who resided many years on the coast of *Coromandel*, the natives of which are very

cleanly in their persons, and a remarkably temperate race of people, informs me that they are little liable to *Cancer*. I have no just reason for saying that uncleanliness actually causes this disease, but certainly cleanliness in our habitations prevents many diseases, and in our persons renders us less susceptible of them.

It has not been observed that those who work in manufactories of any kind are peculiarly liable to *Cancer*; nor those who work in mines or coal-pits; nor in any other occupation or employment, saving the poor chimney-sweepers, in whose disease, though called *Cancer*, I am not capable of judging, whether there be any thing specifically different from common *Cancer*.

It can hardly be doubted but that women are more liable to *Cancer* than men; yet it has not been proved that unmarried women are more subject to *Cancer* than those who are married.

Dr. *Adams* observed, that this disease was very rare in the nunneries or monasteries in the island of *Madeira*: but it will be recollected that, together with a life of celibacy, there is practised a constant controul over all other turbulent passions.

I think it remains a doubt whether those married persons who do, or do not suckle their infants, are more liable to *Cancer*.

It has been concluded that steril women, when married, are more subject to *Cancer* than those

who have children. But there are so many different causes of sterility, it is to be presumed that the decision applies only to one cause.

Women who menstruate irregularly or with pain, or who have profuse discharges at each period, are suspected to be more liable to *Cancer* than those who are regular, or who do not suffer at those times.

Suspicions have been entertained by some, that *Cancer* is an hereditary disease. But this can only be allowed so far as relates to some peculiarity of structure, or some disposition, rather than as a necessary consequence, as in gout and several others. But in addition to any peculiarity of structure or disposition, it is to be supposed that children live in some measure according to the manner of their parents, and a more powerful influence may be derived from this than from any other cause.

There has been no little difficulty in determining what is the earliest period of life at which *Cancer* has appeared, and at what period we are most liable to it. To the latter, I believe, may be answered, without much hesitation, in advanced life, and to women about the time of the cessation of the menses, not because of any malignity from the retention of these, as some have supposed, but because a part disposed to disease was deprived of a local discharge by which it had been relieved. The earliest case I ever saw was *Cancer* of the

tongue in a young woman about seventeen years of age. She had never menstruated, and when it appears before the time of puberty, it has not been observed to affect parts concerned with the venereal appetite.

Within these few years much attention has been paid to the diseases of the vegetable tribe, and these have been in several instances intelligently compared to those of animals. In those accounts the term *Cancer* is given to one appertaining to trees, but this seems to resemble more the *herpes exedens*, or gangrene, than *Cancer* in the human species. This is said to be cured by cutting away all the diseased part, and then favouring the healing of the wound by suitable applications, and such means as promote the activity of the powers inherent in the tree. Wounds and injuries of every kind are said to be repaired by processes similar to those which take place in animals, and this opinion, as far as I have learned by common observation, without studying the subject, is just. The anastomosing of branches is too common a circumstance to deserve notice.

In every class of animated beings, animal or vegetable, there exists a peculiar kind of life, or different gradations of the living principle. Not the least curious or wonderful of which is in the

tribe of mushrooms, and of these it has been doubted, whether they are to be classed as animals or vegetables, or whether they be not animal substances, vegetating like plants. Each individual of this tribe has its peculiarity of structure, origin, progress, duration, and qualities, some of them being wholesome food, and others the most active poisons. The *Boletus Lachrymans*, or, as it is quaintly called, the Dry Rot, from its effects on timber, though it cannot exist without moisture, has been often described. When trees have been cut down and reduced into the forms of beams, planks, or boards, they will continue perfectly sound for an indefinite number of years, according to their original texture, though liable to premature decay from various adventitious causes. Of this premature decay, the fungus called the Dry Rot is the most frequent cause in certain situations, and in every kind of timber. The growth of this fungus is extremely curious, originating in what is called diseased or altered ground; but whether it be produced from seed, or the fermentation of different substances, is not now material. It launches forth an infinite number of fine *white silky fibres*, which, if covered with stone, run for a great length, even under the whole floor of a room, sometimes forming large flakes, membranes, or sheets of the same texture. If the stones are laid so closely, that the

lines cannot escape through the seams, it creeps on still further till it finds an opening or exposure to the air, and then a fungus of a large size, and of a beautiful orange colour, sprouts forth. When this is come to a state of perfection it throws off or scatters around it an immense number of seeds of a brick colour, and almost as small as dust. The silky filaments do not always run in a straight direction, but diverging, not like the branches of a tree, but like a vine nailed to the wall, or as the ivy running up a tree to which it clings, by fixing, at certain distances, a kind of talon or nail into the bark of the tree, ever wanting some support in its progress. I might here observe, that these talons of the ivy bear, in their form and arrangement, an exact resemblance to the *lines* described in one of Dr. *Baillie's* plates. In the *creeper*, as it is vulgarly called, the talons or holders spring from the tree singly, and then throw off branches or feet, by which it fixes upon the wall which supports it. They are of a wiry texture, and resemble the foot of a fowl.

If any timber lies in the way, and the silky filaments of the *Boletus Lachrymans* come into contact with it, they penetrate into its very substance, completely destroying its texture; and timber which has been pervaded by the filaments, if of fir, has not a particle of terebinthinate matter re-

maining in it; or of whatever kind it may be, it has the appearance as if it had been under the influence of fire, being warped, and in many parts rendered as dry and light as powder, not unlike the substance called touch-wood.

Many remedies have been recommended for the destruction of this fungus, some to alter the quality of the ground in which it exists by means of some metallic substance which destroys all vegetative power in the soil; and that most commonly used, and thought most efficacious, is some ferruginous matter, as the scoria of manufactories in iron, or the refuse of vitriol works. Other remedies are taken from contrivances to have a constant succession of dry air, thus preventing any supply of moisture, when it inevitably decays entirely. But if any of the silky filaments escape to a part where they can get moisture, or are out of the reach of the metallic substance, they will live and produce the effects before mentioned. These silky filaments, I have persuaded myself, bear an analogy to the white bands, lines, or filaments, peculiar to cancerous disorders, in their appearance, manner, and office. If this conjecture be unfounded, I trust the reader will excuse my obtruding it upon his notice.

The ancients seem always to speak of *Cancer* as if it were a creature possessing life, distinct from

that of the general frame; giving it an election also on what substances it should attach. Perhaps it may be as difficult to explain or comprehend the manner in which an embryo becomes a living creature, as it would be to assign a satisfactory reason why *Cancer* should not be a living creature, possessing some peculiar species of life, like that of a parasitical plant. All the works of nature are mysteries, and each part, when we come to inquire minutely into first causes, is equally mysterious, except as far as the great Creator of all things has been pleased to enable us to explain his works; which power of explanation may, in fact, be considered as a revelation. It may be doubted whether any man who ever made a discovery of any thing unknown, of the highest importance to human beings, could himself conceive, much less impart to others, the manner how the first thoughts which led to the discovery came into his mind. Of life we know nothing but from its effects, and it does not appear that if we admit *Cancer*, like the *polypus*, to possess a life distinct from that of the general frame, the difficulty of discovering a cure for the disease would be in any degree increased. We may therefore without prejudice consent to the opinion of the ancients, that it actually is a living creature, and taking one step farther, allow, that every part of this creature,

when separated from the body, is as perfect and capable of becoming another creature as the parent body from which it was separated. In every species of mushroom there is, from beginning to end, a great disposition to generate *fungus*. Who could have suspected that the effect of the blight in corn was to generate an infinite number of such mushrooms.

