

A concise account of a new chymical medicine, entitled, spiritus æthereus anodynus, or, anodyne æthereal spirit. Containing a relation of its very extraordinary efficacy in a variety of complaints of the most obstinate and alarming nature, particularly the hydrothorax, or dropsy of the breast, and other species of dropsy. Also, of its specific virtue in the gout and many rheumatic affections; in hysterical, hypochondriacal and various other nervous complaints, especially those of the epileptic kind; in asthmas and all coughs unattended with inflammation. With a word or two, by way of postscript, to Dr. James MacKittrick Adair, late of Antigua / By William Tickell.

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A
Concise Account,
OF A
New Chymical Medicine,
ENTITLED,
Spiritus Æthereus Anodynus,
OR,
Anodyne Æthereal Spirit.

CONTAINING

A Relation of its very extraordinary efficacy in a Variety of Complaints of the most obstinate and alarming Nature, particularly the *Hydrothorax*, or Dropsy of the Breast, and other Species of Dropsy.

ALSO,

Of its Specific Virtue in the Gout and many Rheumatic Affections; in Hysterical, Hypochondriacal and Various other Nervous Complaints, especially those of the *Epileptic* Kind; in Asthmas and all Coughs unattended with Inflammation. With a Word or two, by way of Postscript, to Dr. James MacKittrick *Adair*, late of Antigua.

By WILLIAM TICKELL.

Non—obliquo oculo mea Commoda quisquam
Limet, non odio obscuro morsuque venenet. *Hor. Epist*

BATH, printed by J. SALMON;
and sold by

JOHN WALLIS, *London*, and by the Book-
sellers in BATH, 1787.

A
Concise Account
OF A
New Chemical Medicine,
ENTITLED
Spiritus Aethereus Anodynus,
OR
Anodyne Aetheral Spirit.

A Relation of its very extraordinary effects
in a Variety of Complaints of the most
obstinate and alarming Nature, particularly
the Hysterical, or Dropsical, Pile, &c.
and other Species of Dropsical Affections,
OF its specific Virtue
in Rheumatic Affections; in
Diarrhoea, and in other
especially those of the Epidemic Kind; in Asthma
and all Coughs attended with Inflammation,
With a Word of two, by way of Testimony,
Of James MacRae, M.D., late of Glasgow.



By WILLIAM TICKELL.

Non-optimus scilicet in omnibus partibus
BATH, printed by J. BARNOR,
and sold by
John Wallis, London, and by the Booksellers
in Bath, 1787.

To my much respected Friend,

Mr. PITFIELD.

Dear Sir,

HAVING received the first rudiments of my Education under your directions, and having, I hope, also profited by that knowledge and example, which have acquired you so much medical fame ; I conceive that I could
not

not dedicate these sheets with
so much propriety to any one,
as to youself.

I must acknowledge that I
have not your permission to
do this, but as it is the tribute
of a grateful Mind, I flatter
myself, it may not prove un-
acceptable. If by the disco-
very of this Medicine, I have
contributed towards relieving
those painful sufferings, which
are

are the common lot of human nature, I know I have done an acceptable piece of service to you, whose liberal Heart and Hand, are always open to relieve the distresses of others; and whose ultimate wish is to contribute to the general happiness of mankind.

That you may long continue to enjoy that health
which

(viii)

which is the pleasing reward
of temperance, is the sincere
wish of,

Dear Sir,

Your very affectionate,

And obedient servant,

WILL. TICKELL.

Queen Square, Bath.

March, 1st. 1787.

PRE-

Preface.

THE matter contained in the following pages, being on a subject totally new, as it relates to a Medicine of whose extent we have, comparatively, had but little experience; it may very naturally be concluded, that the relation of its peculiar virtues, and extensive utility, must be very imperfect. It being however necessary that the public, or those who may be disposed to avail themselves of the efficacy of this medicine, should be informed

of the diseases in which it is found more particularly serviceable; the Cures it has already performed, and the mode in which it is thought right to administer it: it has been considered as indispensably requisite, that this *rough sketch* should be laid before them. The Author has confined himself with the most scrupulous exactness, in the history of those cases which are brought to confirm the virtues of this medicine, to the real truth; as the patients themselves, and those Gentlemen of the Faculty by whom they were attended in this City, are ready to attest.

It is by no means to be concluded from the Cases here enumerated, that the virtues of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, are confined to a few diseases only; perhaps time will shew that there is not one hitherto discovered, whose uses are more extensive, or that may be considered as a specific in so great a variety of those dangerous Complaints to which the human frame is liable. The cases which have been selected, are of the most alarming kind, and the most difficult of cure, and this, perhaps, was the only Medicine which could have been employed with Success,

The odium of empiricism has generally fallen to the lot of those, who have introduced a medicine to the world under the sanction of a Patent; but surely a distinction is to be made between the ignorant and artful pretender, who attempts to impose upon the public, by disguising a Medicine already known, or greatly overrating what may not have been before discovered; and the industrious Investigator of a composition, whose virtues are supported upon such unquestionable authority as the present. A reflection of that nature, indiscriminately thrown out, would be highly injurious not only to the individual, but to the society at large; and at the same time
would

would be an impeachment of the wisdom of the Legislature, for holding out the rewards of appropriation, on any occasion whatever.

How justly the discoverer of this very valuable medicine is intitled to any such reward, will readily be acknowledged, by those who have experienced or observed its extraordinary efficacy, in the most forlorn and desperate cases; and especially by those who are acquainted with the difficulties and disappointments that attend the preparation of common vitriolic *Æther*, with an exact and proper degree of purity; as they cannot but in some measure anticipate the time, the labour and expence
that

that must necessarily be employed, in bringing a preparation so much more refined, to so great a degree of perfection. I say anticipate *in some measure*, for it is scarcely to be credited, that after many years application to this very object, and now that I have arrived at so high a pitch of improvement in the medicine, and facility in preparing it; the process still requires the continuance of a regular, well conducted fire for the space of ninety-six hours.

The imperfect hints that Hoffman has thrown out concerning his anodyne mineral Liquor, must convince every reader, of the great labour and difficulty attending the process; while

while at the same time, the characteristic marks by which he has ascertained its purity, and the wonderful efficacy he ascribes to it, in many desperate complaints which had baffled the most efficacious medicines then in use, as they accord so particularly with that now recommended, are circumstances alone sufficient to establish its genuineness and its singular merit. But farther, the diuretic quality it possesses in so eminent a degree, and which is but distantly hinted at in Hoffman's account, cannot but give it a preeminence over his and every other preparation of the kind; and that quality, I do not ascribe to the addition or commixture of any other ingredients

ents than those mentioned by him; but to the great purity, proper adjustment of the quantities, and the blending them together in the most minute and intimate manner; all which has been the result of repeated experiment, careful attention and much labour.

It is hoped that the powerful effects of this medicine, will greatly contribute to confirm and corroborate Hoffman's opinion, and that the perusal of the subjoined Cases, will occasion no delusive expectations; always remembering, that as with a great variety of diseases, there is also a great diversity of constitutions, it is in vain to expect an universal or infallible remedy.

Crescit indulgens sibi durus hydrops
Nec sinit pellic, nisi casus morbi
Fugere lass, et aquosus albo
Corpore languor.

The intelligent reader will find that the
gradual errors, but as they will obviously
such, they have been left to find correction
The intelligent reader will find that the
gradual errors, but as they will obviously
such, they have been left to find correction

Crescit indulgens sibi dirus hydrops;
Nec fitim pellit, nisi causa morbi
Fugerit *Venis*, et aquosus albo
Corpore languor.

Horat. Carmen xiv.

☞ The intelligent reader will meet with several typographical errors, but as they will obviously appear to him as such, they have been left to stand uncorrected.

A

Concise Account,
OF A NEW
Chymical Medicine, &c.

IN a paper which the ingenious and learned editor of the medical Journal, did me the honor of publishing in that collection, and in which I had treated on the subject of vitriolic Æther; I gave some hints respecting the preparation of Hoffman's Anodyne Mineral Liquor; but these hints being

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founded

founded on conjecture, will afford matter for future investigation.

The Spiritus Vitrioli dulcis, Æther of Frobenius and Liquor mineralis anodynus of Hoffman, have by an ingenious author been considered as synonymous terms, but most assuredly they are *essentially* different.—With respect to Hoffman's anodyne Liquor, the latest, and best chymists, do not pretend to speak decidedly on it. Macquer for instance says, “ *On croit*
 “ que cette liqueur n'est autre chose,
 “ que cette même huile dissoute et
 “ combinée avec les deux liqueurs qui
 “ montent les premières dans la distil-
 “ lation, et qui précèdent immédiate-
 “ ment le phlegme acide sulphureux.”*

It

* Elemens de Chymie Pratique, Page 285.

It is however not difficult to prove from Hoffman himself, that M. Macquer is deceived in this opinion, and it is very clear, that this famous anodyne liquor has remained a secret from his, to the present time ; and the medicine sold under his name, no matter by *whom* prepared, or from what *Hall* procured, will by no means answer the description given of it by its Author: It wants many of the Properties, and falls infinitely short, of those extraordinary virtues ascribed to it by that sagacious Physician, and indefatigable researcher after those specific Medicines, which are to be obtained by chymical combination.

It is not my business at present, if I were capable, to say in what manner that chymical Liquor was prepared ; but

I now think proper to declare, that my process is conducted on principles very different, from those laid down by that celebrated Author, in his preparation of Oleum dulce.

Having for more than twenty years, at different times, made frequent experiments with the vitriolic acid, combined with an highly rectified spirit; I have found that the success of the process, and result of the different operations, depend on a variety of circumstances.—The product also will have different comparative virtues. By a particular mode of chymical combination, between the constituent elements of concentrated vitriolic acid and alcohol, I have obtained a Medicine, of most singular efficacy; whose virtues will be more fully elucidated by the history of
the

the following cases, than by any possible praise that can be bestowed on it.

For the security and facility with which I conduct the process for making Æther, I with pleasure own myself obliged to that ingenious chymist, and great naturalist, Mr. Wolfe. This knowledge I acquired when a fellow student with him, under the roof of that eminent Anatomist Mr. John Hunter, where Mr. Wolfe had provided himself with a curious apparatus for that purpose.

As the modus operandi of most efficient medicines, eludes the researches of the most acute Physiologists; we shall quit the wide and pleasing field of hypothetic reasoning, for the more useful, tho' less pleasant relation of facts.

If

If we might however venture to form a conjecture on this subject, it would be, that the great efficacy of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, depends on its almost immediate influence on the nervous system. The great volatility, and extreme tenuity of its component parts, will at least countenance this opinion. On this principle it pervades the inmost recesses of the human frame, where by giving tone and elasticity to the extremities of the absorbent lymphatics, the ferous fluid contained in the cavities of the breast or abdomen, or wherever accumulated, is gradually absorbed, and taken up by those minute vessels, and from thence drained off, and carried out of the habit by the kidneys and other emunctories.

By

By its mild influence on the nervous system, it is at the same time found to relieve those spasmodic constrictions, and convulsive irritations, which are the consequence of some particular stimulus, and which occasion an irregular influence of the nervous fluid.

It will consequently be remarkably serviceable, in *that* convulsive asthma which arises from a translocation of scorbutic, or arthritic acrimony, on the nervous parts of the breast; which it effects, by eliciting and diverting those peccant humors into another channel.

In the hickup therefore, it will also prove a most excellent medicine; and in violent attacks of the gout, or where a metastasis has unhappily taken place, by a deposit on some noble Viscus,
and

and the patient is threatened with almost immediate destruction; where the most excruciating pains have attacked the stomach, and vain efforts are made use of by that organ for its relief; under such alarming Circumstances, I am happy to say, that the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit has suddenly removed those dreadful symptoms; and given that relief, which the exigency of the case, gave very little reason to expect.

After what has been said relative to the gout in the stomach, it is almost unnecessary to add, that no medicine is so proper to be given in a suppressed gout, or where that subtle and penetrating humor has diffused itself over the habit, in a peculiar manner affecting the whole nervous system; as is evident from loss of appetite, watchfulness, debility

bility, lowness and dejection of spirits, and great irregularity of most, if not all, the different secretions.—When the gout also makes its approaches with rapid strides, attacks various joints at the same time, and from its great violence, nature is scarcely equal to the conflict—When an alarming fever is the consequence of violent and excruciating pain; this medicine will afford that relief, which is in vain sought for from opiates. or other specifics.—It procures rest, promotes the thinner secretions, quiets the perturbed spirits, and diminishes fever. It takes off anxiety and oppression, relieves the stomach from flatulencies, quiets spasms, and if continued, in regular and repeated doses, gives health and spirits, in exchange for misery and pain.

In fevers attended with debility, watchfulness and delirium, this may be considered as a medicine of the highest estimation; as it appeases the tumult, and restrains the irregular influence of the nervous fluid on the brain.—By its sedative and anodyne virtues, it procures that refreshing sleep so necessary, and yet so difficult, and often dangerous to be procured by other means: by its cordial and tonic virtues, it strengthens the stomach, and invigorates the weakened and languishing habit; and by its febrifuge powers, it expels the morbid matter to the surface of the body, where it escapes through the perspirable pores; or otherwise determines it to those strainers, destined by nature, for carrying off the crude and more feculent part of the thinner fluids.

It is perhaps the most powerful medicine hitherto discovered in all dropfical cafes; and has been eminently useful in the Hydrothorax, or Dropsy of the Breast, and in some of the worst, and most complicated Anafarcous cafes, I have ever seen. It is infinitely superior to the Digitalis purpurea, whose deleterious operation almost amounts to a prohibition of its use. Its alarming effects on the pulse sufficiently prove this, and that dreadful sickness and nausea, which from a very moderate and single dose,* will

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continue

* Half a grain had this effect on a Lady, who made trial of it in an Anafarcous case; and after having with some degree of resolution, several times repeated it, when the sickness went off; was yet at last obliged, on this account, totally to relinquish it.

Medical practitioners have been long acquainted with this plant, it has also been well known to the common people

continue for several days, evidently
shews how unfriendly this poisonous
plant

people, and it should seem that, 'till of late, both had relinquished its use for the same reasons: The latter, no doubt, must frequently have been witnesses of its deleterious, and sometimes, probably, fatal effects, from having given it in an unguarded and a too full dose.— We are informed by a botanical writer, that a dram of it taken inwardly, excites violent vomiting. The learned Ray, with much more caution says, —*Emetica est valida robustioribus tantum conveniens.* In some cases, it is said to have done wonders, in others it has proved dreadfully destructive to the constitution. Experience hitherto has not informed us, in what particular temperaments or under what peculiar circumstances, it may be administered with any degree of safety; and probably it will never be attained with precision; but to such as chuse to venture on its use, Mr. Ray's hint may possibly prove the best guide.