I come in the next place to consider the means which have been recommended for the cure of *Cancer*, and shall begin with a case extracted from a Work published in the year 1780.

An Account of the Methods pursued in the Treatment of Cancerous and Scirrhous Disorders and other Indurations. By J. O. Justamond, F. R. S. and Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital.

"In the year 1770, a lady applied to me with a cancerous complaint of a very malignant nature. She had been afflicted with it nearly thirteen years. It had consisted of two scirrhous tumours, which had been removed about three years before by Mr. *Guy's* method. That gentleman was never able to close the wound entirely; and though the lady remained tolerably well for some time after the removal of the tumours, yet there was a little

crack subsisting, which furnished occasionally a greater or less quantity of discharge. Mr. *Guy* dying some time after this, and the patient growing worse, she applied to his son, from whom she received no benefit. She afterwards shewed the part to several eminent surgeons, who all advised her to do nothing to it, except to keep the wound clean. When I first saw her, the appearances were as follow. One large, oblong, pale, ill-conditioned wound in the middle, extending nearly throughout the whole scar formed by the previous application of Mr. *Guy's* caustic. This wound, surrounded by several smaller, some near, some at a distance from the larger one, and all discharging an ichorous, acrimonious fluid, which frequently inflamed and excoriated the parts on which it fell, and thus produced other wounds. The edges of the wound were tucked in, and those of the large one in particular, extremely indurated. From the most external part of the large wound, there arose a kind of cord of considerable hardness and bulk, which extended quite into the armpit, occasioned pain, and sometimes a degree of swelling in the arm of that side, and rendered the operation impracticable. Mr. *Falkwasser* and Mr. *Yatman*, were both witnesses of the case and the result of it."

From this statement of the case, it cannot be doubted, but that this was true Cancer, not only

from Mr. *Justamond's* account, but from Mr. *Guy* having before applied the caustic, from the advice given to the patient by several eminent surgeons, and from the testimony of the two worthy and respectable men whom he has named. He then proceeds

" This I considered as a fair case to make trial of the hemlock-bath, which I was induced to do, from an account of its success I had met with some years before, written in the German language, by *Storck*, and which I translated and published in London, a short time after I returned from that country. I had already recommended this bath to some poor persons who applied to me, in the course of a few years, with cancerous complaints; but, though I offered to defray the expenses of the apparatus and the plant for them, yet I could induce very few to try it; and those who did use it two or three times, could not be prevailed upon to continue long enough to find any (good) effect from it; alleging that it was a method too troublesome for them and their families. On the other hand, hemlock was fallen into such general discredit among the faculty in England, and they were so particularly prejudiced against any thing which had the name of coming from Germany, that I could not prevail upon any of

my medical friends to try this new mode of introducing it into the habit."

This animadversion is hardly just. Hemlock was tried in every form, quantity, and method, immediately after its introduction into England, when recommended by Dr. *Storck*; but there was in a short time full proof that hemlock did not cure *Cancer*. *Storck* seems to have been an empirical enthusiast, who was not accurate in his account of the diseases which he reports as cured by it, or in that of the events.

"I resolved however not to propose this bath to my patient at first, in order not to alarm her; but to give a fair trial to the internal use of the extract of hemlock, and the external application of the plant in poultices and fomentations. She persisted for a long time, and the dose of the extract was gradually increased as far as it could be borne, but without any visible (good) effect, except a trifling alteration for the better, upon the first trial of it, or upon the first varying of these applications for some other. A year and a half, or more, passed away in this manner, during which time she tried the extract of hemlock, the sublimate, the carrot poultice, and many other things, without obtaining any relief. On the contrary she grew visibly worse. Long continuance of excru-

ciating pain had reduced her to an extreme degree of weakness and emaciation. Her countenance was become quite livid. The (local) disease was much advanced in its progress, both with respect to the number and condition of the sores, and the extent and size of the indurations. Such in a word was her state in the month of December 1771, that her family justly apprehended, it would not be long before they should be deprived of a valuable relation and friend."

Mr. *Justamond* then proceeds:—" I had frequently taken the opportunity of endeavouring to persuade my patient to try the hemlock bath, but all my expostulations to this purpose were unavailing; so that, chagrined at the inefficacy of all the methods pursued, I had been lately revolving a design of trying the outward application of Salt Ammoniac, which I had always considered as a substance of powerful resolutive properties, and of course as a very useful topic in all indurations. I could not however readily determine upon the mode of using it in these cases, and in this dilemma communicated my ideas to Dr. *Morris*, in hope that his well-known abilities in chemistry, might assist me in settling this point. Upon my mentioning the Salt Ammoniac to him, he informed me that there was an account just published in one of the German Ephemerides, of a chemical prepa-

ration used with success in cancerous cases, in which that medicine was a principal ingredient. I procured the account, and found that the medicine was a tincture of equal parts of Salt Ammoniac and iron, in rectified spirit of wine, with the addition of oil of vitriol and oil of tartar, and directions were given for applying it. The exact mode of preparing it, shall be given at the end of this section. At present let it suffice to say, that I resolved to try it, and accordingly desired the favour of Dr. *Morris* to prepare it for me.

"The liquid being ready, I began using it as directed in the following manner. I dipped a small pencil brush into it, and smeared all the edges of the sore, and every part that was indurated with it, taking all possible care that the liquid should not run down into the ulcers themselves. The part besmeared was then suffered to dry; the wounds were covered with dry lint, and the edges with the same. It being scarce possible to prevent some of the liquid from insinuating itself into the sore, there was generally a degree of smart accompanying the dressing, but this soon subsided. My patient was directed to repeat this application of the liquor to the edges, and to all the indurated parts two or three times a day, as she could bear it. Finding in a little while that there was a visible alteration for the better, I ventured to use

the liquid more freely, and after having smeared all the indurated edges as before, dipt in it some pieces of lint or rag doubled, and layed them wet all over the edges and indurations. By this contrivance the liquid remained active upon the parts for a much more considerable space of time, and the patient had nothing more to do, than with the pencil brush, to soak the lint again as often as it became dry, or as she could support the smart. When it appeared that the liquid produced an alteration in the edges and indurated parts, I resolved to wash the ulcers themselves with it, lowering it for this purpose with water, and trying the mixture upon my tongue, till I judged it was sufficiently mild. When it happened that the edges were inflamed or excoriated by the frequent use of this sharp liquid, it was suspended till they were recovered, which they generally were in twenty-four hours. In this manner I proceeded for about three months, at the expiration of which time, the pain of the disease was less, the edges and induration began to soften, and the discharge from the sore was ameliorated.

"Notwithstanding these favourable appearances, I observed with much chagrin, that although my patient, being free from pain, was rather better in health than when this process was first entered

upon, yet the amendment in this respect was not nearly so evident as in the others. This was a material circumstance to attend to. But in what manner was this amendment to be brought about? All the ordinary remedies given as alteratives, or with an intent to restore the exhausted strength of the body, had been already administered in vain. Reflecting then upon the good effects produced by the liquid externally applied, it seemed probable to me, that a medicine of a similar nature might be given internally with some prospect of success: the *flores martiales (ferrum ammoniatum)* occurred as the preparation nearest to it, and I was the more induced to try it in this instance, from considering the invigorating power of the iron contained in it. Accordingly it was made into pills with a solution of gum arabic, each pill containing three grains of the medicine, of which the patient took at first two in the day. Five grains of the *flores martiales* were soon after put into each pill, and the dose was gradually increased, till twelve of these last pills were taken in the course of every day. When this method had been continued for *six weeks*, my patient's health was visibly mended, her complexion cleared, and her strength much recovered. Encouraged by these promising appearances, and finding that the medicine did not disagree, the dose of the *flores*

martiales was increased to ten grains in each pill, of which pills from twelve to twenty were taken in the day. The only inconvenience she ever experienced from this was, a little sickness at her stomach now and then, which was easily removed by a tea-spoonful of brandy or some warm wine, and which might perhaps be as much owing to the swallowing of a number of pills in the day, as to any effect of the medicine. It is to be observed that upon an average, my patient may be said to have taken between two and three drachms of the *flores martiales* every day, for a long continuance, without inconvenience. A few of my cancerous patients have since taken from three drachms to half an ounce of the same medicine in the same space of time, and likewise without any inconvenience, though it must be acknowledged, that this medicine, as well as others, can be borne by some in much larger quantities than by others; so that upon the whole, whether the pills are made with five or ten grains of the medicine, it may be as well to restrain the dose to about two drachms in the day, which from experience I am inclined to think will not disagree with any patient. And even this is an almost incredible dose, when we consider how seldom this medicine has been prescribed, and when it has, how sparingly.

"Three or four months after the giving of this medicine, that is about seven months (weeks) after the first application of the liquid, my patient was so much mended in every respect, that I began to entertain hopes of effecting a cure. The internal use of this invigorating medicine had so far restored her health, that she appeared like a new creature. The pain of the disease was almost entirely subdued, the indurations were all of them considerably softened, and in some places totally resolved. The cord under the armpit was much lessened. The large wound was contracted, and some of the small ones closed: the discharge from them was generally good.

"But the appearances of the sores were not so satisfactory to me, as the changes produced in other circumstances; and I soon grew sensible that there wanted some other application to them. Though some of the small wounds were healed, yet they broke out again, and this fresh ulceration was always attended with pain, and brought on at first an ichorous and acrimonious discharge. The sores in general were tolerably clear and free from sloughs, but the surface of them was rather reticulated than granulating; and when touched ever so slightly, their sensibility was so exquisite, that it was evident they were still in a fungous or cancerous state, and not yet disposed to heal properly. The common

caustics had scarce any effect upon them; neither did there appear any permanent advantage from touching them occasionally with the liquid unmixed with water. Encouraged however by the progress already made, and unwilling to have such fair prospects blasted, I resolved to try the effect of *arsenic* applied to the sores. I was aware that the fatal symptoms brought on by an indiscreet use of this medicine, had induced many eminent and learned men to reprobate it entirely; while others, it must be acknowledged, of equal repute, affirmed that it was of infinite service in cancerous affections. Sensible at the same time that this application would necessarily occasion pain, it was my desire to find out the least painful method of using it. In this view, it occurred to me, that if it were possible to make a preparation of it that should immediately act upon touching the sore, as the lunar caustic does, that the pain, however sharp at first, would not be of long duration. This idea was communicated to Dr. *Morris*, who was desired, if possible, to make such a preparation. The Doctor told me he had a preparation of *arsenic* by him, the effect of which he could not take upon him to ascertain, but believed it would be milder than the crude mineral. It consisted of equal parts of arsenic, copper, tin, and mercury, distilled in spirits of wine, and afterwards in oil of vitriol, as it

was agreed upon between us, that the action of the arsenical salt would rather be lowered than exalted by this combination, and process, I determined to try this preparation. Though I had gathered from reading, as well as general report, that the arsenic must have been used externally in pretty considerable quantities for the cure of cancerous complaints, and that with success, yet I was resolved to proceed with all possible caution in my trial of a medicine of the effects of which I had not yet been an eye-witness. I therefore reduced the mass Dr. *Morris* gave me into impalpable powder, took as small a particle of it as I could possibly separate, and laid it on the middle of one of the small sores, the size of which did not exceed that of a sixpence. I staid with my patient a considerable time to watch the effect of this first trial, and returned in the evening to inquire what degree of pain she had felt, intending, had it been violent, to prescribe her some opiate to appease it. But although she had felt the action of the medicine, yet the portion of it was so small, that the pain was very tolerable. When the part was dressed next day, it appeared, that an eschar was produced, which had extended itself beyond the point where the powder had been applied. In order to ascertain the effect of this topic, it was necessary that the eschar should be made to spread quite over the sur-

face of the sore, and therefore I contrived to bring this about gradually by a repeated application of the powder in small quantities, sometimes with more, sometimes with less pain. It was my wish to observe what alteration would be made upon this little sore, after the separation of the eschar, before the powder was applied to the other ulcers, that my patient might be preserved from any further unnecessary pain, if it should be found not to succeed in this first trial. The experiment was carried on so slowly and with so much caution, that a few days elapsed, before the eschar had pervaded the whole surface of the sore. It was soon thrown off, not being deep, and in a few days after this, I had the satisfaction to find the little ulcer perfectly cicatrized. In the mean while it was observed with pleasure that the case continued mending in every other particular. This course was therefore stedfastly persevered in; the liquid was used outwardly to all the indurated parts, the martial flowers were taken internally in as large a dose as they could be borne, and the arsenical powder was applied at different intervals to all the sores, in greater or less quantity, as it was judged necessary, to make the eschar more or less deep. Some of the ulcers were very obstinate, and it became necessary to renew the application of the powder to them, after the separation of the first,

sometimes of the second, and even of a third eschar. It may be presumed that the patient underwent a great deal of pain in the course of this treatment. It must be owned she did; and my attention was chiefly engaged in devising methods to give the least pain it was possible to give, and to alleviate it when it rose to any degree of violence. This did not happen often, and when it did, it was found, that the external application of an anodyne fomentation, composed of twelve poppy heads bruised, and boiled in little more than a quart of water, till reduced to a quart, was much more effectual than the internal use of opium, which at the same time was not however neglected. The warm bath proved also of great service in this particular. By thus stedfastly persevering, success was at length obtained, and in the month of March 1773, about fifteen months after the first application of the liquid, the wound was completely cicatrized."

About six months after the healing of the wound, the cicatrix was scratched, but it was healed by using simple dressings. In the year 1777, near four years and a half that the patient had continued free from any complaint, she received another injury on her breast which occasioned the cicatrix to break out again: she was no longer under his care, but we are led to believe that the case then terminated fatally.

This case is transcribed nearly in the words of the author, that the reader may form his own jugdment of it. It is a tedious and ill-told history, but I have not known the veracity of the author, though he was a vain-glorious man, disputed. His mind was unreflecting and his conduct fugitive, for after describing the preceding case, which terminated successfully beyond his expectations, he lost sight of the advantages he had gained, and applied himself to the discovery of another method of curing *Cancer*. But if such discovery be ever made, it is not material whether or no it be done by a person of whose abilities or intellectual endowments we entertain a very high opinion; or even of a person who was not educated to the profession. It is however the duty of professional men to guard the public against the fraudulent and audacious conduct of empirics, as far as their power extends; but the application for relief to that class of people, seems to be an inherent principle in human beings, when distressed by disease and urged by natural impatience.