I have been informed that the late Dr. Huck Saunders, the last time he attempted its use, experienced from a single dose, such nausea and undefinable sickness at stomach, that he could not be prevailed on to repeat it, thinking the remedy was even worse than the disease.—*Digitalis purpurea* being confessedly possessed of such sedative and debilitating powers; on what principle depends its diuretic property, or its means of exciting absorption, from its present mode of exhibition? Is it effected in the same manner that Opium is sometimes known to act, and by which dropsies have been accidentally cured?

plant is to the human frame. While you are exerting endeavours to relieve nature of one dangerous complaint, you are oppressing her with another, by destroying the small remaining appetite for food, already perhaps much depraved, if not nearly gone; and thus you deprive nature of her only resources. This Æthereal Anodyne Spirit on the contrary, by diffusing itself over the internal surface of the stomach, gives that genial warmth, and excites that sensation, which causes a desire for food; and which the depauperated state of the blood, and a want of due energy in the animal spirits, could not effect.

From the experience I have had of this medicine in Paralytic cases, I have much reason to think it will in this disease be also a very valuable remedy; and

and I am the more encouraged in this conclusion, from the very nature of the medicine itself, and its effects, which have been already recited. I am well assured that where the muscles destined for the purpose of speech are particularly affected, as well as the ducts of the salivary glands; that a few drops of Spiritus Æthereus Anodynus, taken several times a day on a knob of sugar, will much more conduce towards a cure, than any other medicine or stimulating gargle whatsoever.

I shall now proceed to relate such cases as I hope will fully confirm and establish the account I have given of its very extraordinary virtues.— They shall follow in that order, in which the several Patients came under my care, and to whom the medicine was exhibited,

exhibited, either under my inspection
or by my immediate direction.

C A S E, I.

The late reverend Dr. B. of
L——h, a Gentleman of great worth
and learning, about midsummer 1785.
being then in Worcestershire on a
visit, was seized with a very trouble-
some cough, which the Physician
whom he consulted, considered to
be of the catarrhal kind.—He
was at this period about sixty five
years of age, of a gouty Habit,
with violent scorbutic eruptions on
the face. He by no means paid a
scrupulous regard to diet, but rather
indulged in that high seasoned food,
which is pleasing to the appetite,
than

than confined himself to that simple regimen, which is peculiarly necessary in such habits, to prevent an accumulation of acrimony. This kind of diet, he at first had recourse to, through necessity, having lost his teeth early in life, and seldom meeting with plain dressed meat that was sufficiently tender. His mode of life, was not very inactive or sedentary, 'till exercise became fatiguing to him; and when he gave up his horse, often used his carriage. He was not unfrequently subject to such a cough, as is above mentioned, for which the Storax pill was his general remedy. It was at this time treated with opiates, expectorants, and mild evacuants, but without gaining any considerable advantage. On his return to Leicestershire he consulted a Physician in his neighbourhood, a Gentleman
of

of great ability, from whose perfect knowledge of his constitution, and having frequently prescribed for him, with great judgment and success, he expected to have experienced the usual good effects of his skill. In this however both the doctor and his patient were much disappointed.—The disease gained ground, notwithstanding the most judicious prescriptions; the Gout did not return at the usual period, though efforts were made to procure it; the cough became more troublesome, the difficulty of breathing increased, his nights became restless, his pulse irregular, and he now complained of a violent constrictive pain across the breast; and a very disagreeable and painful sensation in the arms, attended with such frequent spasms, that at times, he was almost deprived of breath. He had

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scarcely

Scarcely any appetite for food, and of course became daily more weak. Going up stairs, was a most laborious task, and when walking over his room, he was obliged to do it slowly and with caution. His nights constantly became more troublesome, as all the symptoms then returned with greater violence; and when inclined to rest, and perhaps getting half an hour's sleep; he was suddenly roused by the constrictive pain of the breast; and frequently obliged to pass the remainder of the night on his sofa. The urinary secretion, had for a considerable time diminished, and an anasarcaous swelling of the legs became very visible; his bowels had been for some time rather lax, which still contributed to occasion further weakness.—To these alarming symptoms, a slight degree of Hemiplegia

gia supervening, determined his Physician to send him to Bath.

Dr. Harington, a gentleman of great philanthropy, and eminent in his profession, on the first visit which he made this patient, considered his case so alarming, that he despaired of giving him any relief, or at most, only that which would be temporary. If the paralytic affection, loss of appetite and a suppressed gout, indicated the use of Bath Water, yet the pain of the breast, a decrease of Urine, and anasarcaous swellings, raised doubts about the propriety of having recourse to that remedy; and it was at length determined, that the symptoms, taken collectively, forbade the use of them.

Dr. Harington having recommended the medicine, generally sold under the name of Hoffman's anodyne Liquor, with a view of abating spasms and flatulence; I informed him, that I had a preparation of far greater virtue, which I called Spiritus æthereus anodynus, and the Doctor, with great readiness consented, that a trial should be made of it; still however much doubting, that any medicine could have sufficient efficacy to remove a disorder, attended with such dangerous symptoms; and which he had pronounced to be a dropsy of the breast. My medicine was accordingly given, and the first night it procured perfect good rest; though the succeeding ones, during his short stay, varied, both as to sleep, and the refreshment procured from it; he was only however one night obliged to leave his

his bed. The spasms were by no means so violent, and the urinary secretion visibly augmented. The urine also had lost much of its deep tinge; and deposited a lighter coloured sediment. On leaving Bath, he was provided with a sufficient number of draughts for the journey, and some quantity of the Æthereal Spirit, which he was desired to repeat twice a day, taking from forty to fifty drops at a dose. About a fortnight after leaving this place, I had the pleasure of being informed he was better, and at the distance of five weeks, that he was quite recovered; of which he was so far convinced, as to return public Thanks in Church. This happy change however was not of long dura-

tion

tion ;* on the approach of Winter, there was an apparent alteration in his health. I am obliged for the following particulars and sequel of this Gentleman's Case, to the reverend Mr. Hurst, and Mr. Hunt his Apothecary.—During the third week of november, he was sensible of the approach of those former symptoms, which had been so distressing to him. The legs began to swell, his breathing became difficult, particularly at intervals; and he was alarmed by a return of the spasmodic stricture on the breast, which he dreaded more than any other part of his disorder; and for which, he had been

often
change however was not of long dura-

* It may be proper here to remark, that this Gentleman was the first patient who took this medicine; and that according to its present mode of preparation, it is endowed with much greater Virtues, than when it was at first given.

often heard to say, he found no relief in any medicine but the æthereal anodyne Spirit. After this last seizure, he had almost constant fever, and his appetite and rest, in a great measure forsook him, yet his pulse in general was pretty regular, and strong to the last. He could lie down in bed with two pillows, without much difficulty; and did not appear to be much worse at night than in the day. He frequently complained of an uncommon and troublesome want of moisture in the mouth and throat, without any sensation of thirst.—The urine was voided in small quantity and frequently high coloured. He had often great difficulty in ascending the stairs, and sometimes even in walking over his apartments; but he had no return of that severe pain in the arms, which in the course of the summer,

mer, had been so very troublesome to him. He was in an almost constant delirium, under more weakness than pain, for near a fortnight before his death, which happened on the 23d of December.—It was remarkable that, his last fit of the Gout, which was in the beginning of the year 1785, though not more severe than any preceding one, yet induced an uncommon degree of debility and languor.

OBSERVATIONS.

I am informed the Faculty did not perfectly coincide in opinion, on this Gentleman's case.—A suppressed Gout, violent scorbutic Acrimony, Stricture and Spasms on the Breast, attended with anasarcaous swellings, laid the foundation

ation for this difference of sentiment.—

Asthmas and pains of the breast are not unfrequent in gouty Patients, when the paroxysms are irregular or interrupted; but could a suppressed gout alone give rise to all these distressing symptoms? Could it be effected by scorbutic acrimony? Would not the various medicines so frequently repeated, have proved in some degree efficacious?—

The difficulty of breathing, irregular and intermittent pulse, dry cough, constrictive pain of the breast, a sudden starting up in bed, soon after having had some sleep, with a dread of Suffocation, and the impossibility of continuing in an horizontal posture; a paucity of urine and anasarcaous swellings; do not these symptoms taken collectively, give almost certain indications of Hydrothorax? If we com-

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pare

pare the symptoms of the last, with those of the preceding Illness, a manifest difference will be discovered. The patient indeed had the same constrictive pain on the breast, but there was no intermission or irregularity of the pulse; no return of those severe pains in the arms; he could lie back in bed without an access of that excruciating pain and difficult respiration: on the other hand, he had much more fever, and there had for some time been a gradual retrocession of the scorbutic eruption in the face; may we not account for the fever and delirium from this circumstance?—It is also apparent that, the hydropic diathesis had in some degree taken place: is there not some reason to conclude, that if the Æthereal Spirit had been continued regularly and in a full dose; it might have prevented a return

a return of those symptoms, which it had powers, at least for a certain time, totally to remove?

C A S E, II.

Mr. Orpin an eminent musician of this place, about fifty-eight years of age, of a scorbutic habit, but who in general enjoyed good health; had been subject to palpitations of the Heart, between two and three years; and in June, 1785, began to complain of loss of appetite, pains in the stomach, and sense of debility. During this month, he went to the Encænia at Oxford, perhaps indulged in conviviality with his musical friends; and for two or three of the subsequent months, by no means lived abstemiously. Unfortunately some

friend had recommended to him, on account of his stomach complaints, to drink water impregnated with some kind of Spirit, at, and after his meals. —Spirits of various sorts, taken in this manner, are in general use, and the mixture is differently denominated as it is drank hot or cold; but all are equally injurious to the human frame. It may be urged that this potation is often made use of, for a considerable space of time, with impunity; I admit that it may, but it is a very unhappy delusion, when this intoxicating and pernicious liquor, is quaffed off with pleasure and delight, from an Idea that it is not only innocent, but even salutary.

After some time however, he became sensible that it was necessary to make
a con-

a considerable change in his regimen, and mode of living; as, about the beginning of october, he began to complain of a sense of weight and pressure, at the inferior part of the sternum, and epigastric region, attended with a troublesome dry cough, shortness of breathing, and frequent returns of sickness at the stomach. A sensible decrease of urine, was now perceived, and what was voided, was high coloured, with a considerable sediment. The pulse became extremely irregular, and frequently intermitted. These very unfavourable symptoms, had a daily increase, but were not properly attended to, 'till the beginning of December when the legs began to swell considerably.— Diuretics, proper Purgatives, Blisters and Expectorants were administered, which procured a temporary relief.

Some

Some time in January, however, the disease appeared to gain ground very fast: Dr. Harington was then so kind as to give some directions, and Mr. Orpin was afterwards visited by Doctor Smith, late Professor of Anatomy at Oxford, and at this time Savilian Professor of Geometry, in that University. Dr. Frazer also occasionally attended with Dr. Smith, and notwithstanding the most efficacious medicines were prescribed, their efforts were constantly baffled by the disease. Blisters indeed gave some relief to the breath, but diuretics had no effect on the urinary secretions; and it was evident that the hydropic diathesis had taken place, to a considerable degree. The appetite was now almost gone, and thirst was very great: his nights became extremely restless, and it was

with

With difficulty that he could continue in an horizontal posture, for any space of time. In the beginning of February, he was evidently much worse; the symptoms became more violent, their returns more frequent; and Doctor Smith,* who paid his elcemofynary visits with great regularity and attention, began to despair of his recovery. His breathing was now so laborious, and his lungs so much oppressed, by the weight of the water, that he was constantly obliged

* I think myself peculiarly fortunate on many accounts, that Mr. Orpin was attended by this Gentleman. His Character as a Professor, his Ability as a Physician, and his long Experience, leave no room to doubt that this case had been scientifically treated, and the aid of every effectual medicine called in. After visiting this Patient, I consulted with Dr. Smith on the occasion, and mentioned his particular desire of giving my medicine a trial. To this the Doctor assented, with great readiness and candor, and wished every possible success might attend its exhibition; but at the same

obliged to desert his bed at night, after a very short stay in it, and for twelve days and nights before I saw him, had scarcely had any sleep. On the sixteenth of this month, he was removed to Coombe-Down, in hopes that a free and purer air might, in some measure, relieve his breath, and help to quiet the cough. But the season was unfavourable, the weather severe, and the prevalence of a north east wind, defeated all expectations of advantage that

time observed, from the desperate state of the Case, that most probably, all human efforts for the Patient's recovery, must prove ineffectual. The Doctor had afterwards the goodness to visit Mr. Orpin frequently, with pleasure observed the rapid progress of the cure, and was on all occasions ready to give his advice and assistance. From the very extraordinary effects of the Æthereal Spirit, which he was witness of on this occasion, and its known efficacy on many others, he has been pleased to express his high opinion of it frequently in public, and acknowledge it to be a Medicine of most intrinsic worth.

that might have been derived from change of situation. He was still obliged to pass his nights in what is called an easy chair, but which unfortunately was not so to him; and on the 18th. was so ill, that it was agreed, he could not possibly live twice twenty four hours. I first visited him on the evening of the 19th, and found him in so deplorable a situation, that, I did not think it possible any thing, less than supernatural Interposition, could restore him. He was extremely emaciated, with that squalid countenance and relaxed state of the muscles, which is observed in people who are soon about to die.—His brain appeared to be very much oppressed, and his answers were given in a weak and very flow tone of voice. The pulse was exceeding small, thread-like and intermitting,

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at

at least every fourth stroke. The constrictive pain of the breast, was at times intensely severe; the breathing very short and laborious; and he was obliged to be very cautious, even in altering his posture in the chair. The legs were swoln to a vast size, and the swelling indeed extended much above the knees, pitted very much on pressure, and the discharge by urine was inconsiderable. All these symptoms taken together, were extremely discouraging:—In this desperate situation my medicine happened to be recommended to him, and accordingly I was sent for. I ordered a draught to be taken that night about ten, and extraordinary as it may appear, it procured three successive hours refreshing sleep, namely, from eleven till two, and the remainder of the night was passed in bed, without that
anxiety

anxiety and oppression, which had before so constantly attended him. This Information I received the following day, with equal surprize and pleasure; and therefore ordered the draughts to be again repeated, night and morning. The same good success continued to attend them; and there was on that day, a considerable increase of urine. The draughts of course were again repeated, and on the third night he slept between four and five hours, and in the space of forty-eight hours, had made more than three quarts of urine. The constrictive pain across the breast was very much abated, the breath very much relieved, and the sickness and nausea, almost totally gone. On thursday* (23) the patient, with a degree of

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satisfaction

* On this day, I made my second visit, in company with

satisfaction, eat part of a broiled fowl; and from this time forward, his appetite daily mended, and in less than three weeks, his stomach seemed to have perfectly recovered its tone.