I have further to observe, that this author speaks of Dr. *Morris* as merely subservient to his views; but he was one of the physicians of the same hospital, well informed, of a respectable character, and particularly unassuming; who gave lectures for

many years on chemistry, when that science was little cultivated in this country. It must however be acknowledged, that Mr. *Justamond* has given a case of undoubted *Cancer*, in the face of the world, when the parties concerned were living, which was cured perfectly, and remained well for several years. This could hardly have been done, had it not been truly stated, because it was every day open to contradiction. The extraordinary circumstance is, that no one person, whatever opinion might have been entertained of him, should have pursued an inquiry into the merit of the means and methods he had used. Since that time preparations of iron have been given, often with some success, in dangerous diseases, though in a less efficacious manner than *Justamond* used them. But no one, to my apprehension, is entitled to so much credit on this occasion as Mr. *Carmichael*, a Surgeon at Dublin, who published in the year 1809, the second edition of "An Essay on the Effects of Carbonate and other Preparations of Iron, on *Cancer*, &c."

This work is divided into three classes:

1. Cases of *Cancer* cured by Preparations of Iron.

2. Cases of *Cancer* alleviated by Preparations of Iron.

3. Cases of *Cancer* unalleviated by preparations of Iron.

In the first class of these cases, there are obviously many which certainly were not cancerous. A few of them I shall however transcribe, because if it be not admitted that they were of that description, the method of cure is not without its value.

Case 3d. "A small pimple first appeared at the side of the nose of a young lady, which by frequent irritation degenerated into that species of ulcer termed, *Noli me tangere*. Many experienced practitioners were consulted, who informed her friends of the nature of her inveterate complaint; and at the same time prescribed *Cicuta*, *Calomel*, Arsenical Lotions, and the other remedies employed in *Cancer*, but without any beneficial effect.

"On the 10th of October, 1805, in the sixth year of the progress of the disease, carbonate of Iron was first applied, at which period the ulcer was irregular, with high and everted edges, and discharged a thin ichor, while redness and induration extended over the greater part of her nose, so that there were serious apprehensions that the cartilage and bones were engaged in the disease.

"But on the use of Iron, the pain in a few hours ceased, and the application not having been disturbed for two days, a scab formed, which fell off at the end of that time, leaving the sore evidently

amended, and discharging healthy looking matter. The rust was applied daily till the sixteenth, when a dry crust formed, which dropping off in a few days, left the part completely healed."

Here it may be surmised that the speedy relief was to be attributed to the change of treatment, and the disuse of improper applications, as much perhaps as to the preparation of Iron. But the event proves Mr. *C's* superior judgment, and that the preparation of Iron was at least as proper an application as any which could have been used. The term *pimple* cannot be well understood. There are sometimes such appearances upon the nose as threaten mischief.

Case 9th. "On the 7th of May, I was called to see Mrs. *R*—— aged 59, who though of a delicate constitution, had a healthy complexion and appearance for a woman at her time of life. There was a hard insensible tumour of a dark liver colour, about the size of a turkey's egg, projecting from the centre of the right breast; the integuments had withdrawn themselves from this tumour by an inflammatory line of separation, similar to that we observe to take place in parts which are mortified, but this did not go deeper than a quarter of an inch. The tumour, though it engaged the greater part of the breast, was not attached below, nor were the axillary glands affected. I shall give

the history of her case in Dr. *Barlow's* words, under whose care she was before her application to me, and though its favourable termination is anticipated in his letter, yet I shall detail from my notes the progress of her amendment, as I make no doubt so remarkable a case must excite the attention of every practitioner."

"SIR,

As you desired, I inquired of Mrs. *R.* how long she had had the hardness in her breast before she applied to me. "She told me she perceived the hard lump in her breast still increasing in size for several months; it then became painful, with frequent darting pains, which grew more troublesome every day for some months."

"When I first saw it there was a hard irregular tumour, a very small ulcer just at the nipple, and a darkness of the skin, almost the whole extent of the tumour, which left me in little doubt of all that part becoming ulcerated in a very short time; and from every appearance, with the shooting pains and burning heat she complained of, I had no doubt in my mind of its being a confirmed *Cancer*.

"She began to take the carbonate of Iron, as you directed in your Essay, five grains every fourth or fifth hour, and the ulcer was not only sprinkled with it, but all the discoloured parts were covered

with it wet, in form of a poultice: this was renewed twice a day. In three or four days, the diseased skin began to separate all round from the sound, which separation still continued to get deeper every day, so that that part of the hard tumour was evidently separated to a considerable depth from the sound part of the breast; and from the good matter produced, and the healthy appearance of the surrounding edges, I had every expectation that the tumour would in time, by the application of the carbonate, be entirely thrown off by the sound parts. She went then under your care, and since her return home has continued in good health, with her breast (which she shewed me) perfectly healed, and free from either pain or hardness.

J. BARLOW."

By the sequel of this case we are informed, that the patient was restored to perfect health, that no medicines or applications were used, but some of the preparations of Iron, and that she remained well at the end of two years.

Great allowance is to be made for the partiality which all men entertain for their own sentiments and proposals, and much may be granted to Mr. *Carmichael*. But this case does not stand on his own evidence, but upon that of Dr. *Barlow*, who

had no doubt of its being a case of confirmed *Cancer*, of its being cured by the preparations of Iron, or the confirmation of the cure for two years afterwards.

Case 10th. "In July 1806 I was requested to see, with Dr. *Toole*, a young lady about twenty-four years of age, who was afflicted with *Cancer* in her right breast. On examination both the breasts were found to be greatly enlarged, but below the right nipple she pointed out a hard lump, situated in the midst of the glandular structure of the breast, and mentioned that she had frequent severe shooting pains in the part. Her mind was so distressed on the occasion that she earnestly requested the breast might be taken off: but she was recommended to try the effect of medicine, before recourse was had to an operation of so much moment. Ten grains of the precipitated carbonate of Iron were accordingly ordered to be taken three times a day, and a weak solution of the sulphate of Iron to be constantly applied by means of linen compresses to the breast. She persevered for three months in this course, during which time her general health greatly improved, the lancinating pains almost entirely ceased, and she conceived the tumour was much lessened. At this period she was obliged to intermit her medicine, on account of the return

of severe attacks of *Dyspnœa*, to which she had been long subject. She was greatly reduced by this complaint, and during its continuance the shooting pains returned, which threw her into such despondence, she again insisted upon having the breast extirpated. This I told her I did not conceive to be yet absolutely necessary, and added, in order to satisfy her mind, that it would be right to have further advice on the subject. In consequence Mr. *Richards* and Mr. *Piele* were called in, who were of opinion that the operation would be improper, as they were not convinced that the disease was cancerous, and that an operation of so great importance should not be undertaken, unless its necessity was very evident. She afterwards resumed the ferruginous preparations, but took in place of the carbonate, ten grains of the Oxyphosphate of Iron, three times a day, and applied to her breast a lotion composed of one part of Acetate of Iron to three of water. Under this treatment the lancinating pains began to diminish in frequency, and soon entirely ceased; the hardness gradually became less evident, and after six months, during which time she persevered in the use of the medicine, was not perceptible. She has since been married, and has issue, and at present enjoys the most perfect health."

To this case Dr. *Toole* is to be considered as

bearing testimony in the first instance; and though the gentlemen who were afterwards called into consultation, were doubtful whether the disease was really cancerous, it is not said that the case did not resemble *Cancer*, but was not ascertained to be such; which, it may be presumed, could hardly have been proved except by the extirpation of the part, or by the death of the patient. Mr. C. was of opinion that it was *Cancer*, and any person acquainted with such complaints, must have been very apprehensive for the consequence. No other medicines were proposed but those recommended by Mr. C.; and the patient, by six months perseverance in the use of them, was restored to perfect health.

Case 16th. "*Diana Blackburne*, aged 58, applied to me on the 6th of July 1807, with an open *Cancer* of the breast, the ulcer deep and irregular, with elevated edges; was about the size of a half crown, and situated in a schirrhous mass, which engaged at least a third of the breast: part of the nipple had been destroyed by the disease, and the remainder, which was undermined by the ulceration, appeared as if ready to drop off. The lancinating pains were frequent, but not very severe; she was of a healthy complexion and appearance, and had not in any degree the sallowness which in general accompanies *Cancer*. She attributed

the disease to a severe contusion which she received on her breast about eighteen months before, as she observed about three months afterwards on the spot where she was injured, a small lump, like a kernel, which gradually increased to the size of the fist, and it became ulcerated eleven months after its first attack. She appeared of so strong a constitution that I ordered her thirty grains of the Carbonate of Iron three times a day, which she took without any inconvenience, and I dressed the ulcer with the Oxyphosphate of Iron.

"On the 12th of July she was entirely free from shooting pains, but no other alteration was observable till the 18th; therefore, in place of Carbonate, she was ordered to take twenty grains of the Oxyphosphate three times a day.

"On the 26th there was a considerable degree of soreness and inflammation of the whole breast, the integuments of which surrounding the ulcer had become of a bright, inflammatory red colour; but, notwithstanding the increased sensibility of the part, there were not any shooting pains.

"29th. She informed me that several large lumps or substances, like cores, were discharged from the ulcer, one of which she said was hanging loose from the sore. I found it to be precisely of the same appearance as that discharged from Mrs. *R's* breast, already described. The ulcer had become

more extensive, and was covered with a white cohesive matter which could not be washed away.

"August 5th. The ulcer had a more healthy appearance, and its sides were closing towards each other. I wished to remove the nipple, which hung over the excavation of the ulcer, connected to the breast only by a small slip of integument, and producing much irritation, but she would not allow me. She informed me that many ropy substances, some above three inches in length, had come away with the discharge.

"September 20th. The ulcer was diminished so much that it might be covered by the point of the finger; its reduction seemed not so much to be owing to the formation of granulations, as to the closing of its sides towards each other, which gave the surrounding integuments a pursed appearance. The induration was much less perceptible on the superior part of the ulcer, and the pains had altogether ceased. The Oxyphosphate of Iron had been in perpetual contact with the ulcer since she came under my care, except on the second of September, when the Arseniate of Iron was applied, and she was now directed to persevere with the former of these preparations.

"The ulcer continued stationary until the middle of October, about which time it became extremely sore and irritable, with an increase of

discharge, and an inflammatory redness of the surrounding integuments. Conceiving that this inflammation was owing to the stimulus of the dead carcinomatous substance on the sound parts, I directed the application of emollient poultices, with the view of assisting the separation of the slough. With these she persevered till the end of the month, during which time large white sloughs, similar to those already mentioned, were discharged. The ulcer in consequence became more open and extensive, but its edges were soft, and there was not the least induration discoverable in any part of the breast. About this period I sent her to Mr. *Richards* and Mr. *Piele*, with a request that they would examine her breast, as this case, I thought, as strongly evinced the efficacy of the preparations of Iron, as any which had yet occurred to me. After the separation of the sloughs, the discharge became thick and purulent, the sore filled with granulations, and was completely healed within a fortnight. I saw her three months afterwards, when she told me she had not felt the slightest pain nor induration, but continued perfectly well."

In this case, Mr. *Richards* and Mr. *Piele* are to be considered as giving their testimony, presuming that they had seen the case at the commencement, and were able to form a comparative judg-

ment of the progress made towards a cure, while the patient was under Mr. *Carmichael's* care; otherwise her visit to them would have been perfectly nugatory and useless Mr. C. thought the case was cancerous. What was the opinion of the other gentlemen does not appear. It might be doubtful, but any person competent to judge of such a case from the statement of it, must allow it to have been of a very suspicious nature, if not actually cancerous. Take the fact without any reasoning, and it then appears that this patient, without any other medicine than the preparations of Iron, was restored to perfect health, in the course of about five months. It seems of less consequence to decide whether this disease were actually cancerous, or one of those which have gone under the general appellation, proving in the event equally fatal; though, strictly speaking, they were not allowed to be *Cancer*.

Mr. *Brodie* informs me that in *Cancer* of the lip and of the tongue, he has lately had opportunities of finding the same structure as had been described by Mr. *Abernethy* and Mr. *Home* in cancerous glands; and that structure, it is apprehended, is to be considered as the only test of the nature of the disease. I might also have mentioned, that in the lifetime of the patient, in several cases of dark coloured and diseased *mammæ*,

I have clearly distinguished, through the thin skin, the *white filaments* so often mentioned, running in various directions.

Perhaps it may be ultimately to the advantage of society that professional men should continue to doubt the superior powers, or the specific qualities, of preparations of Iron in cancerous cases. But with the accounts already published, and a multitude of others which the practice of many individuals could supply, instead of discarding those medicines, or speaking of them contemptuously, as if they were inefficient, or actually injurious, checking not only legal but laudable attempts, it surely would be right to encourage further trials with them, with all the judgment, circumspection, and attention which medical experiments require. It would also be well to consider whether the failures to effect a cure, of which, it must be allowed, there are many examples, are not rather to be attributed to our unacquaintance with the most effectual methods of administering or applying the preparations of Iron, or the accommodation of them to particular constitutions, than to any defect in the powers of the medicine. Of the safety of those preparations, and of the general high estimation in which they have been long held in various diseases, especially in scrophulous cases, we can have no better or

more satisfactory proof than in the frequency with which they are prescribed by the most eminent and experienced physicians; so that we may make our trials to any extent, without the risk of doing mischief, which has not been the case with many other medicines: this is another considerable advantage.

It is also further to be observed, as a matter remaining to be proved, whether in cases thought to be cancerous, the *disagreement* of those preparations with the constitution of patients, is not to be considered as a presumptive proof that such cases are actually not cancerous.