The diuretic power of this medicine was so great, that during the course of the second week, he voided a full quart of urine at a time, and could then take rest in a recumbent posture, It would be tedious, and unnecessary, to give a regular diary, or a relation of minute circumstances;

with Dr. Smith, and we were both most agreeably surpris'd, to find so great a change for the better. The Circumstance which now appeared the most striking, and worthy attention, was the very remarkable alteration in the pulse; which when I first saw him, was small, thread like, irregular, and almost constantly intermitting; now beat full and strong, with the intermission much less frequent: This among many other circumstances, serves to prove, how friendly this Medicine must be to the human Frame, and what Energy it gives, to the *Vitæ*, or living Principle.

circumstances; it will be sufficient for our purpose to say, that my Medicine was pretty regularly repeated for the space of two months; that no other medicine of any kind was administered, not even the most gentle Aperient; for by this alone, the bowels were kept in a regular and soluble State, flatus was discharged freely to his great relief; and the urine continued to flow in a considerable quantity. As the complaints abated, he had a gradual return of strength, and, in six weeks, was so far recovered as to be able, in some degree, to follow his Profession. At this time he enjoys good health, can ascend an acclivity with ease, and seems to have nothing to complain of, but a slight degree of Palpitation, attended with a certain irregularity of the Pulse, which probably be constitutional or at least

least of long standing. A troublesome cough having been the consequence of taking cold, two or three different times, it has been constantly relieved by the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, given in a pectoral draught, and a decoction of the Peruvian Bark, joined with Elixir of Vitriol, has been given with good success in strengthening the general habit.

If we attentively consider the nature of Hydrothorax, which in the opinion of a celebrated Professor, who is deservedly esteemed one of the first Physicians of the present age, seldom or never admits of cure, or *even alleviation* from medicine, the extremity to which this patient was reduced, and the inefficacy of all other means that had been tried; it might give some room
to

to doubt, whether it was possible for any medicine to procure such speedy and effectual relief.—To this I can only say, that the case has been very fairly stated—in no degree exaggerated; that I have scrupulously adhered to facts; and lastly, that it is in my power to adduce the testimony of those medical gentlemen, by whom Mr. Orpin was frequently visited, during the course of the cure. These considerations, and the extraordinary circumstances attending this case, have induced me to say thus much.

OBSERVATIONS.

The Operation of Paracentesis has been generally recommended by systematic Writers in the Hydrothorax, when

when all other means of relief have been tried in vain; it has been sometimes practised, but rarely with success; and for the same reason that it so seldom succeeds in the Ascites: for if the exhalants, still continue to pour out a redundant fluid, into the cavities of the abdomen and thorax; and the power of absorption cannot be increased, in proportion to the accumulation of fluid, it is evident, that instead of a cure, a truce only is obtained.—Other difficulties, also attend the Operation in this Case; as for the most part it will be necessary, that a puncture should be made into each cavity of the Thorax, otherwise the Patient, can be but partially relieved; and from the part particularly affected with the constrictive pain, 'tis probable, that the cellular substance of the mediastinum is also loaded

loaded with water, which though the part will admit of perforation, yet in a case of such uncertainty, few patients will be disposed to submit to the operation, which even few Practitioners will venture to recommend; and the only hope must then be from medicine.

The medicines which at present, are mostly relied on, for the cure of the dropsy, are preparations, of crude Mercury broken down, and joined with some diuretic or aperient medicine; some chymical preparations of Mercury; preparations of Squills and Hellebore, *Digitalis purpurea*, either in substance, infusion or decoction; *Colchicum* so particularly recommended by Dr. Storck; a variety of diuretic medicines, whose virtues are very frequently uncertain; and to these may also be added

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strong

strong emetics and drastic purges.—In what manner do these various medicines operate, or from whence do they derive their power of exciting absorption? We presume it must be chiefly from their stimulus on the nervous coats of the stomach and intestinal canal; and we are also inclined to think, that their effects cease as soon as that stimulus is removed.—We must, however acknowledge that some diuretics enter the lacteals, and being united with the circulating fluids, become an additional spur to the kidneys to perform their office: We may instance Camphire, Cantharides, terebinthinate Medicines &c. It does not appear that Cream of tartar, has any specific virtue in the cure of the dropsy: when dissolved in a large proportion of water, of which it requires more than an hundred times

times its weight to keep it suspended, it acts as a mild diuretic ; and when drank in large quantities, in the dropfy, attended with much thirst, it often does great good ; but other watery fluids have been also known to produce the same effect.

It is moreover very clear, that the frequent repetition of purgatives of the drastic kind, must weaken the constitution, and therefore will not admit a long continuance ; and the use of Mercury must frequently be discontinued, from its tendency to pass out of the habit by the salivary glands ; which if not seasonably attended to, would produce dangerous consequences. Of the other specifics, Squill is perhaps the least exceptionable, as its diuretic effects are more certain, and its acrimony may be

so blunted, as to be given with security and without much disturbance to the system: this cannot be said either of *Digitalis purpurea* or *Colchicum*.

The very powerful effects, of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, in promoting absorption, and increasing the thinner secretions, are derived from another source;—Not from deleterious acrimony—not from violent stimulus—but from its tonic, its cordial, and analeptic virtues; from the extreme tenuity, and volatility, of its component parts; whereby it is capable of pervading the smallest capillary tubes, and of passing into that series of minute vessels, perhaps only capable of receiving the nervous and electric fluids; and also of a fluid, which though of perceptible qualities, yet nearly approaching,

proaching, in properties, to those just mentioned.

It is however to be remembered that certain kinds of Dropsies, are from their very nature incurable by medicine; for instance, when the dropfy is occasioned by a disease of the Liver, which most probably will happen from schirrus, whereby the return of the venal blood to that viscus may be much impeded.—

Also when a schirrus of the Liver takes place, it is reasonable to suppose, that Organ must perform its functions very imperfectly. the secreted Bile will be both viscid and vapid, secerned perhaps in too small quantities, unfit for cooperating in the business of Chylification; and from a want of its natural stimulus, and not being mixed in due proportion with the fæcal discharges, a
costiveness

costiveness will ensue, and those symptoms attendant on Jaundice:—Hence we may learn why an Ascites or dropsy of the belly alone, will less readily yield to the power of medicine than when joined with Anasarca; hence also we discover the cause why the dropsy and jaundice are so often attendant on each other, and why so difficult of cure. The most specific remedies in such instances must fail of success.

A rupture of the lymphatics has been assigned as a reason, why dropsies are often incurable: It is clear that this event sometimes takes place, as in diseases of the Brain—but we are not disposed to consider it as a general concomitant cause; and it is probable that it seldom happens, as the symptoms are to be accounted for on other principles.

While

While I am on this subject, it may not be amiss to take notice of another obscure Disease, which Doctor Heberden has named *Angina pectoris*, for the cure or relief of which, I think this medicine is well calculated.* I advance this principally on the opinion of that humane and excellent Physician, the late Dr. Fothergill; who, from observing the various symptoms of the disease, and collecting what light could be derived from dissections, concludes, that the cure would be more effectually promoted by increasing the thinner secretions, than by any other means. Indeed Dr. Macbride gives the history of a case, where the cure was attributed

On the Idea that the violent paroxysms are occasioned by Convulsion, we may be led to expect this to be a most powerful remedy, from its great Antispasmodic Virtues.

buted solely to an Issue in the Thigh; and draws a conclusion, that some acrimony which had given rise to the disease, was discharged by this outlet: But from a perusal of the case, it does not appear, that there was any constitutional or hereditary acrimony; and the cure should seem to have been effected, by the strict mode of regimen enjoined by the Physician; for it being admitted that obesity is sometimes a concomitant cause; Abstinence, Exercise and Issues, seem to be pointed out as a proper means of affording relief. As there is also, for the most part, in these cases, a greater or less quantity of a ferous fluid found in the cavities of the thorax, whatsoever tends to increase absorption, will be peculiarly serviceable.—This will be effected in an eminent degree, by the *Æthereal*

real Anodyne Spirit; which will also be assisted by exercise, particularly on Horseback.—It has been remarked, that when the Angina pectoris proves fatal, the patient generally dies suddenly; from whence we may conclude, that in these cases, the heart itself is immediately diseased, or the large vessels issuing from it; perhaps some nerve is compressed, or the Pericardium loaded with an undue quantity of fat: either of these causes will occasion an irregular and intermittent pulse, which is an almost constant attendant on this Disorder; and it is to be noted, that ossifications of the larger Vessels, will induce symptoms, emulating those occasioned by the Hydrothorax.

H CASE.

C A S E, III.

The reverend Mr. M——, who, for many years past, had been subject to an asthmatic complaint, loss of appetite, bad digestion, and lowness of spirits; sometime in the second week of February 1786, caught a violent cold, which continued to get worse to the twelfth of that month, when he first desired me to visit him. I found a good deal of general fever, that his head was much affected, and his lungs much oppressed, though he expectorated freely; with great sickness at stomach, and total aversion to every kind of food.—He was desired to take an emetic early in the evening, some Sal volatile in a glass of cold water at bedtime, and the following morning, an aperient

aperient medicine. The emetic succeeded very well; at night, however, he was restless in a great degree; and the laxative moved the bowels once only, a great part being vomited up, after it had been in the stomach five hours. As the sickness still continued, with other symptoms of fever, difficulty of breathing, and rather a full pulse; four grains of James's powder were given about the middle of the day, at night, and repeated early in the morning; the second dose occasioned sickness, and afterwards passed off by stool, which gave the Patient some relief, and lessened a sense of weight, and great uneasiness, about the lower part of the sternum and epigastric region, which he had long complained of, particularly on taking cold. On tuesday (the 14th) as the fever did not appear to diminish, and the

pulse was very quick, irregular and rather full, I had thoughts of taking off some blood; but knowing how subject this gentleman was to lowness, and depression of spirits, and fearing that a purulent spitting, which was now come on, and was very profuse, might receive a check from the operation, I determined to defer it 'till the morning; and in the mean time ordered, a volatile saline draught, to be taken frequently, in a state of effervescence, applied a blister to the breast, as the breathing was, at times, very laborious, and again repeated Dr. James's powder—This night like the former, proved both sleepless and restless, the same kind of expectoration still continued, and in great quantity; the head was very painful, the urine high coloured, and without sediment, the pulse less full, but frequently intermitted.

mitted. Wednesday (the 15th) the same medicines were continued, and as the cough was frequent and very troublesome, he was desired to take two or three spoonfuls of an expectorant mixture, as often as it should be necessary. He was daily taken out of bed, and almost the only rest he got, was when sitting in a chair and leaning forward on a table. I visited my patient early on Thursday morning, the 16th, and found that this night also had proved restless; the fever and other symptoms continuing nearly as the preceding day.—He was now visited by Dr. Lysons, a skilful, humane and worthy Physician, well known to the medical World, by his ingenious Publication, on the effects of calomel and camphire in continued fevers. The Doctor order'd an expectorant mixture, with Oxymel of squills; and in consideration

deration of his almost total want of sleep, a pectoral draught with a dram of paregoric Elixir, to be taken at noon, and repeated at night; and a large Vesicatory to be applied between the shoulders. The draught given at noon, seemed to procure some ease, but on the morning of the 17th, we were both much disappointed at the bad success of the night draught, which had procured no sleep; and the patient complained, that the head was more painful, the breathing more difficult, and expectoration diminished. The expectorant mixture was ordered to be frequently repeated during the day, and a dish of pennyroyal tea taken very often with some sal volatile drops.—At night, as he still continued restless, with great degree of fever, and not in the least disposed to sleep, with a frequent
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and intermittent pulse, and much fatigued with constant cough and continued watchfulness; the Doctor thought it necessary, that endeavours should be made use of to procure sleep.—Paregoric elixir, the mildest of all opiates, had proved unsuccessful, and to try a more powerful one, might be dangerous, particularly as Opium, in certain constitutions, has such prejudicial effects: with that liberality therefore, which is inherent in the true gentleman, knowing that my Æthereal Spirit, had powerful anodyne virtues, and was also a good expectorant; he ordered thirty five drops to be given in a draught, composed of camphire julep, pennyroyal water, and syrup of saffron. On the following morning (the 18th) we had the pleasure of finding our Patient much better, having had near three hours sleep, by which he was exceedingly

exceedingly refreshed. I need not add, that this was a sufficient inducement for repeating the medicine, and a very rapid recovery, was to be dated from this period. Each night became better till he acquired his usual rest. The fever abated, the pulse became regular, the expectoration lessened, and put on a much better appearance; and in less than a week, he had a desire and relish for food. After this medicine was administered, all others were discontinued, except a pectoral emulsion, of which a few spoonfuls were occasionally taken for the cough. No opening medicine was prescribed, no other febrifuge was necessary; and the patient was gradually restored to his usual health.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS.

This case sufficiently points out the great efficacy of this medicine as an anodyne; perhaps no other could have been substituted with safety. Its salutary effects on the organs of respiration, are also equally conspicuous; its febrifuge and tonic virtues are no less apparent.—By its mild stimulus on the nervous coats of the Intestines, it occasions that due degree of peristaltic motion, which is necessary to keep the bowels in a soluble and proper state; and its tendency to act as a mild diuretic, when given in a moderate dose, and to promote insensible perspiration; sufficiently indicate the propriety of administering it in many febrile complaints. I can assert from repeated experience that in almost every kind of Asthma

it is a most powerful remedy; and I have succeeded better with it in coughs, notwithstanding they had derived their origin from very different causes, than any medicine hitherto recommended. Its antispasmodic and anodyne virtues, are on these occasions very remarkable, and sudden. I have now several cases which I could relate, of inveterate asthmas, in people advanced in Life, who before taking the Æthereal anodyne spirit, were either obliged to be almost constantly bolstered up in bed during the night, and often to quit it totally; who spent wretched and, most distressing nights, without sleep, and were overwhelmed with pain; yet have been so much relieved, as to rest some hours, the first time of taking it, with an alleviation of all symptoms, and its good effects becoming daily more conspicuous.

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I am almost confident, that this medicine taken twice a day in a due dose in some pectoral or mucilaginous draught, and likewise received into the lungs by inspiration, by means of Dr. Mudge's inhaler, will do more service in diseases of the Lungs, than the whole farrago of Syrups, Oils, Emulsions and Conservees; or the whole tribe of acrid and indissoluble Gums, or fragrant and costly Balsams. This is not a mere theoretic opinion as I have found it eminently serviceable when administered in this way, where the patients had been hectic for a considerable time, with a very frequent and troublesome cough, attended with pain of the side, loss of appetite, and a profuse spitting of that kind of glandular Matter, which is thrown off from an inflamed surface, and which if not corrected, might, pro-

bably, have ended in a true Phthifis.—
But its real efficacy in these cafes, must
be determined by further experience.

C A S E IV.

Mr. Culverwell, an inhabitant of this
City, aged 64 Years, of a robust con-
stitution, and who in general had enjoyed
good Health; sometime in February
laft, caught a fevere cold, which was
attended with a troublesome and dry
cough, and great uneafinefs at the
breast. This complaint foon began to
increase, and became a pretty fevere
constrictive pain, which at first lasted
about an hour only, but during the
course of the difeafe, he had fevere
paroxyfms, principally in the night, for
the

1706

the space of seven or eight hours; attended with numbness and an acute pain of the left arm, from the shoulder to the elbow. These pains accompanied one another, for as the former abated, the other was less violent also. During the severity of the paroxysm, a kind of suffocating and tormenting sensation,* which seemed to arise from the clavicles and upper part of the sternum, passed up in a continued direction, on each side of the throat and face, and added not a little to this poor man's distress.

When the constrictive pain of the breast became violent, and of long continuance, it was accompanied with a good

* I have met with this symptom in two other Patients.

a good deal of thirst, with head-ack, palpitation of the heart, and of course, irregular pulse. His appetite gradually declined, and he was sensible of losing strength daily. About three weeks from the first seizure, the pain of the breast, and difficult respiration, obliged him to quit his bed, about one or two o'clock in the morning; but in the advanced period of the disease, he often found it impossible to continue in it, more than an hour; and the remaining part of the night was spent in walking, sitting erect in a chair, or leaning forward on a table; by which means he beguiled the tedious hours, and procured some rest. But the unrefreshing sleep which was obtained by this means, added to another evil, the swelling of his legs being increased by that erect posture, which continued in the morning

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ing, when the distention indeed was very great, and rendered the case more deplorable*.

He was besides generally costive, much oppressed with flatulence, and for sometime past, had a gradual decrease of urine; and when I first saw him, not more than a third part of the liquid taken in, was rendered that way. A dry and troublesome cough, constantly attended the severe paroxysms; but the severity of all symptoms had a remission on the approach of day-light.—Such was the situation of this Person, when he first applied to me for relief, the last week in April.

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* In the instances which I have seen, it does not appear that an increased swelling of the legs at all relieves the breast; It only seems to prove, that a more general hydropic diathesis has taken place.

The first night, I ordered twenty five drops of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, in a draught composed of camphire Julep, pennyroyal water and syrurp of saffron, with twenty drops of vinegar of squills; and the following morning, a dose of aperient pills. The draught succeeded so well, as to procure near six hours sleep, and the following day he thought himself better—He was now ordered to repeat the medicine morning and evening, the dose at night being gradually increased to fifty five drops, and that in the morning to forty; which for the most part was regularly taken for the space of ten days; and during that time, he had no paroxysm so severe, as to oblige him to leave his bed above two or three different times. From that time forward, 'till his recovery, the draught was only repeated at bed
time

time, and no other medicine administer'd during the cure, except some aperient Pills, when it happen'd to be necessary. After the first week, the constrictive pain of the breast was very much abated, the concomitant symptom of pain in the arm was almost gone; his breath was a good deal relieved, and he began to expectorate more freely. There was a gradual and constant increase of urine, he became more alert, his appetite returned, and his general Health, daily improved. After the first fortnight, he got good rest, and in the space of six weeks, was sufficiently recovered to follow his usual employment.—

Having twice caught a severe cold, it was followed with a troublesome cough, shortness of breathing and tightness across the breast, without a return of

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any

any of the severe symptoms. The same remedy had its former good effect, and his complaints were perfectly relieved in five or six days, each time,——

This Person was recommended to my care, by Mr. Symons, a very ingenious Surgeon of this City, to whom the public is much obliged, for his attention to, and improvement of, the new City Baths: having examined his case with particular attention, he without hesitation, pronounced it to be Hydrothorax, which I conceive the above history must fully confirm.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is the opinion of Professor Cullen, that Hydrothorax or a collection of
ferous

ferous fluid in the cavity of the breast, occurs more frequently than is in general imagined; and also, that in Anasarca, the general Diathesis seems to affect the thorax, sooner than it does the head or abdomen. It is perhaps very difficult to assign a reason why this cavity should be more susceptible of a disease which is the consequence of general debility of the system, than the abdomen; we doubt not however, that this opinion is founded on observation, though it has escaped the notice of practitioners in general: tis also very probable that the disorder which has often been considered as an inveterate Asthma or occasioned by a depofite of gouty Acrimony, and treated as fuch; on a proper investigation of the matter, might have been discovered, to be an Hydrothorax. Two instances of this kind have

lately happened within my own knowledge; the one in the case of a personage of the first Consequence.—

Blisters and Issues are often ineffectually recommended, and indeed it would be difficult to conceive how an issue, or blister, should cure a dropsy of the breast. They may serve to amuse the patient, and procure a drain from the habit, which eventually may do no good. Blisters indeed, when applied to the part, may from their stimulus, and diuretic quality of the acrid salt which the flies contain, produce some temporary relief; but to be really serviceable, they would require a long continuance, which the great irritation they occasion, very often will not admit of.

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As to diuretics in general, how uncertain this class of medicine is in its operation, must be obvious to every Practitioner. It is moreover difficult to assign a reason, why the same diuretic medicine is employed with so much success in one patient, and totally without effect in another; even in cases attended with similar symptoms, and in a similar state of the disease. We do not pretend to account for this circumstance, yet there is one probable reason why, in certain cases of Dropsy, scarce any of the present medicines, termed diuretics, produce any effect. We conclude it to be, from a want of tonic powers, of that analeptic Virtue, which is necessary to invigorate the languishing habit, and to assist nature in carrying on her various and manifold operations; particularly, that of absorption.—On this account,

Camphire

Camphire should seem to deserve a distinguished place among medicines of this class.

No medicine can be of real service in this disease, but as it tends to excite absorption, to strengthen the digestive organs, and to give tone to the general habit. This will in some measure be promoted by the cooperation of exercise, as it tends to promote perspiration, and is one well known means of exciting general absorption. A light perspirable diet,* will also be exceedingly proper, and patients under these circumstances, should be restrained from all viscid flatulent and acrimonious Food; and above all things, from every kind of ardent

* Cibus esse debet ex media quidem materia, sed tamen generis durioris. Celsus, lib. 3. cap. 21.

ardent Spirit; as having a fatal tendency to debilitate the habit, and enervate the constitution.

C A S E V.

Mrs. W—— This Lady is now about 44 years of Age, and for a long period, has been liable to frequent Illnesses. Being of an irritable habit, and from redundant acrimony, she was subject to an habitual diarrhæa, which often required medical assistance; and at other times, to obstinate constipations of the bowels.—She has frequently been attacked with violent spasms, and contractions, in various parts of the body, and to so great a degree, in the hands and arms, as to be totally incapacitated from writing, and with difficulty,

difficulty, able to feed herself. This last complaint was more relieved by cupping than any other means. She was also subject to violent rheumatic pains; and once had the Sciatica so severe, as to occasion lameness, for a considerable space of time.

About the month of July 1785, she complained of pain in the ankle of the left leg, which gradually and continually increased, notwithstanding every assistance given her by an able, attentive and experienced Surgeon. Embrocations, cataplasms with a large proportion of opium, and fomentations, were had recourse to in vain. The pain extended from the ankle to the knee, and a general swelling of the limb took place. Blisters were applied to the parts affected, but without success.

Afterwards,

Afterwards, mercurial ointment was added to the cataplasms, and Calomel rubb'd on the ducts of the salivary glands, after the method recommended by Mr. Clare. This, though applied in small quantities, occasioned a plentiful ptyalism which lasted for some weeks, but without any sensible advantage. The part still continuing to swell, attended with great and constant pain, as a last resource, a Caustic was applied to the inner angle, and before the eschar separated, an abscess formed, and discharged itself, on the opposite side. The discharge was ichorous, black and fetid, and indicated caries; however, after much trouble, both wounds healed up, leaving an anchylosis.—Two other abscesses also formed, on the side of the tibia, one about the middle of the leg, the other near the knee; but these being

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laid open and dilated, yielded to the common mode of treatment. Doctor Lysons, her Physician, after a great variety of medicines had been used to no effect, directed a strict, and abstemious regimen, and various alteratives were tried, though with but little advantage. The pain was in general so violent, and she at night so restless, that it was absolutely necessary to have frequent recourse to opiates, and that in a pretty full dose. This gave a temporary relief, but was attended with sickness in the morning, and a vertigo that sometimes lasted the whole day.

In January 1786, a severe pleuritic pain, made blood-letting necessary, and the operation was twice repeated. A blister was also applied to the part affected, and by the assistance of pro-
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per medicine, the pain and fever were totally removed; but the other complaints still continued, as before, without any abatement.

In February, it was very obvious, that the constitution was much impaired; she had very little appetite, frequent returns of fever, and except when under the influence of opiates, was always in much misery. Towards the latter end of this month, both legs became anasarcaous, the swelling increased in a rapid manner, soon reached the thighs, which at last came to an enormous size. The parts affected, were hard, tense and painful to the touch; the urine high coloured, and voided in small quantity. The diarrhæa at times, was very troublesome, yet so far from relieving any complaint, that it only

contributed to a visible decrease of strength. The face, and upper part of the body, were much emaciated; and the third week in March, it was concluded, from the great weakness, unremitting pain, and total loss of appetite, that the disease must soon terminate, fatally.

On the 19th of this month, Doctor Lysons ordered forty drops, of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit to be taken at bedtime, and repeated either once or twice in twenty four hours, as it should be necessary. The powerful diuretic effects of this medicine, took place immediately, a considerable quantity of urine having been voided that night. In the space of a week, she was much better; the opiate at night became unnecessary, and there was a sensible decrease

decrease of pain. In another fortnight, we had gained ground considerably; a plentiful flow of urine continued, the limbs were much lessened in size, and the appetite was very much improved. The Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, was now continued almost constantly, at night, for sometime; in short, 'till the swelling was totally reduced; when unfortunately, a violent indigestion was likely to have deprived us of all the advantage we had gained, and the patient of her life. This complaint, however, was removed in four or five days, but she was so much reduced by it, and the habit so much relaxed, that one leg and thigh again began to swell very much. The Æthereal draught, was again administered; which besides having the *good* effect of an opiate, gradually reduced the swelling, and
 increased

increased the appetite ; and her general health, is restored to a degree, that has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of all her medical attendants, as well as of all those, who were about her.

OBSERVATIONS.

The sudden, and powerful diuretic effect of this medicine, is sufficiently shewn in the history of this case ; but it is perhaps of more consequence to remark the great alteration induced in the general habit.—In a constitution that appeared to be almost worn down with Disease ; where the fluids were much vitiated ; where a peculiar acrimony, had made a depofite on different parts of the same limb ; and where its painful effect

effect on the Joint still continued, though the wound was healed; the *Æthereal Anodyne Spirit* afforded more relief, and contributed more towards a cure, than the most powerful alteratives. It gradually restored the appetite, it was also a means of procuring rest, and it plentifully evacuated the morbid humors.

This patient, on account of the stiff Joint, being deprived of exercise, obliged to lead a sedentary life, and continue much in a sitting posture; has had some return of a hard swelling and stiffness in the right leg and thigh. This medicine therefore, has been occasionally repeated, and when given in a pretty full dose, has scarcely ever failed of increasing urine, to at least triple the quantity made on those days, on which
the

the medicine was omitted and reduced the tumor, which was exactly similar to those observed in the thighs of anasarctous patients.

It is of consequence to know, that its diuretic Effect in general, seldom takes place in a considerable degree, 'till the dose is increased to forty or fifty drops; and I sometime since had a patient, who being too cautious about the dose, continued it for near a fortnight without advantage; but on taking fifty drops twice a day, she in the course of four days, evacuated by urine and alvine discharges, some gallons. It may not be improper to add, that this patient having a great aversion to medicine, took it in no other vehicle than rhenish wine and water; that all other medicines had for sometime been discontinued; and

and that the *Digitalis purpurea*, was necessarily relinquished; as it occasioned nausea, vertigo, and total loss of appetite, which has never since been recovered. It appears probable, that the tone of the stomach was more injured by this *medicine*, if I may venture to give it that name, than by the Disease itself; as before we had recourse to it, the appetite was very good.* As far

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* An ingenious Physician, who resides in the neighbourhood of London, has informed me, that a Lady whose stomach bore large doses of it without its occasioning much sickness. and where it was gradually increased so far as seven grains, without producing *any* diuretic effect; had her stomach so much injured by it, as never after to recover its tone, and the Dropsy remained incurable.

In another case of *Ascites*, in a young woman, it cured the Disease, but brought on a paralytic Affection, which however, her youth and the assistance of medicine, at length, enabled her to surmount.

In the case of a Lady, who lives in a distant County and laboured under an *ascites* joined with *Anasarca*,
th,

as my own observations have gone, I am sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of drawing the following conclusions ;

the foxglove proved more diuretic than any other medicine, and procured temporary relief; on a second trial however, it had no effect on the urinary secretion, but brought on a deadly sickness, attended with great debility; on which account it was necessarily discontinued.

It was also administered to a Gentleman in Cornwall, in a dropsy of the Breast, and the account which I have received from thence says, that it acted more powerfully as a diuretic, than any other medicine that was tried, and having relieved all distressing symptoms, it was concluded that the water had been perfectly evacuated. The foxglove was continued for the space of eight days only, when it brought on a fever, delirium and such dimness of sight for several weeks, as entirely to deprive the patient of the amusement of reading. He continued in a State of tolerable ease for some months, when the Disease returned with its former violence. The approbation of the Physician was now obtained, for the trial of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, and on this occasion, I shall relate the event, in the words of the Gentleman's sister, to her friend in Bath.—“ Under these
 “ circumstances, the Æthereal Spirit was given, and
 “ without acting at all as a diuretic or cathartic, my
 “ Brother was *again* unaccountably relieved from the
 “ oppression at his Breast, and the increased swelling
 “ of the belly lessened, and in this tolerable state he
 “ has

clusions; that *Digitalis purpurea*, has no *certain* diuretic properties—that it is exceedingly inimical to the human frame, particularly the nervous system; and that by a perseverance in its use, after it begins to occasion nausea and sickness, tends to injure the stomach, and occasion irremediable evils.*

M 2

CASE,

“ has remained ever since.” N. B. It was once before taken by this gentleman, and procured great relief, without any sensible evacuation, though never given in a full dose, nor continued a proper time. The above letter was wrote in July, and I have been lately informed, that he died about two months since.

* I very heartily join in opinion, with an ingenious Correspondent of Worcester, who in his Letter to me on this subject, says, “ Our Physicians have of late given it very generally, and in *small* doses, speak rather favorably of it. If I am not mistaken, it will soon, with the whole tribe of noxious vegetables so much in fashion, sink into the contempt they deserve! ”

C A S E VI.