There is scarcely a class of medicines in the *materia medica*, with some of which I have not made repeated trials, in all the different stages of *Cancer*; but the benefits derived from the use of any of them, have been very little indeed, if compared with those obtained by the use of preparations of Iron, and generally all other medicines have been altogether unavailing. Persuaded that the ferruginous principle in every form possesses great powers, peculiarly adapted to the cure of cancerous disorders, I hope that it will be found a specific for them, as certainly as quicksilver is for the venereal disease. Of the difficulties with which the specific powers of medicines are detected, we have a strong proof in the history of the

venereal disease; for though quicksilver was in their hands, and daily used, and for that very disease, yet some hundred years perhaps passed before a competent knowledge of the disease was discovered, or that of the proper and most effectual mode of using the remedy was attained. It cannot now indeed be considered as a specific, if unskilfully used; and had it not been for the sagacity and perseverance of a few men of more than common abilities, the discovery might never have been made. I cannot therefore help exhorting those, who have opportunities of seeing cases of *Cancer*, to continue their experiments with the preparations of Iron, as internal medicines, and as applications, until it be fully and satisfactorily decided that their good opinion of those medicines can be no longer maintained. Taking it for granted as an indisputable truth, that nothing was correctly known of the structure of a cancerous part, before the discovery of that structure by Dr. *Baillie*, and the knowledge of its progress carried to a state of great, if not absolute perfection, by Mr. *Abernethy* and Mr. *Home*, the knowledge of the cure must be very much facilitated. It is now ascertained, that at one period *Cancer* is local; the constituent parts of *Cancer* are understood, as is also the manner in which it ceases to be local, or in which it spreads from one part to

another, whether it be allowed to have a distinct animal or vegetable principle of life, or not. If this be not admitted, it is of no consequence, nor is it material to enter upon an abstract consideration of life, or the peculiar kind of life, or whether, properly speaking, it can be said to have any distinct kind or degree of life, whether it resembles the hydatid or *boletus lachrymans*, as it is ascertained that the disease has the power of extending itself to parts distant from that in which it originated or first appeared, by means and in a manner heretofore not known, nor suspected. The cure must consist in one of these things, either destroying the living principle of the substance, *nucleus*, if it exist, or germ of *Cancer*, so that it shall be deprived of its existence and power; or by rendering the part affected, or any other part to which it may accede, unsusceptible of any effects it could produce, or an unfit medium for serving the purpose of conveying it. The first might be done by caustic or ferruginous applications directly to the part, or by excision; the other by filling or loading all the constitution with the preparations of Iron to such a degree that the whole frame shall become as it were anticancerous.

Very lately one of my particular friends had an angry discoloured pimple on his nose, which gave

no little solicitude to himself and his friends. He consulted Mr. *Cline*, who touched it smartly with the lunar caustic. The first application did not answer the purpose. It was touched at proper intervals again and again, till the whole little tumour, and all its appendages, or parts connected with it, were destroyed. The sore afterward healed easily, and has remained perfectly well for many months. My much esteemed friend, Dr. *Jenner*, with whom I have often conversed on the subject of *Cancer*, assured me that in some instances he had destroyed tumours which threatened to be cancerous, by firm, continued pressure, when they were so placed as to admit of it. But with regard to putting the constitution into what is conceived to be an anti-cancerous state, that can only be effected by, I believe, giving and continuing the use of the most suitable preparations of Iron. It is perhaps not unworthy of observation, that judging by the complexion alone, that of persons afflicted with, or disposed to *Cancer*, is in general precisely such as, under any other circumstances, would be judged as peculiarly requiring the use of preparations of Iron. Should this matter be regarded and pursued with the vigour so important a subject deserves, it may be expected that, ere long, various circumstances, both with respect to the disease and the remedy, will be discovered. But

much attention and care will however be necessary when the preparations of Iron are exhibited, especially if they disturb the stomach and bowels; and other medicines may be sometimes advantageously joined with them, to prevent the inconveniencies they may occasion, to increase their powers, and improve their effects. Whether after the extirpation of local *Cancer*, it may not be beneficial to give some of the preparations of Iron, to secure the patient from a return of the disease, deserves consideration; and whether baths naturally containing Iron, or vitriolic substances dissolved in water, may not be highly proper and beneficial in many cases, as recommended by Lord *Bacon*. (*Historia vitæ & mortis.*)

A few years ago a medicine was advertised for the cure of *Cancer*, by a person of the name of *Lana*, or *Lanner*. This was a black powder, afterwards known to be the rust of iron, produced under water. Some good was effected, but it soon fell into discredit, though for what reason is not recollected; perhaps because it often failed from its being imperfecly administered.

Justamond speaks of the virtues of Salt Ammoniac in dissolving indurated tumours in very high terms, though of such tumours he had no distinct notion. There is no doubt of its being a powerful medicine, but whether it has any specific quality

in cancerous complaints, is much to be suspected. Yet it is remarkable that neither the *silky fibres*, nor the fungus of the dry rot, have been found in stables or necessaries, though closely adjoining to the parts where the dry rot has been observed in full vigour. Perhaps timber may be preserved by the volatile and saline exhalations constantly arising in such buildings, which may not be unlike Salt Ammoniac.

The virtues of *Solanum*, *Belladonna*, *Hyoscyamus*, *Cicuta*, *Nicotianum*, and other medicines of that class, are now well ascertained. Internally given, or as applications, they are proved to have no other virtue in cancerous cases, than as soothers of pain. Of *Opium* I once had an opinion that it had other virtues than that of easing pain, and it has accordingly been given steadily in very large doses; but I am now convinced that my opinion was erroneous. In some cases one preparation of narcotic medicines often agrees better than another, disturbing the constitution in a less degree, and so far the varieties may be converted to the benefit of patients. It has been often suspected, and empirically asserted, that narcotics, by paralysing, as the phrase is, the powers of the constitution, render this a more easy prey to the disease; but of this I have no opinion.

As early as the time of *Hildanus*, it was said

that all preparations of quicksilver and of arsenic were prejudicial in cancerou cases; yet there has ever been a strong inclination to use the latter, ever since the time of *Celsus*, who first recommended it, on the presumption, perhaps, as *Cancer* is a stubborn and intractable disease, some equally powerful medicine was required to contend with, and correct it. Of quicksilver sufficient notice has been already taken; but all are not yet convinced, that arsenic is an inadequate or improper remedy in cancerous cases. But in every instance in which I have known arsenic to be tried as an internal medicine, it has always excited new and serious disturbances, or added greatly to those which before existed. As an application I am not competent to judge whether it is preferable to other caustics. It may act more speedily, and corrode more deeply, but there is no reason for thinking that it possesses any specific, or anticancerous property. Whenever it was used by the ancients it was mixed with other ingredients to lessen or qualify its effects, and with this view Sulphur was generally used.

It seems extraordinary that in the various medical disputes which have been held respecting the power of acids and alkalines, in producing and curing diseases, it should have remained undecided, to which of those qualities *Cancer* should be attri-

buted. Acids and acidulated diet and applications have indeed been prescribed; as for instance, alum, by *Oribasius*, and *Atramentum* were very often used by the ancients. From a long list of popular remedies I shall select two examples. The first is taken from *Bougainville's* Voyage to the *Malouin* Islands, translated by *Pernety*, and published in 1773, which was pointed out to me by Dr. *Jackson*.

"Put a large living Toad into a new earthen pot with two ounces of the roll of sulphur. Lute the pot well, and calcine the whole. Apply the ashes to the *Cancer* when ulcerated."

The second is said to be an effectual remedy for a recent *Cancer*, which has proved successful in *every* experiment. It is taken from an American Magazine, in 1798, and was kindly communicated by Mr. *Erving* the Consul in 1803.

"Burn half a bushel, or three pecks, of old, field, red oak bark to ashes. Boil the ashes in three gallons of water till it is reduced to one. Strain that off and boil it to a third, which will be of the substance or consistence of cream or butter milk. Spread a small quantity of this on a piece of lint or silk, not bigger than the place or part affected, and apply it thereto."