Mr. B—— a person of property in this neighbourhood applied to Dr. Harrington sometime in the month of June last, on account of difficulty and shortness of breathing, attended with a dry cough and pain across the breast. He appeared to be of a robust constitution, had a florid complexion, and in general had enjoyed good health. This complaint had gradually been coming on him for sometime, accompanied with loss of appetite, thirst, debility and incapacity of getting exercise from walking, both on account of short breathing, weakness, and a smart pain extending across the breast. He had for a considerable time been subject to a palpitation of the heart, which even now re-

turns

turns from the least excess in drinking, particularly of any spirituous mixture. His legs began to swell, the urine was high coloured, and voided in small quantity: his nights became restless, and the oppression on his breast preventing sleep, he was often obliged to sit up in bed, and required the admission of fresh air from the window; and at last was compelled for two successive nights, to leave his bed altogether, and either walked in the Room, or sat upright in an armed chair. He felt great anxiety about the Præcordia, had an intermitting pulse, and a disagreeable suffocating pain, which passed up on each side of the throat and face.—A lax state of the bowels, which happened about two years ago and was very obstinate, induced him at the recommendation of some friend, to make use of Brandy and water at his meals

meals, as a common beverage; which, as it seemed to agree with him, he persevered in its use, and perhaps with too much freedom, as it probably laid the foundation for all those complaints.

Dr. Harington had twice prescribed, and directed such medicines as are generally found most efficacious in Dyspnæa and Infarctions of the Lungs, and with a view also of promoting urinary secretion. These medicines had been continued a fortnight, and though a blister, which had been applied between the shoulders, discharged very freely, all the symptoms increased; and he had a most violent constrictive seizure across the breast, which lasted many hours.

The Doctor having maturely considered this case, had no doubt, but water
in

in the cavity of the Thorax, was the source of all these complaints; and now ordered a diuretic Draught,* with thirty five

*R. Julep. é Camphor. drachmas decem
 Aq. Cinnam. Simp. drachmas tres
 Tinct Aromat.
 Syr. Croci a drachmam unam
 Acet. Scillit. gt. xv. vel xx. m. f. Haustus.

The Æthereal Spirit was originally given in this kind of draught to the first patient who took the medicine, as it was considered to be moderately stomachic and mildly diuretic; but I have since learnt from experience, that it is of much greater consequence in another view, as the Æthereal Spirit, when joined with the acet. scillit. may be given with the greatest safety in a full dose, which indeed will generally be necessary in most hydropic Cases. By lessening the action of the medicine on the heart and arterial system; the blood will not be driven to the head with that force, nor act with that impetus on the brain, which it otherwise would do; and hence will be a means of preventing that headach and drowsiness which would be the consequence of a full dose; particularly in patients much debilitated or of very irritable habits. It has moreover the advantage of keeping the bowels in a soluble state, and I have not had reason to make any alteration, except in the proportions of the vinegar of squills and æthereal Spirit; always taking particular care to avoid nauseating the stomach. Much has been said, respecting the addition of Vinegar of Squills

five drops of the æthereal anodyne Spirit, to be taken at bedtime, which was also to be repeated in the morning, with a less dose of the spirit. This was continued three days, which gave sensible relief; and the spirit was then increased ten drops, both in the morning and night draught.

After the first week, he lay down in bed with ease, his sleep returned, he had no paroxysm that was in any degree so violent as the preceding, and he began to make water with freedom. The
 medicine

Squills to the æthereal Spirit, and insinuations have been thrown out, as if the diuretic effect depended on this circumstance; but in innumerable instances, its effects have been equally salutary, without this Addition. No practitioner need be informed, what little reliance is to be placed on twenty or thirty drops, of Vinegar of Squills taken once, or at most, twice only in twenty-four hours, in any kind of dropsy, but more particularly in dropsies of the breast.

medicine was repeated for another fortnight at bedtime only; then it was taken, in a full dose, every second or third night; in which manner it was continued about two months. No other medicine was prescribed after he commenced this course, nor indeed was it necessary, as the bowels were kept sufficiently open, and often purged by it. He now enjoys good health, and has no complaint, except an accidental return of shortness of breath, which has sometimes been the consequence of great exertion.

OBSERVATIONS,

This case seems sufficiently to prove the fatal effect of Spirituous liquors, and that it induces, that general laxity

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of

of the system, which disposes to Dropsy; a slight excess, has more than once been the means of bringing on a considerable degree of palpitation, and oppression at the Præcordia; and what had been recommended as a medicine, became actually a slow poison; perhaps also it might give a check, to the discharge of some acrimony, which nature was throwing off from the habit.

I must here beg leave to observe, that of the different cures which have been effected by the Æthereal anodyne Spirit, it has not been assisted in any one instance, by issues or blisters; and in one case, where an issue had been made in each thigh, and both were troublesome, I very readily complied with the wishes of my patient, that they might be permitted to heal up; which was
done

done without inconvenience, as indeed they had not in the least conduced towards his relief.

In these cases also, however great the difficulty of breathing, however violent the constrictive pain on the breast, the lancet is as much to be dreaded as the stab of a poniard: it is never made use of with impunity, and the transient relief it may possibly procure, is dearly purchased by increased debility, and a more general relaxation of the system. A little reflection, may easily convince us, that the operation can never answer any curative intention; it therefore very much behoves us, in cases of such imminent danger to act with the greatest circumspection; least we should add to the burthen which we wish to lighten,

and weaken those powers which were before insufficient for its removal.

I must further remark, that, when, from a general laxity of the Solids, that state of debility is induced in the system which constitutes the hydropic diathesis, every cavity, and the whole cellular substance will be liable to be more or less affected with disease; and particularly the cavities of the thorax, for the reasons already assigned. When the patient however is so fortunate, that his case will admit of cure, it is very clear, that, 'till the solids have again regained their tone, he will, from a variety of accidents, be prone to a return of the same complaints—Nothing will so surely effect this, as an intemperance in any kind of fermented liquor; but more especially Spirits of every denomination, whether

whether plain or medicated. The patient is hereby instructed, how much it behoves him to pay the strictest regard to regimen, and to use every endeavour to improve his general health, by temperance and a proper attention to what medical writers call the Non-Naturals, (to wit,) air, diet, sleep, exercise, due evacuations, and the passions of the mind. The practitioner is also admonished of the necessity of tonic, bracing, and restorative medicines; that insensible perspiration is to be promoted, and external absorption prevented; both which purposes will be effected by a regular and constant use of Horse exercise. Friction will also very much contribute to the same end.

CASE

C A S E, VII.

Dr. Lysons did me the favor of sending the following case, with his premission to publish it,

“ A farmer*, whose wife, or himself,
“ attend Bath market twice a week;
“ came to me March the twenty-fifth,
“ 1786, on account of his wife’s ill
“ state of health. He described her
“ as being dropfical, costive, very much
“ swoln, short breathed, making very
“ little water, and not able to lie down
“ in bed.—I ordered her a scruple of
“ Rufus’s pill, and three grains of Ca-
“ lomel, to be made up in four pills,
“ and

* Mr. Chancellor of Pensford.

“ and taken about ten o’Clock at night,
“ and that the next morning, she should
“ begin upon the following diuretic
“ mixture.”

R. Oxymel. Scil.
Aq. Juniper. Comp.
Sqr. ex Alth. a Semunciam
Spirit. Nitri d. drachmas duas
Aq. Menth. simp. uncias septem
m. fumat.

April 5th. “ I visited her, at her
“ house, fifteen miles distant from Bath,
“ and found her state of health as above
“ described by her Husband, and she
“ sitting at the end of the bed, with
“ her feet hanging down; in which
“ posture she had continued day and
“ night; saying she could not lift up
“ her feet, nor lie down in bed with-
“ out

“ out a sense of immediate suffocation.
 “ I urged the necessity there was for
 “ keeping up the legs, and that she
 “ should get into bed at night, and by
 “ means of bolsters, be kept in almost
 “ an erect posture. The pills were re-
 “ peated this night, and an ounce of
 “ manna, an ounce of compound Juni-
 “ per water, and two drams of nitre,
 “ ordered in a pint of common emul-
 “ sion; a quarter of a pint to be taken
 “ the next morning, and repeated three
 “ times a day.”

April 8th. “ The pills were again re-
 “ peated this night, and the emulsion
 “ continued, with the addition of two
 “ drams of pulv. Contrayerv. comp. on
 “ account of some pains in the bowels
 “ being complained of. The manna
 “ was

“ was also omitted, but ordered to be
“ added occasionally, if wanting.”

April 15. “ Finding that, although
“ the medicines she had taken, had af-
“ forded her some relief, yet, that the
“ disease was not likely to be subdued,
“ without the assistance of some other
“ medicines; and having observed the
“ powerful diuretic effect of the Spiri-
“ tus Æthereus Anodynus prepared by
“ Mr. Tickell, and the benefit thereby
“ received in the case of a Gentleman,
“ who was subject to an habitual Asthma,
“ and was, at the time of my prescrib-
“ ing the medicine, labouring under
“ great anxiety of the præcordia, want
“ of sleep, inability of walking, espe-
“ cially up stairs, and other symptoms
“ indicating water in the chest, I ordered
“ for Mrs. C***** as follows;

O

R. Aq.

R. Aq. Juniper. comp. drachmas tres
Syr. balsam. drachmam unam
Spt. Æther. Anod. gt. xxx.
Acet. Scil. gt. xx.
Aq. fontanæ sesquiunciam f
haustus fumendus hac nocte, et re-
petendus omni nocte et mane.

“ After taking this last medicine, she
“ was not only raised from a state of
“ total inactivity, but enabled to move
“ about the house, and even ride two
“ or three miles.”

May 3d. “ As she wished to be eased
“ of the burthen of so much medicine,
“ I consented to her taking an æthereal
“ draught at night only ; and ordered
“ the following pills, with an eye to the
“ asthmatic complaint, as well as to
“ obviate

“ obviate the costiveness complained
“ of.”

R. G. Ammoniac.

Pil. Rufi a drachmam unam

Syrup. Zingiberis q. s. fiat
pilulæ triginta, tres sumendæ bis die.

May 8th. “ She complained that
“ the pills I last ordered, did not ope-
“ rate so well, as what she took in single
“ doses occasionally : She therefore
“ was directed to take the calomel pills
“ twice a week, at bedtime ; and re-
“ peat the Æthereal draughts night and
“ morning. How long she pursued this
“ method, I am not particularly in-
“ formed, but she recovered, and now
“ attends the Bath market on wednes-
“ days and saturdays.” Sept. 7th 1786.

The efficacy of the Æthereal Spirit in this case is too obvious to require any comment ; but it may not be improper to add, that the quantity she took of the Spirit, was about three ounces and an half.

C A S E, VIII.

Captain G--h-m, a gentleman about seventy one years of age, had been subject, at different periods of his life, to nervous complaints and biliary obstructions. In the beginning of the summer 1786, he first perceived a shortness of breath, attended with a dry cough; but soon became sensible of it in a great degree, on ascending an acclivity, or going up stairs. After this complaint had continued sometime,

walking

walking up a moderate ascent became very distressing. About the latter end of July, he applied for [medical Assistance, and was for about six weeks, under the direction of a Physician of eminence in London, who appeared to be perfectly well acquainted with the symptoms and nature of the disease, which he pronounced to be a dropfy of the Breast, but gave the Gentleman's friends very little encouragement to expect a cure; and it was judged prudent, that the Patient should remain unacquainted with his disorder. After a fruitless trial of medicine for several weeks, without relief, or diminution of symptoms, he was advised to put himself under the care of another medical Gentleman, who was said to have given great relief in similar complaints. Several different medicines were re
commended

commended, but the most preſſing ſymptoms ſtill continued; though the patient was more relieved by Æther and a few drops of Thebaic tincture than any other medicine,

Under theſe circumſtances he ſet out for Bath, and ſoon after his arrival, became my patient.—On the leaſt exerciſe from walking, his breathing was ſhort and laborious, he had often a violent pain acroſs the breaſt, a troubleſome cough, by which he threw off a conſiderable quantity of a thin glandular diſcharge; and his urine was very high coloured, with a brick duſt ſediment, and voided in ſmall quantity. He had not lain down in bed one night, for more than three months paſt; and could get no reſt, but when bolſtered up very high. Attempting to recline

commended

on

on either side, but more particularly the left, brought on an almost immediate suffocation. For the most part, after an hour or two of disturbed rest*, he was awakened by a most distressing and difficult respiration, attended with a sensation at the pit of the stomach, such as he said he could with difficulty describe, but which seemed as if life was going to depart from him; and this often lasted for many hours. As the paroxysm went off towards morning, he again got some disturbed rest, which indeed procured him very little refreshment, but constantly left him languid and weak.

Though

* Quibus hoc unicum addere licet tanquam *pathognomonicum* et quo solo hydrops pectoris a cæteris difficultatis respirandi Speciebus distinguitur. Quando nimirum Spirandi difficultas primo quoque somni tempore invadit, cumque intercipit, ac per noctem magis urget, procedente vero die sensim lentescit. River. prax. med. lib. 7. cap. v.

Though he could eat tolerably well once in the day, yet he was generally sensible of the effects of indigestion, and was very much emaciated. His pulse was quick, irregular, frequently intermitting, and at times, he complained of violent palpitations. On Sunday morning, Oct, 15th, he took an aperient medicine, and at night, a draught with thirty drops of the Æthereal Spirit, which was also repeated on Monday in the forenoon. From the shortness of breathing, and volatility of the spirit, the draught was swallowed with great difficulty, and was therefore obliged to be given in divided doses, for four or five days. On Monday night about eleven o'clock, he had a severe paroxysm, after having had an hour's rest, which lasted for a considerable time; when sufficiently recovered, he

he took the medicine, and his night was more tolerable than the former. After the æthereal anodyne Spirit had been continued four days, he began to diminish the number of his pillows, and within the fortnight, could lie as low in bed, as he ever had been accustomed to do. On the fourth day also there was a visible increase of urine, and on the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, he voided on each day, from three quarts to a gallon. For another week, it continued to flow very freely, when, being perfectly relieved from all distressing symptoms, there was every reason to suppose, that all redundant fluid was evacuated.

The greatest revolution happened in this gentleman's case, respecting the pulse, that I ever remember in any patient

tient, in so short a space of time. As the flow of urine began to increase, the pulse became more slow, less irregular, and the intermission less frequent. On the eighth day, the pulse beat only forty strokes in a minute, and in the space of four days afterwards, gradually got up to sixty-five and seventy, became strong, with the intermission once in twenty-five or thirty strokes only.

The appetite now became voracious, and hunger was scarcely to be satisfied; there was also a profuse spitting, often a full pint in twenty-four hours; certain signs of a relaxed stomach, and vitiated state of the gastric juice.—He had a regular motion, generally once in the day, and, as his breast was perfectly at ease, and urine made in full quantity; Bark and Bath Water were now pre-
scribed,

scribed, which seemed to do the stomach considerable service; the spitting lessened, and the appetite became much more moderate. At this time, the pulse again became very irregular, varying very much, in point of quickness, in a short space of time. On the second of November he thought himself better than for some preceding days, looked more chearful, and had better spirits, but the pulse was found to vary much in the space of a few minutes. When I first measured the pulse, it beat about seventy strokes, but very irregular; I soon afterwards examined again, and was astonished to find barely forty strokes, without the patient being sensible of any particular affection; and during half an hour I remained with him, talked a good deal, and with chearfulness. I left him about noon,

and at three o'clock was sent for in great haste, as he was supposed to be dead; which on my arrival, I found to be the case. He had gone from the drawing room into the bed-chamber, where it is probable from circumstances, he might have been making some exertions in examining his baggage, which arrived the day before, as he dropt down and expired instantly.

During our conversation in the forenoon, he mentioned, that his rest had been rather disturbed about the middle of the night, and, finding a particular sensation at his stomach, was induced to lay his hand on it, and said that he had distinctly counted twenty pulsations, which were not synchronous with the heart—this was his own observation. It can scarcely be doubted, but that

that this pulsation was from the Aorta, and that his death must have happened, from the bursting of that, or some other large vessel; and the state of the pulse at noon, shews that the heart or arterial system was very much deranged.

It is matter of much concern, that in angina pectoris, and very frequently in Hydrothorax, the foundation of the complaint is laid, by a peculiar affection of some noble Organ, but principally of the heart; in which Case, if we are so fortunate as to procure an alleviation of symptoms, it is all that can possibly be expected from medicine.

CASE,

C A S E, IX.

John Farrent, a gardener, and an Inhabitant of this place, tall and of a spare habit, in the beginning of June last, caught a severe cold from lying in a damp bed. In a few days he became feverish, had a troublesome cough, with some difficulty in breathing, and attended with a pain of the side. Depending on his constitution, which was naturally good, and having recourse only to culinary medicine, his complaints daily increased; his cough became very troublesome, and he expectorated with great difficulty. His appetite gradually decreased, he had much thirst, and, at the end of the fourth week, was attacked with a diarrhœa, by which his strength was considerably

- reduced,

reduced, and he was great part of his time, confined to bed. He continued in this state to the end of July, when a Lady sent him half an ounce of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, with directions to begin with fifteen drops, and take that dose twice a day in hoarhound tea. Having regularly an increase of fever towards night, he was cautioned never to exceed twenty-five drops, and very gradually to make that addition.

The good effects of this medicine were evident in less than a fortnight, as it relieved the difficulty of breathing, lessened the cough and fever, and promoted expectoration. By degrees he regained his appetite, got strength and spirits, and within six weeks from the commencement of his taking the Æthereal

real

real Spirit, he was enabled, in some measure, to follow his usual employment.

By the Lady's direction, he called on me, the second week in September, when he considered himself recovered; but, there being still some remains of cough, I gave him another half ounce of the Spirit, with orders to continue it every night, till the cough had perfectly left him, which indeed happened soon after.

I must observe, that in this case, the *Æthereal Spirit* was given in hoarhound tea only, and that it had not the assistance of any other medicine; and though its exhibition would be certainly improper in pneumonic complaints attended with any considerable degree of inflammation,

mation, yet I am fully convinced, from repeated experience, that when given in a moderate dose, it has very powerful febrifuge Virtues.

I can with pleasure add the case of a tradesman* of this city, who had a very troublesome cough for fourteen months, for which, besides change of Air, he had in vain tried many medicines. An immense quantity of glandular Matter was thrown off by the cough, he had colliquative Sweats, and his strength was much reduced. This person informed me, that half an ounce of the æthereal Spirit, taken in small doses, in hoarhound tea, during the space of three weeks, had done him more service, than all the Medicines he had before made

Q trial

* Mr. Baker of Cock-lane.

trial of; as the cough had daily decreased, very soon after he had commenced its use, and at the end of five weeks, gave him no trouble or disturbance, but just in the morning, when the quantity he expectorated was very inconsiderable. Having taken fresh cold in the beginning of november, there was some increase of cough, which was accompanied with a discharge of glandular mucus, that had not the most distant appearance of Matter; his appetite remaining perfectly good, without fever or diminution of strength.

When a genuine hectic has taken place, as the consequence of pulmonary Phthisis, we have only to lament the inefficacy of all medicine, except such as is merely palliative; our chief attention therefore, is to be directed to the
prevention

prevention of so fatal a malady. From the good effects of the Æthereal Spirit, in a variety of coughs, particularly such as derive their origin from catarrhs and defluxions, and which indeed very generally lay the foundation of a pulmonary Phthisis; I can assert from the fullest conviction, that it is to be preferred, to every other remedy; and when joined with the peruvian Bark, which perhaps will agree better when taken in Milk, than any other way, and do most service in this stage of the disease, it will be found to give sudden and surprising relief.

I shall now proceed to some other instances of the efficacy of this medicine in febrile cases, particularly of the intermittent kind. A person was recommended to me, who had laboured under

an irregular intermittent between two and three months; it had indeed been several times checked by the Bark, and so much, that the patient was often free from any paroxysm for eight or ten days, yet it every now and then returned, and often in a much less interval. On his journey to Bath, he was much fatigued, being at that time very weak, and soon after his arrival had a pretty severe paroxysm. Evacuants were first prescribed, and afterwards the Bark, which was continued for a week, without the least advantage. I first saw him about this time, and found he had a good deal of fever, a quick and weak pulse, attended with much pain in the head, constant thirst, and that he was much emaciated. His nights were generally restless, and he had not the least appetite for food. There were great
marks

marks of debility, and on the slightest exercise, the pulse became so quick, as scarcely to be counted. Notwithstanding he had been freely evacuated, yet finding so much fever upon him, I ventured to give at night a dose of James's powder, and a mixture composed of Mindererus's Spirit and camphire Julep. The powder acted mildly, procured only two motions, without any other sensible effect; and was repeated the following night, with the addition of another grain. It now acted both as an emetic and purgative; and though the pulse was at an hundred and ten strokes in a minute, on the days of Intermiffion, yet I resolved to give the Bark, and a pretty full dose of the powder, was ordered to be taken in milk, at least every three hours. The next day he continued in a similar situation, and as
his

his nights had been restless, with much pain of the head, I gave him at bedtime a draught with thirty-five drops of the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit. On visiting him about noon the following day, when the paroxysm was expected to have returned, he informed me of his having had six hours sleep during the night, that he found himself much better, and on examining the pulse, there was a decrease of at least thirty strokes. The draught was repeated five successive nights, with the addition of five drops of the Spirit; the Bark was now taken once in six hours, for two days, and the four following days afterwards, once in eight hours only. After taking the first draught, there was no return of rigor, nor scarce any febrile symptom. The appetite soon began to improve, he rested

rested well at night, had a daily increase of strength, and by the above means, obtained a speedy and perfect cure.

It may be objected, that as the peruvian Bark, was given at the same time with the æthereal Spirit, it will be difficult to decide, to which medicine the cure is to be ascribed: But I must observe that Bark, Emetics and Antimonials, had before been repeatedly given without success; and that the good effects of the æthereal Anodyne, were almost immediately conspicuous, in its giving him that repose, and that abatement of pulse, which the other medicines had not been able to produce.

It has also succeeded perfectly well in a periodical pain of the face, which, whilst it lasted, was attended with a
severe

severe Spasm in the eye; and returned regularly, with great violence, every afternoon about two o'clock. It is well known, that complaints of this kind, will very frequently yield to nothing but the peruvian Bark; it was however, very fortunate in this Lady's case, that it could be relieved by other means, not heing able to avail ourselves of that valuable medicine, as it had on all occasions, constantly disagreed with her.

While I had the honor of attending on Mr. Elton, of Stapleton, to whom the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, in July last, had done remarkable Service, when labouring under a multiplicity of alarming Complaints; he informed me that his groom had been useless to him for some months, having been rendered incapable of service by an Ague, which
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had been so obstinate, that the Bark, had no other effect, than to stop the paroxysm for a few days; and this it had done several times, but the fever always returned with the greater violence. Several nostrums had also been tried in vain. Charms and amulets were not forgotten. Having mentioned the very remarkable effects of the Æthereal Spirit in the above case; Mr. Elton gave directions for his coming to Bath, and on examining him, in company with Mr. Anderdon,* we found that the tertian he had so long laboured under, had lately changed its type, and was
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* I am happy in having this opportunity of acknowledging my obligations to this gentleman, who is deservedly considered as eminent in his Profession, for his candour and impartial conduct on this and several other occasions; who setting aside every interested Idea, made it apparent that the welfare of the patient, was his first object.

become a quotidian. His complexion being yellow, the belly tumid, and some pain being felt from pressure on the region of the Liver, it was thought adviseable as the first step, to give a mercurial dose at night, and purge it off the next morning. The aperient medicine operated briskly, and at noon he had a severe paroxysm, which lasted its usual time. Thirty-five drops of the æthereal Spirit were given at bed-time, which procured him an exceeding good night, and a remission of the paroxysm the following day. The draught was repeated for five or six successive nights, the ague again resumed its former type of a tertian; and in a very short time, perfectly yielded to the peruvian Bark joined with alum. From these cases, I was induced to make trial of the æthereal Spirit in a regular tertian,

tain, without the assistance of Bark; and giving it three times a day, in a pretty full dose, the patient was cured in the space of nine days. This person was a mason, and constantly attended his employment, on the days he was free from the paroxysm, and was exposed to very unfavorable weather all the time.

I do not wish to be understood, that this medicine is here recommended as a specific in intermittents; but there are very good grounds to suppose, that when Agues are irregular and obstinate, and the patient is much debilitated, it may be joined with the Bark, to great advantage; and in a late instance, I am fully persuaded, that it tended greatly to facilitate the cure of a quartan, attended with unfavorable symptoms, in a lady pretty far advanced in life.

C A S E, X.

James Williams, a native of Bath, who is about nine years of age, and at this time lives with his mother in Barnes's Court, in Horse Street, was seized with the first Epileptic fit in June 1782, when about four years and three months old. Though a robust child to appearance, he had been subject to a trembling from his birth, and apparent weakness of nerves. His mother, who is a healthy woman, had no fright nor any other accident that happened to her, as far as she can recollect, during gestation. The child when first seized, had his senses very perfect, and the first symptom which was observed when his complaints came on, was turning his head over one shoulder, which was followed by

by a foolish grin; when he soon afterwards fell down, and became insensible.* These fits happened very frequently by day, and he also sometimes had them by night. Soon after his first seizure, he was taken to a Physician of this City, of great ability, who very humanely attended to the case, and prescribed for him during the space of seven months, but without gaining much advantage. For twelve months afterwards, he continued in the same situation, making trial of such domestic remedies only, as were occasionally recommended by the neighbours. The fits then left him for several months, but

* From this position of the head, previous to the fit, it may reasonably be supposed, that the pressure on the brain was made on that side, probably by some extravasated fluid; for further confirmation of this, see Dr. Lysons's practical Essays, section the third, page 159.

but he grew weak and dispirited; on which account, application was made to another Physician, of great ingenuity and extensive practice, under whose direction he continued about three months, and in addition to medicine, a trial was made of the warm Bath. At this time he had a good appetite and slept well, but as he still continued weak; his mother was advised, though not by the Physician, to make trial of sea bathing, which was pursued in the whimsical manner of bathing nine mornings successively, and after an intermission of the same number of days, it was again resumed, and continued in this manner for nineteen weeks; and during the last fortnight, he had a return of the fits, with the former violence. In April 1785, he was received into the Bristol infirmary, where he continued
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for the space of three months, and was then discharged as incurable. He soon after grew so weak, that he was scarcely able to stand, appeared to be totally enervated, and his senses became gradually impaired. In January 1786, he was electrified eight different times, but he daily became worse, appeared more debilitated, almost lost the use of his arms, and walked with great difficulty; and soon after this, so totally lost his senses, as not to know his mother, and became even incapable of feeding himself. His stools and urine passed off involuntarily, and he, in reality, became a most stupid Idiot. About five months since his Clavicle being fractured by a fall, he was brought to Mr. Perry, an ingenious Surgeon of this City, whose humanity towards the Poor, when in need of chirurgical assistance,

sistance, cannot be spoken of in too high terms of praise. This gentleman having cured the fracture, put a seton in his neck, and gave some general directions; and having sometime afterwards given me an account of the case, we agreed to make trial of the æthereal anodyne Spirit, giving five drops, of the stronger preparation, three times a day. The dose, after the first week, was increased to seven drops, soon afterwards brought to ten, and has since been gradually increased to thirty drops, three times a day, which for his age, may be considered as a very large proportion, but in this subject, has never given rise to any untoward symptom. For the first fortnight the fits were altogether as frequent, and by no means less violent, but on the third and fourth week, there was a very sensible amendment.

ment. In the sixth week his senses began to improve, he took notice of objects, became sensible of the calls of nature, and for some days had not a single attack. The fits then became periodical, coming on for a week, very regularly, at five o'clock in the evening—since which, they have returned at different times of the day, but were of short duration. The æthereal Spirit has now been continued about three months, and the fits at this time* are so slight, as scarcely to deserve that name, being little more than a tremor, attended with a slight degree of insensibility, and lasting a few seconds only. He has lately gained strength very much, has occasionally been sent on errands by his mother, and 'tis now probable that he

may

* February, 3d.

may become a useful member of society. As worms are often considered to be the cause of this complaint, the patient was four or five times purged with pulv. bafilicus. but no worms were voided, and besides an emetic, no other medicine was administered but the æthereal Spirit.

The action of this medicine on the brain and nervous system, must be admitted to be very powerful, and confirms, what I have already advanced, of its tonic and analeptic virtues. I must further remark, that though the Boy's senses are now returned, with a tolerable degree of memory, yet he appears to have the understanding only of a child about four or five years old; and that the Ideas which have been impressed on the sensorium commune, during

during his Illness, have been of too flight and fugitive a nature to improve the intellects.*

This Patient has been seen by Doctor Smith and Doctor Lysons, and as the case is certainly of a very extraordinary nature, I consider that I should neither have done justice to myself or the public, if I had not, at this time, taken some notice of it; though I pledge myself, to give a future account of the event of this, as well as of the following case, when a proper opportunity shall offer. The history of this case. I could only learn from the child's mother' and as

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* From the history of this case, and the salutary effects it produced in this patient, is there not reason to hope, it may be given with success in the Hydrocephalus internus?

her relation has been always uniform, I can have no reason to doubt of its being conformable to truth.

C A S E, XI.