I have known, says the Doctor, two plaisters effect a cure, where the *Cancer* lies in a proper

position for the medicine immediately to penetrate to the roots of it; otherwise it may require several plaisters. The plaister must be applied every two hours, until the roots of the *Cancer* are sufficiently killed. Then apply healing salve with a little mercurial ointment therein, and dress it twice a day till cured, which it will certainly be in twenty or thirty days at farthest."

These two medicines seem to be aukward methods of applying caustics to *Cancer* while it was local, and there is no doubt but they would effect an actual cure, in such cases, if the opinions of Mr. *Abernethy* and Mr. *Home* of the locality of *Cancer* are just, and they are not, I believe, at present, doubted. The case before related as being cured by Mr. *Cline*, is a good example, and perhaps all caustics are in such cases equally beneficial, if they produce equal effects.

In Mr. *Baldwin's* observations on the Plague, there is mentioned a case of *Cancer* in the lip, which was cured by oil prepared in the following manner by an Armenian merchant.

He procured a copper vessel newly tinned on the inside, and having poured into it a certain quantity of oil which was boiled over a slow fire, sufficient to keep it gently simmering for the space of three times twenty-four hours, when it acquired the consistence of an ointment, and by constantly

rubbing or anointing the part affected with this ointment, the patient was cured in fourteen days. Another case of the same kind is mentioned.

Tin boiled in oil, with a certain degree of heat, will melt or dissolve, but when the oil is cold, it is again deposited, losing nothing in its weight. It can scarcely be presumed that this medicine could ever have cured *Cancer*, but in many cases of painful tumours it certainly has soothed, and in some, removed pain beyond my expectations.

It is much to be wished that persons regularly educated to the profession, should not be so decided in their opinions of the impossibility of curing *Cancer*, as if the resources of science and art were exhausted; nor shut their eyes to, or treat with disdain, the accidental experiments which may be made by illiterate men, which may be done without exposing ourselves to the frauds of empirics. All who are seriously engaged in the pursuit of a remedy for this deplorable disease, I again most earnestly exhort to persevere in their attempts, being convinced that, as we have now got principles on which to act, the greatest part of the difficulties we had to encounter, are already overcome, even supposing the preparations of Iron should fail to answer our expectations.

I shall conclude what remains to be said on this subject, with a short account of a charity instituted in *London*, in the year 1801, for the purpose of investigating the nature and cure of *Cancer*.

Several conversations had passed between different professional gentlemen on the cause, nature, and cure of *Cancer*. As trials of medicines cannot probably be conducted with such accuracy in private practice as in public institutions, it was at length proposed that measures should be taken for the establishment of a Charity, or Institution, for the express purpose of investigating the nature of *Cancer*, and of making experiments, for the discovery of a method of curing that disease. Applications were immediately made to many gentlemen to support such an Institution, and the subscriptions were beyond all expectation liberal. In a short time it was thought justifiable and proper, to form the establishment, which was accordingly done without delay.

At a very respectable meeting of the Subscribers, Mr. *John Pearson*, of Golden Square, was nominated Surgeon of the Institution, with an understanding, that it should be chiefly under his care and direction. Such was the general opinion of his abilities and integrity, from his writings and character, that there was not, nor could be, the least objection made to his being appointed.

To Mr. *Pearson* I am obliged for several of the preceding remarks.

Treasurers and other officers were chosen, and a house was taken for the purpose, in Henry Street, Tottenham Court Road; the situation being healthy, and not too far distant, it was thought, for medical attendance.

After some time Dr. *Pelham Warren*, Dr. *John Willan*, and Dr. *Thomas Young*, were elected Physicians; and the principal Physicians and Surgeons in this city were invited to give their assistance, and to suggest any means by which the ends of the Institution were likely to be answered most effectually.

In conformity to the general design of the Institution, there were kept regular histories of the cases, of the medicines administered, and of the final issue of the cases. Where favourable opportunities offered, cancerous parts were carefully dissected, some preparations made, and a few drawings of extraordinary appearances taken.

Notwithstanding these exertions, it appeared that the great primary objects of the Institution were imperfectly answered, owing to various causes which it is not necessary to repeat.

For the purpose of rendering the Institution more adequate to the original intention, at a meeting of the Subscribers it was determined,

1. That the constitution of the present Charity shall be dissolved.

2. That the house intended for the reception of patients, ought to be in a more populous and convenient part of the town.

3. That means for admitting a great number of patients into the house should be taken into consideration.

The institution was accordingly suspended for the present, and when the accounts were settled, there was left a considerable sum of money, which now amounts to near one thousand pounds, three per Cent. Consols. in the hands of the *Drummonds*, and standing in the name of five trustees. It is to be hoped that at some, not very distant, time, the sum so remaining may, by the additional subscriptions of the former Governors, or by the general beneficence of the public, be applied to the support of a new Establishment for the same laudable purpose, and free from the inconveniencies of the former Institution.

The Cancer Institution was carried on with much spirit for about two years, during which time forty one patients applied for relief; eleven were admitted into the house, and thirty have been relieved as out-patients: all the in-patients, which were regularly attended, received as much benefit as the nature of their cases allowed. Two were relieved by the extirpation of the disease.

Of the out-patients twenty-eight had advice and medicines. In addition to the cases for which the Institution was originally established, thirteen patients afflicted with other diseases resembling *Cancer*, and which are often mistaken for it, have been cured. One in-patient and four out-patients have died.

Since the first edition of this pamphlet was written, there has been printed an account of a new method of treating Cancers of the breast, in particular, by Mr. Young. Of this method having had several opportunities of seeing the good effects, I gave the following additional account in the Medical Journal, which it seems expedient to republish in this place,

Remarks on Cancer, and of Mr. Young's new Mode of Treating that Disease.

Having, for many years past, paid great attention to the subject of *Cancer*, and supposed cancerous diseases, it gave me much satisfaction to read Mr. *Young's* book, in which he has proposed a new method of treatment, supported by the history of many cases in which it had been practised with very great advantage. Since the pub-

lication of his book I have had opportunities of seeing several under his own particular care, and have been informed of others, on which his method was tried, under the care and direction of different gentlemen; together with the effects which almost invariably follow his mode of treatment. I also beg leave to premise a few general observations on the subject.

The disease called *Cancer*, has been for time immemorial distinguished by that appellation, and for almost the same extent of time has been considered as a living substance, so far as to be imagined to possess a living principle, independent of the life of the person afflicted with it; nor is the period known when the disease was first asserted to be incurable, but that opinion remains generally, with very few dissenting voices, to the present day.

There have been two opinions concerning this disease; one, that it was local,—the other, that it was constitutional; and, according to the opinions entertained, have been the different modes of practice, the events of which have not induced an alteration of opinion.

Though the incurable nature of this disease has been generally allowed, the industry of the professors of the different branches of medicine has not slackened, for they have, with the most

commendable motives, endeavoured, by all the powers of medicine, and by all the means they could devise, to overcome the difficulties with which they were struggling.

The chemists have reasonably made their attempts by exploring the component principles of parts affected with this disease, and of the discharges thence derived, by bringing them to the test of fire, in every way in which they could be tried.

The anatomists have, with equal industry and sagacity, exerted themselves to discover the structure of parts affected with *Cancer*, at every period of the disease; and in this they have certainly succeeded by a most exact description. They have, moreover, discovered certain filaments which make constituent parts of *Cancer*, though some have doubted whether these were peculiar to that disease.

Nor have physicians, who seem to be of the opinion that the disease is constitutional, been deficient in their endeavours to discover a remedy for it, having exhibited almost every medicine which promised either an effectual cure for the disease, or to afford relief.