Mary Moore—who lives with her Mother in Balance-Street, No. 5, and is near eleven years of age, was about four months since seized with an epileptic fit whilst in church. The second attack happened nine days afterwards, and then the fits returned once in twelve or fourteen hours. She generally lay insensible and speechless for a quarter of an hour, when she began to foam at the mouth, and in eight or ten minutes afterwards to speak. On the going off of the fit, she remained very low and dispirited, and was in some degree convulsed for several hours

hours. The epileptic fits then left her, and the attacks in future began with a painful sensation on the left side of the mouth, which soon communicated itself to the neck and left arm, when the whole side gradually became affected, and was contracted with considerable pain. These painful sensations were attended with violent spasms in the bowels which have often lasted for twenty four hours; and after a remission of six hours, have again returned with their former violence. In this very disagreeable situation she continued about two months; by which she was much weakened, and almost lost all appetite for food. She was blistered, put into the warm Bath, and proper medicines were administered, by which she was in some degree relieved, but the spasms soon afterwards returned, with their former violence. The pains of
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the bowels had been much lessened by clysters and other medicines, but the convulsive pain of the side, was so obstinate, as not to yield either to external applications, or whatever medicine was taken internally. She was brought to me about five weeks since, when she was immediately ordered to begin with the Æthereal Anodyne Spirit, taking ten drops at a dose, which was repeated three times a day, or oftener, as the case required, and after it had been continued three days, she became sensible of its good effects. At first the complaint returned twice in twenty-four hours, but was less severe and of much shorter duration, and during the third week from the commencement of her taking the medicine, she was several days without any convulsive Spasm, but it afterwards returned, though much less violent. Her
mother

mother remarked, that before the child took the *Æthereal Spirit*, the convulsive spasms returned every other day, with great violence, continuing for eight or ten hours, and on that account she was, on these days, obliged to get some person to assist her,

She has now taken the medicine pretty regularly for five weeks; on some days has not the least sensation of pain or spasm, and when either returns, it does not continue more than five minutes. The child herself is so sensible of the good effect of the *Æthereal Spirit*, that on the first Symptom of any spasmodic Affection, she instantly requests her mother, for a dose of the medicine; and there is every reason to hope from the success which has already attended its use, that by perseverance and attention

to regimen, a perfect recovery will soon be effected.

As a further proof of the very powerful antispasmodic virtue of the Æthereal Spirit, I shall beg leave to insert the following Letter, which I have lately had the honor of receiving from Mr. Thicknesse.

S I R.

Holding professional *Etiquette* in as much contempt as Doctor Mack. Adair does those Nostrums he calls Quack Medicines, which have, for years past, proved, beyond a doubt, to have succeeded, when all others have failed; I think it a debt due to you, and to the public too, if you please, to say, that I have for more than three months past,
been

been much disturbed with a violent fluttering, and palpitation of the heart which never ceased, and was often so violent, that I apprehended it would continue 'till my heart ceased all motion. I have now for five weeks past taken, two or three times a day, fifteen or sixteen drops of the Æthereal Spirit with ten of Vinegar of Squills, in a glass of Peppermint Water, and though I cannot say the flutter and palpitation is quite removed, yet it is much less troublesome, and sometimes scarce perceptible; and I can attribute the benefit I have received, to no other cause than the Efficacy of the Æthereal Spirit. I have constantly rode on horse back, before, and since I took the Medicine; but I must observe that exclusive of the flutter, and palpitation of my heart, that I have all along felt, as well, if not better, than most

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men of my age*, and none other of the animal functions that I could perceive, were disordered.

I am, with Esteem,

Sir, your humble servant

Philip Thicknesse, Senior,
St. Catherine's Hermitage,
near Bath.

January the 10th, 1787.

At my request, the vinegar of squills was added to the Æthereal Spirit, and I very generally join them together, in cases totally foreign to Dropsy. I have
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* Sixty eight.

three Patients* at this time, where the constitution is so delicate, and the nervous system so irritable, that I have not, in either case, been able to exceed twenty five drops of the milder preparation of the Æthereal Spirit, and even that dose, till the vinegar of squills was added to it, constantly occasioned a considerable degree of feverish heat, and very much affected the head. Since the addition, the medicine agrees perfectly well; and the Patients have been very much relieved; and it almost always has the good effect of keeping the bowels in a soluble state.

It has been objected, and even by some of my friends, that in specifying

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* One Patient has a dropsy, another an asthma, and the third violent spasms in the stomach.

the virtues of the Æthereal Spirit, the recommendation has been too general, and for diseases seemingly of a very different nature. I think this objection may be obviated, by asking this simple question; are not mercurials, antimonials and opiates given with Success in a great variety of complaints?

That it is possible for the same medicine to afford relief in a diversity of diseases, will easily be understood by Physiologists; and to the unmedical reader, nothing can be more satisfactory than matter of fact; we will, however, endeavour to elucidate this subject, by considering the stomach as the great source of health and disease. The infinity of nerves with which it is supplied, and the communication it has by that means with other organs, will in some
measure

measure account for this circumstance. Whatever medicine therefore has a considerable influence on the nervous system, will by its immediate action on the stomach, convey its virtues to the organs in its vicinity, and afterwards to others that are more distantly connected with it; and that a fluid of such subtlety and fineness of parts as the æthereal Spirit, may have a sudden and powerful action on the nerves, is sufficiently proved from the almost instantaneous and well known effects of many other medicines less volatile. Many therefore are the disorders, to which a medicine of such great energy may be extended through its action on so important a viscus, and one so universally connected as the stomach is known to be; especially as a variety of those very disorders, arise from the debilitated enervated state, to which it is but
too

too frequently reduced by irregularities of one kind or another;* amongst these may be mentioned Palfies, Epilepsies, Rheumatism, Scurvy and many others besides those I have hitherto mentioned. The Gout also, when not hereditary, appears to be the effect of an imperfect assimilation of the nutritive parts of our food, from debility of the digestive organs; and the only cure of the disease, will be from such a mode of diet and regimen, as will occasion no difficulty in digestion, nor be the means of conveying any crudities into the habit.

There are pretenders who would insinuate they are perfectly in the secret of preparing this medicine—an affectation

* Vide Querelæ et opprobria ventriculi—Autore Bernhardo Swalbe.

tion of much knowledge, may frequently be observed in those who are the least entitled to it—let such enjoy their own good opinion, but let the public beware of imposition. I must at the same time confess that I should be much wanting in acknowledgments to a numerous set of gentlemen, respectable both for character and ability in their profession, if I did not own that the medicine has in general been treated with great candor, that several very skilful Physicians, have condescended to prescribe it in very dangerous cases, and I may without vanity add, that it has in general fully answered theirs, as well as my own most sanguine expectations.

I do not deny that similar ingredients are made use of in preparing *Æther*, sweet spirit of Vitriol, and the preparation

ration fold under the name of Hoffman's anodyne mineral liquor; but that the product is totally different, will be evident to the senses of the most *superficial* examiner; and that its effects are infinitely superior, I think is sufficiently confirmed by the above recited cases, which I defy the tongue of malevolence to controvert; and as the reputation of this medicine is established on so good a basis, it matters but little what is said by the ignorant, the mis-informed, the prejudiced, and the self-interested, some of whom have very confidently asserted, that two preparations totally dissimilar, and of properties essentially different, are the self same thing.

The late Dr. James never denied that Antimony had a considerable share in the composition of his powder; but
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how few have succeeded in making a similar preparation, though in possession of his Specification? That powerful mineral has exercised the labors of the first and most experienced Chymists, and from thence a great number of very efficacious and salutary medicines have been discovered, to the universal advantage of mankind; of greater Utility in practice and of more specific virtue in the cure of certain fevers, than all the other febrifuges, which the present materia medica affords; and James's powder appears to be endowed with properties, and acts on principles superior to them all. It has withstood the test of criticism, and has bid defiance to the shafts of envy and detraction.

But to return to my subject.—In all cases of Gout, the Æthereal Anodyne

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dyne Spirit may be given not only with the greatest security, but with a degree of efficacy perhaps superior to every other remedy; whether with a view of restraining the great violence of pain, or solliciting a depofite of gouty acrimony on the extremities; and this I have feveral times feen effected in a fudden and remarkable manner, by a very few dofes. In the Gout in the ftomach, it will alfo be found to be a moft efficacious medicine; but I muft here obferve, that when the gouty pain is attended with much ficknefs and frequent efforts to vomit, nothing will fo much contribute to the patient's immediate relief, as a mild puke, by which moft probably, a great deal of tough and viscid flime will be diflodged; when there will be every reafon to hope for perfect fuccefs, from the anodyne, cordial,

dial, and antispasmodic virtues which this æthereal Spirit possesses in such an eminent degree.

I will take the liberty of repeating, that all catarrhal coughs, or such as are the consequence of neglected colds, will be more effectually relieved by it, than any opiate or paregoric medicine whatever; and what I apprehend will be considered as no small advantage to the patient, it seldom requires a very frequent repetition.

As the volatility and nature of this medicine, will not possibly admit of an analysis, so on the other hand, I am sorry to say, that it readily admits of sophistication; on this account, every precaution will be taken, that the public may be supplied with it in a pure and gen-

uine state. It is also hoped, that the price set on it, will not be thought unreasonable; as a few doses will often be sufficient for removing very dangerous symptoms, and in many cases prove a radical cure.

It would be absurd to suppose that I had not my own private emolument in view, in obtaining a Patent, but in this also, I have no less consulted the interests of the public. The process for making this medicine, is both difficult and dangerous, and if conducted by an unskilful operator, both his life and property might be endangered.

I am perfectly prepared to meet the opposition of those, who may be interested in depreciating the virtues of this medicine, or who may find themselves

selves disposed to ridicule the idea of a patent: If to have discovered a remedy that promises to be of great public utility, which has succeeded in the cure of several diseases that were thought to be beyond the reach of medicine, and where all other means for relief had been tried in vain; if to have contributed to alleviate those miseries, which are the common lot of mankind, and if the mode I have chosen for extending it to the afflicted, is only meant as an indemnification for the time and trouble I have incurred in its prosecution; if these deserve ridicule, I shall receive it with great composure, and without any abatement of the satisfaction I shall enjoy, from the consciousness of having done my duty.

I might

I might add a great many more cases, which would serve to corroborate the idea I have been willing to impress of its great efficacy; but I shall at present trust it to the candor of the public at large, at whose tribunal we are sure to meet with Impartiality and Justice, and from whose hands, I only desire that indulgence, which the medicine shall appear to deserve.

F I N I S.

POST.

Postscript.

—Mark how a plain tale, shall put you down.
Shakespeare's Henry, iv.

THOUGH I have neither leisure nor inclination for dispute, nor do I conceive my reader will see occasion for it, in support of a medicine, whose extraordinary virtues have been already so well authenticated; yet I cannot help animadverting upon a late publication; as not only the nature and efficacy of the medicine, but my own conduct also have been grossly misrepresented.

The Author, Dr. James MacKittrick, has been pleased to say, first, that I alledge

ledge my medicine undergoes seven distillations, and from thence he infers, that *Mr. T. is a very skilful Chymist.* Secondly, that I assert it has succeeded in cases, where Hoffmann's anodyne had failed. Thirdly, that there are two sorts of this æthereal Spirit, a weaker which I vend abroad, and a stronger which I reserve for my own private practice.

In answer to the *learned Doctor's* first charge, I flatly deny my ever having alledged, that the preparation undergoes seven different distillations; and this indeed, is so contrary to the truth, that I pique myself on being able to prepare, the most pure æthereal Spirit, by a single process, which needs no rectification. As to the Doctor's assertion, in the page preceding these charges that the medicine I *dignify* with the title
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of æthereal Spirit. is nothing more than dulcified Spirit of Vitriol disguised with cochineal, I have only to say, that in this, he has shewn such a degree of Ignorance and illiberality as must necessarily be treated with contempt, being altogether unworthy of refutation.

The *learned* Doctor's second allegation is as follows, " Mr. T. asserts that
 " his Æthereal Spirit has succeeded
 " in cases, where Hoffman's Anodyne
 " has failed." In answer, I am very ready to acknowledge this part of the doctor's charge to be true; as I have often and do at this time again assert that my Medicine has succeeded. where the *common* preparation of Hoffman's anodyne liquor has fail'd; nay that it has also succeeded when Æther has been given without effect, as I can irrefragably

gably prove. The failure is ascribed by the *learned* Doctor, to the anodyne liquors having been unfaithfully prepared. On this occasion, I cannot help remarking the Doctor's inconsistency, as in another place, he seems to indicate, that Hoffman's anodyne and the dulcified Spirit of Vitriol, are pretty much the same Medicine. and that Hoffman, and the *learned* Doctor after him, frequently substituted the one for the other. But I beg leave to observe farther, that whatever the Doctor's practice may have been, it never was the practice of Hoffman, as must be evident to any one who is acquainted with his writings. I can by no means elucidate this matter so well, as by transcribing the following passage from Hoffman's, Works " Ut ut olim opiatīs correctis ipse quoque frequentius usus sum, ex quo tamen divina
benignitas

benignitas mihi concessit *inventionem* liquoris penetrantis et fragrantis, aromatici Saporis et odoris, ex ipsius vitrioli portione sulphurea, quæ etiam a veteribus chymicis pro anodyna habita est, *singulari quadam chymica encheiresi* præparandi, ab omnibus aliis tuto abstinui. Hic quippe Spiritus, quem liquoris anodynæ mineralis nomine insignire soleo totus sulphureus est, subito et flagrantissime ardet atque absumitur et ocysime à flamma candelæ etiam tribus adhuc digitis remotus, flammam concipit atque in calido conclavi subito in auras avolat; attactu tamen instar glaciæ est frigidissimus, ac probe destillatus et rectificatus, omni aqua instar olei Supernatat." Now will dulcified Spirit of Vitriol or the common preparation of

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Hoffman's

* Hoffman. oper. Tom. 1. de Sedantibus.

Hoffman's anodyne, in any respect answer this description? On the other hand, let us draw the comparison between my æthereal Spirit, and the above preparation, and see how it stands the test. My preparation like Hoffman's, has a fragrant and pungent smell, takes fire from a candle at a considerable distance, and when on fire, is very suddenly consumed; to the touch it has an extreme degree of coldness, and is so totally immiscible with water, that it swims on its surface, like an essential oil. The *common* preparation of Hoffman's anodyne liquor, like the sweet Spirit of vitriol, abounds with a large proportion of spirit of wine and phlegm, is by far less fragrant, is less volatile, and if set on fire or permitted to evaporate in a warm room, will in either way leave a large proportion of
 phlegm

phlegm behind; it wants that sensation of extreme cold, and lastly is totally miscible with water. If the *learned* Doctor had candidly examined the two preparations, he would not have presumed to assert they were the same—but so much is it possible for a man to be swayed by prejudice and self conceit, unless sufficiently balanced by a competent knowledge of the subject! However, I perfectly coincide in opinion with the Doctor, when he says, that Hoffman's Anodyne as generally prepared, and sweet Spirit of Vitriol are very much the same, and may be indiscriminately prescribed; but have either of these the properties of the anodyne liquor, for the discovery of which, Hoffman offers up an ejaculation of thanks to the supreme Being?

Thirdly,

Thirdly, the Doctor charges me with reserving a stronger and more powerful preparation, for my own private practice. This charge, from whomsoever or wheresoever he received the information, is equally as groundless as any of the former; and the Doctor's evil genius seems here again to have had the direction of his pen. That I have two preparations of this Medicine, a stronger and a weaker, is true; adapted to different constitutions, and the different Stages of their complaints: that the stronger is necessary in some particular cases, has lately been fully proved in a deplorable disorder, that a gentleman laboured under in Milford-street, who had taken the milder for a fortnight without success, though it had often succeeded with others in similar cases; and who, though his disease was

before

before considered desperate, is now in a fair way of recovery. Can the *learned* Doctor demonstrate this also to be no more than dulcified Spirit of vitriol?

I must acknowledge that I have been somewhat cautious in the dispensation of this stronger preparation, as I was apprehensive of the consequences that might ensue from trusting it with the public at large, and no argument of the *learned* Doctor's shall ever induce me to do this; as I have no doubt it would make him supremely happy, to have it in his power to lay the same accusation against my Medicine, which he has done in so invidious a manner against Dr. James's powder;* and as the milder preparation has been given in every case which

* Medical cautions, page 142 and 143.

which has been recited, except the two Epileptics the futility and malevolence of this charge, must be obvious to every reader. I must also further acquaint the *learned Doctor*, that this stronger preparation, has been in my own possession a few months only, having been the result of some experiments which I made the latter end of last summer. However, I never have withheld it from those of the profession, when it was required; on the contrary, I voluntarily sent it to the shop of Mr. West, in exchange for the milder preparation, having been previously informed of the case, in which it was to be administered. It has also been repeatedly sent to the shops of Messrs. Anderdons, Horton and Spry.

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The *learned* Doctor says, “ it is rumoured that some Physicians here have recommended this nostrum, but that he is perswaded rumour lies.” What answer can I make to this extraordinary suggestion! is it possible for the Doctor to be ignorant of what is universally known? That the Physicians of the first eminence for erudition, liberality of sentiment and extensive practice have repeatedly recommended the medicine, and are at all times ready to vouch for its powerful effects, in cases which had appeared to be desperate, as every other means had totally failed.

The Earl of Dalhousie having given me permission to mention his case. I am happy in having it in my power to introduce one so very particularly circumstanced, on this occasion; for con-
 Y fidering

sidering the high rank of the Patient, and the great respectability of his character, which must render his life of much importance to his friends and the society at large ; it is scarcely to be conceived that a case so singular and so generally interesting, together with the medicine that had been so successfully administered for his Lordship's recovery, should never in so long an interval, have *once* reached the *learned* Doctor's ears. This nobleman came to Bath, the latter end of October, oppressed with a complication of the most alarming complaints, that had baffled the efforts of the Physicians of the greatest Eminence. The principal seat of his Lordship's disorder was in the chest, where it had continued for more than three years, and which at last clearly appeared to be a dropsy in that cavity. The

great

great fatigue and difficulty of breathing on using the most gentle exercise, particularly walking up any ascent, the violent stricture across the breast, the languor and great irregularity of pulse, and the occasional exacerbations of all those symptoms during the night, so as often to threaten immediate dissolution; the great diminution of the urinary secretion, the anasarcaous swellings in the lower extremities; all these circumstances taken together, sufficiently indicated the principal seat and nature of his Lordship's disorder.

His Lordship had a disgust to every kind of food, as indeed the power of digestion seemed to be suspended in so diseased a state; and there was even an aversion to wine of every sort. As his Lordship had been so long harrassed

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with

with medicine, he was extremely unwilling on his arrival at Bath, to try any thing of the kind; but a most severe nocturnal paroxysm, which had lasted for many hours, obliged his Lordship to submit himself to the directions of a very learned and eminent Physician. This gentleman on Wednesday morning, the first of November, prescribed my æthereal Spirit, in a cordial draught; two of them were taken during the course of the day, and at night the Spirit was directed precisely in the same kind of draught, in which I had usually given it; only with the addition of another dram of the aromatic tincture. A warm stomach cordial was besides directed, of which a few spoonfuls were to be taken occasionally. The draughts being repeated twice a day, in the form already mentioned, not only sat easy on
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the stomach but the third dose sensibly relieved the breath, and the nights became more tolerable: On Friday two lax motions were procured by this medicine; on Saturday there was a considerable increase of urine, and on Sunday, not less than a gallon had been voided during twenty-four hours.

This sudden and great flow of urine, occasioned much faintness towards night, which lasted for some time, and returned the following day. The pulse which had been exceedingly quick, irregular, and frequently intermitting, before the pressure was removed from the heart and larger arteries; now became so slow as thirty-eight and forty strokes in a minute, and at the same time became quite regular; from thence it gradually got up to fifty-five and sixty strokes.

When

When the pulse exceeded the last mentioned number, it became again in some degree irregular, but during this time his Lordship's health daily improved, and the oppression on the breast, and other symptoms were so effectually removed, that the medicine was discontinued after thirteen days from its commencement. Indeed the diuretic effect of the medicine was so great, that on the 5th and 6th day it was judged proper, by his Lordship's Physician, to give it once only in twenty-four hours;— from the 7th to the 11th it was repeated twice a day, and after the 13th omitted 'till the 4th of December, when it was again resumed at night for some time.

His Lordship began the Bath Water the 10th of November, which with the assistance of the bitter infusion warmed
with

with aromatic tincture, gradually restored the appetite; and the bowels were kept in a soluble state by an aperient pill. There is one circumstance which I cannot help mentioning, as being somewhat singular, and not easy to be accounted for, which is this; that even during the course of his Lordship's amendment, the pulse, after it had got to a certain number, as it gradually increased in quickness, so it became more irregular, but by no means in the degree it had been before; and I must also remark, that the æthereal Spirit always had a considerable influence on the pulse, when this irregularity has prevailed in any considerable degree, so as to become more regular and less frequent. There were indeed some occasional returns of pretty severe spasmodic affections during the night, but they were

were comparatively slight and of short duration, and always removed by the medicine. After it was thought proper to discontinue the æthereal Spirit, the Bark and Bath Water were ordered alternately, and his Lordship now enjoys better health than he has done for years past, during the Winter season; and though his Lordship's health may not be entirely reestablished in every respect, as there are still remaining complaints, which seem to be owing chiefly to a kind of rheumatic gout shifting into different parts of the body; yet the main disorder, which more immediately threatened his Lordship's life, and was deemed by the most intelligent of the Faculty, to be totally beyond the reach of medicine, has by the æthereal Spirit alone been effectually carried off; and I think it not unseasonable here to add, that com-
mon

mon Æther had been frequently administered to his Lordship without the least success.

I shall in this place beg leave to refresh the Doctors memory, with a quotation from his medical Cautions, which seems to have been written during a lucid interval* from medicinal Quixotism. “ There
“ was a time when Physicians deemed it
“ inconsistent with their *dignity* to con-
“ sent to the administration of quack
“ remedies, but if from a knowledge
“ of their composition, or *experience of*
“ *their effects*, we are assured of their
Z “ safety

* I cannot possibly mean any thing more in this place, than that the Doctor was not then in one of his *momentary fits of patriotic Enthusiasm*, which besides its inspiring him with the pleasing reverie of the universal perusal of his *Lucubrations*, animated him also with more than herculean vigor, as he conceived, to beat down Quacks and Quackery in every form.

“ safety and power, it would be *unpar-*
 “ *donable* in a physician to reject any
 “ means that may be beneficial to his
 “ patient, if he or his friends require it.*

I am now come to what the *learned*
 Doctor calls a short history of this re-
 medy, which he has retailed from
 Lewis's *materia medica*; and I will defy
 him to produce any passage in Hoffman's
 works, where it is said that the anodyne
 liquor is prepared by mixing *oleum*
dulce with Spirit of Wine. Hoffman
 indeed says, that *oleum dulce* will com-
 municate certain Virtues to Spirit of
 wine, and become a good medicine,
 but this is not what he calls his anodyne
 liquor, which he himself acquaints us is
 prepared, *singulari quadam chymica En-*
cheiresti.

* Medical Cautions page, 136.

cheirefi. The Doctor's history, short as it is, appears to be confusion worse confounded; and informs us of nothing, but that he is totally unacquainted either with Hoffman or the subject in general.

Though oleum dulce will unite with a rectified spirit by simple Mixture, yet they are uncombinable by the *usual forms* of distillation; and granting they could be made to unite, the Spirit, if no other Ingredients were used in the process, would still be miscible with water; which, as I have already said, is not the case, with my Æthereal Spirit; which being prepared by a process totally different from any other, I have every right to call myself the Inventor; and I will assert, that in a very small dose, it acts much more powerfully than the *common* preparation of Hoffman's Anodyne Li-

quor or the dulcified Spirit of Vitriol and with effects very different; and that by increasing the dose of either of the latter, to the largest proportion the human stomach is capable of receiving, yet the same salutary effects would not follow.

If the Doctor had been guided in his conduct by a principle of duty, and as an avowed enemy to empirical pretensions only, as he professes; he never would have attacked in so hasty a manner, a medicine whose virtues had been so well authenticated, without some stronger evidence than those trivial experiments he has adduced; and which to the candid reader, must appear to have proceeded from motives, very different

ferent from those of regard either for the profession or the public.*

I flatter myself that I now stand acquitted to the reader's satisfaction, of the three specific charges the *learned* Doctor has been pleased to bring against me; and must therefore ask, what reliance is to be put upon either the judgment or bold assertions of this Champion of truth, this man of Independence, this avowed enemy to falshood and imposture! The only remaining allegation, is my not disclosing to all the world my
method

* A certain Physician of this place took an occasion of mentioning to another medical gentleman, that he had attended to the effects of the æthereal Spirit, in a case where it had been continued for some time, without manifesting any considerable diuretic properties: As the Physician insisted chiefly on this point, he was at last asked, has it cured the patient? This extorted an acknowledgment, that the patient had been much relieved, — What matters its mode of action then, my good Doctor, if it effects a cure?

method of preparing a most valuable medicine, which I have obtained at no small expence of time and labour; but as the same charge may be brought against the great Hoffman himself, who not only concealed the preparation from his contemporaries, but even carried the secret to his grave; and indeed every other proprietor of any useful discovery, either in medicine or the Arts in general; my mind is perfectly easy on that head, especially as all the world has free access to the use of it. At the same time I cannot help saying, that it will become the *learned* Doctor to censure me on that score, as he must be conscious to himself of his having acted much more illiberally, in his hoarding up for his *own private purposes only*, all that *immense* store of knowledge he must necessarily have acquired in the course of

of the uncommonly extensive practice of which he has informed us;* and palming upon the public in its stead, a few scanty gleanings from Haller's commentaries on Boerhaave's institutes, and some other works, in the hands of every medical student, together with extracts from the elements of Logic and the common bills of mortality; not to mention his former publication, made up of the hackney'd rules of regimen, known to every *old nurse* in the kingdom: Now I say again, that in this, the *learned Doctor* has acted a much more illiberal part, not only in reserving to himself, the *sole* benefit of that *ample* store, but even in his making any secret at all about

* Among the black gentry in Antigua, and the sheep walks in the Downs about Andover, and in this practice, the Doctor is ready to acknowledge, that he has manifold errors to atone for. See *preface to Medical Cautions*.

about the matter; as the *very great* independancy of fortune, of which he has *repeatedly* assured us,* must exempt him from that necessity, which we poor indigent labourers, are obliged to have recourse to for a maintenance.

Can the *learned* Doctor imagine that the world is so to be imposed upon? and that these are the writings, that are likely to be read in every polite circle? to be recommended from the Bench and the Pulpit, and patronised by both Houses of Parliament; that are to raise such an income as will not only support the public charities of this kingdom, but also contribute largely towards the sinking Fund, as the learned Doctor modestly

deftly presumes?* Had he acted more ingenuously by the public, and laid open the great discoveries he must have made, in so extensive a range of practice, something might have been done; but

A a

now

* As the *learned* Doctor's calculation respecting the number of his readers, is likely to turn out exceedingly erroneous, probably a trivial mistake of at least nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand; that I may not be suspected of altering the style or matter of this *curious* production, which as the Doctor himself informs us, is embellished with a great number of rare and pleasing anecdotes for the amusement of the Ladies; I shall beg the reader's indulgence for transcribing a few passages from the preface to this philosophical and medical work, which in my humble opinion, appear as curious and entertaining, as any part of the whole.

“To the travelled Gentlemen and Ladies, the author
 “would observe, that were a work on this plan to be
 “published either in *Paris* or *Rome*, it would be read by
 “all who had the *least* pretensions to keep good company;
 “as the whimsicality of its plan, and the singularity of
 “its curious anecdotes, would be commented upon,
 “with great vivacity and *erudition*, at every conversazi-
 “one and petit soupé in each metropolis; he therefore
 “humbly hopes, that our fashionable *conoscanti* will not
 “manifest less curiosity than their neighbours.”

“ Having

now our hopes are all at an end, and nothing is to be expected from a man, who in the plenitude of science and fortune, cruelly triumphs over the wants of others.

How

“ Having thus, he flatters himself, secured for his work a favourable reception with all people of fashion in this realm, he most confidently relies on the countenance of all men of letters, viz. The Members of both Houses of Parliament, in both Kingdoms, the Members of *all* the Universities, the Bench and the Bar, &c.*

“ Estimating therefore his fellow subjects of this realm at twelve millions, and allowing the moderate proportion of one in twelve to be possessed either of learning or taste, (excluding midwives, nurses and quacks, who have neither) the author is sometimes induced, in his momentary fits of patriotic enthusiasm, to form the most flattering calculations of emolument, (not for himself, for he disclaims it, but) for the manifold charitable Institutions of this kingdom; and to present to his mind's eye a most glorious prospect, not only of contributing largely toward the support of every public charity, by these his lucubrations, but even of extending his beneficence to the *sinking fund*; “ which

* Natural History of the Human Body and Mind. Preface, page xviii.

How different the conduct of his learned friend! who has enriched the republic of letters, with a treasure of sound philosophy and physiology; though I am sorry to say, it has been most shamefully and ungratefully neglected.

“ which under the auspices of the present æconomical
“ administration, may probably turn out to be one of
“ the most useful of all public charities.*

* Natural History of the Human Body and Mind. Preface page xx.

F I N I S.

How distant the conduct of a
learned friend! who has enriched the
republic of letters with a treatise of
found philology and physiology, though
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thamely and ungratefully neglected

which under the aspect of the subject of
administration, may possibly be considered
the model of all public affairs.

London, the 11th of the Month of April, 1788.
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