Surgeons who have been most frequently consulted in these cases, especially at their commencement, seem to have placed their chief con-

fidence in the extirpation of the diseased part, by the knife, or by caustic applications. But, in these operations, which were most severe and painful, there had been so many failures; that is, the disease had so often returned, that surgeons who were circumspect in their conduct, and had witnessed such failures, used so much caution in giving their consent to the performance of operations, as almost to amount to a prohibition. But every surgeon who has performed such operations, must have considered the disease as local; otherwise he deprived himself of the only justifiable reason for performing them.

With regard to the kind of life which *Cancer* was thought to possess, some have supposed it to be similar to that of the insect from which it derived its name; some that it resembled that of the hydatid; while others supposed it to be like that of a mushroom, which is thought to partake of the properties of the animal and vegetable tribe. With regard to the last conclusion, there certainly is, from the commencement to the conclusion of *Cancer*, a great disposition to generate fungus. Whatever was the opinion while the disease remained in possession of its original powers, it was, and is still, supposed to be incurable. When, therefore, operations were not performed, and were not approved, attempts were made to cure the

disease by different outward applications, the greatest part of which were composed of very active or poisonous ingredients, which were supposed to have the power of destroying it, but which also failed.

Here, then, the matter stood, when Mr. *Young* brought forward his method of treatment, for his I must consider it, even if it had been used before, it was so little known as to have become obsolete or forgotten. By his method, some very unexpected occurrences are produced. Whatever was the degree of pain which the patient before suffered, that is speedily appeased; and, however offensive the discharge may have been previously, this becomes simple and void of smell, excepting what is usual in common sores. Now, if, by any other means, equally innoxious, such effects could be produced, I might hesitate which to prefer; but, as we are, I believe, ignorant of any such means, certainly these may be considered as great advantages. But the matter does not rest here, for there is an almost instant stop to the ravages of the disease, whether occult or open, according to the ancient expression; the discharges are gradually lessened, and from the appearance of being of a most acrimonious kind, become bland and salutary. Besides, there is evidently a gradual decrease of the tumefaction and induration; and

the whole not only assumes the appearance of amendment, but a promise of perfect recovery, as is proved in several cases which I have seen.

I have heard two reasons advanced in opposition to Mr. Young's method;—first, that other diseases, equally dangerous, may be produced by it; secondly, that, though, by his method, Cancer of the breast may be cured, it cannot be applied to many other parts affected with that disease. These seem to me mere presumptions, not arguments supported by any experience we yet have of his method. It would be equally or more fair to consider his method as standing on a principle which may lead to the cure of other diseases; for instance, of the *fungus hæmatodes*, so acutely discovered, and so correctly described, by Mr. Hey, of Leeds; and, perhaps, to many others.

Should this method of Mr. Young's be discountenanced and neglected without a fair and unprejudiced trial, I fear much injury may be done to society; to the professors of medicine in general, by abasing their most humane character; and real injustice to a very intelligent and meritorious individual.

MOUNT-STREET,
Oct. 9, 1815.

Though the following case is not completed, it is thought not improper to publish this account of it.

Near twelve months ago Mrs. *Waters* of the Alpha Cottages applied to me on account of an indurated tumour in her right breast. It was of a considerable size, painful, without discolouration of the skin, and less entangled with the adjoining parts than I recollected to have seen in any tumour of equal bulk: her general health was not impaired or affected.

The case seemed most favourable for extirpation, but of this the patient expressed great dread and abhorrence. I requested to have the opinion of a surgeon of much eminence, who also objected to the operation, assigning as a reason, the many instances he had seen of the operation failing under equally favourable circumstances. In a short time the opinion of several other eminent surgeons was taken, and they were uniformly of the same opinion, for the same or similar reasons; allowing nevertheless that there had been some exceptions to the general observation.

No benefit being received from mine or their assistance, but on the contrary the disease evidently increasing, several irregular practitioners were applied to, who gave her great assurances of a cure,

but notwithstanding their promises the disease increased.

About four months ago, when I again saw this patient, the breast was much enlarged, more indurated and painful, with a surface covered with large tubercles, and an undefined erysipelatose appearance; and there had been several returns of very profuse hemorrhage, by which her strength was much reduced. The common means for alleviating her sufferings and for checking the progress of the disease were used, but no hopes were entertained of her surviving it.

Such was the state of this patient when Mr. Young's book on *Cancer* was published. He saw her for the first time on the 15th of September; and on the following day began to practise his method. At the end of a week, during which he had continued his method, I again visited her; the tumour was then burst, and immense pieces of the hardened and enlarged parts had sloughed away; the discharge, which was not purulent but sanious, was very great; the general size of the breast was much diminished; and the undefined inflammatory appearance was reduced to a regular line at the verge of the ulceration. She was comparatively free from pain, and it was remarkable that the sloughs had been cast off from the diseased part of the breast alone; none of the original

part of the breast was destroyed or affected, and in some places there was an appearance of healthy granulations. I saw her once in several succeeding weeks. Her strength began to fail, and she took daily two or three doses of bark with snake root; was allowed a more generous diet, and several glasses of wine in the course of the day. By this method she was not only supported but restored; was soon able to come into her drawing-room, and to take an airing upon a donkey. On the 10th, after an interval of several weeks, I again saw her. A narrow bridle, which had remained after the sloughs, had given way: there were three points where the disease seemed disposed to return; one between the breasts; another towards the clavicle; and a third, which was very tender to the touch, towards the *axilla:* that towards the clavicle had the appearance of external inflammation; but all those were reduced into order by continuing his first method, increasing the pressure on the parts chiefly or more particularly affected.

When I saw her on the 9th of November her health was greatly improved, and though all the ulcerated parts had not the same favourable appearance, there was every reason to think that the disease would be ultimately removed. Judging from appearances at the time Mr. *Young* took charge of her, I thought her not likely to live

many weeks, and took it for granted that the time she had to live would be passed in extreme misery.

I also saw another case which had been under the care of two very eminent surgeons. The breast had been long ulcerated most extensively, and nothing had lately been done but with the intention of alleviating her sufferings. No case I apprehend had ever more painful and terrifying appearances; and to appease the pain she was allowed to take frequently twenty-five drops of the medicine called the *Black Drop*, with other opiate medicines. By this alone the reader will be able to judge of the state of misery she was in, and of the opinions of the gentlemen who attended her. From the time she was put into Mr. *Young's* care, the pain became easy; the spreading of the ulcer was not only stopped, but this began to heal; and when I saw her, about two months after, the ulceration, which had been in some places very deep, was healed to less than the size of a dollar. On account of her age and the state of her health, it appeared to me doubtful whether she would be able to withstand the effects of her disease, and the profuse discharge which had continued so long a time, notwithstanding the favourable appearance of the ulceration. I saw her again on the 14th of this month, and found the ulceration

in such a state that it might be said to be healed; and her health was then better than at the time Mr. *Young* first saw her.

This patient was seen for the first time in August by Mr. *Young*; and it is but justice to him to say, that at the first interview he gave her friends very little hopes of her amendment, and none of her ultimate recovery; but whenever she may die, it cannot be justly said that she was killed by the *Cancer*, but by the general weakness, and what is not improperly called, the breaking up of her constitution.

25 November 1815.

THE END.

T. Bensley, Printer,
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