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A

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.]

A

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ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE:

BY

JAMES DUNBAR INNES, A.M.

SURGEON IN LONDON,
AND MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL
SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Etſi in tanta ſcriptorum turba mea fama in obſcuro ſit, nobilitate, ac magnitudine eorum, meo qui nomini officient, me conſolor. Liv. in Præfat.

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TO

Dr. SAMUEL FOART SIMMONS,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE

OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, &c.

THE FOLLOWING

TREATISE

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MOST HUMBLE

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

STRAND,
JANUARY 26, 1783.

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Venereal Diſeaſe has already been ſo often diſcuſſed, by men of the greateſt character and learning in the Medical Profeſſion, that it may appear preſumptuous in a Young Practitioner to venture on this as the ſubject of his firſt eſſay. Let me entreat, however, the candid Reader to obſerve, that through the whole of this little Work, I have, without prejudice, endeavoured to declare

clare facts; and ſuch as, I flatter myſelf, are uſeful; and have never ventured to cenſure the practice of others, however different from mine, unleſs I have found it repugnant to truth, and my own experience.

The reſult of my practice is contained in the following pages. If any thing uſeful to ſociety is pointed out in them, I have attained my wiſh, and ſhall be ſincerely happy.

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ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

CHAP. I.

First appearance of the Venereal Disease in Europe.—Different forms and appearances of the disease.

WE have no certain account of the appearance of the venereal disease in Europe, till the year 1494, when Peter Margarit, a Spanish nobleman,

 brought

brought it along with him from the iſland of Hiſpaniola, where he had contracted it, when accompanying the famous Columbus, in his ſecond voyage to America *.

In the year following, we hear of two hundred ſoldiers being landed at Cadiz, who had been in the Weſt Indies, and were all infected with the venereal diſorder; and now we cannot be amazed that the diſeaſe ſoon ſpread.—And in the ſiege of Naples (in the ſame year) it began to rage both in the French

* There have not been wanting attempts to prove, that the lues venerea is of a much more ancient date in Europe. But this opinion has never been ſatisfactorily ſupported. See Phil. Tranſ. N° 357, and 365.

and Neapolitan armies; the latter calling it the French, and the former, the Neapolitan diſeaſe ‡.

After the return of the French army, the commerce which their country carried on with other nations, quickly diffuſed the diſeaſe over all Europe. And in 1496, a treatiſe was written on this ſubject, by Joſephus Grandbeckius, entitled, "*De Peſtilentia Schorrha, ſive De Malo,* "*De Frantzos.*"—This has been followed by ſuch a multitude on the ſame ſubject, that the bare names of the authors would take up more room than our plan can admit.

‡ Vide Aſtruc on the Venereal Diſeaſe, book i, c. II.

At the time of its firſt appearance, this diſeaſe raged with great violence; and has continued gradually declining in the virulence of the ſymptoms, till the preſent time *: indeed the abatement of theſe ſymptoms ſeems very great, within the laſt century; which may eaſily be learnt, from comparing the works of medical writers of that day, with thoſe of our own time ‡; — but, perhaps, the cruel ravages made by this diſorder, might be greatly owing to the unſkilfulneſs of the practitioners, —to whom it was altogether new;— and now, phyſicians and ſurgeons becoming better acquainted with the

* Aſtruc on the Venereal Diſeaſe, book i. c. 11.

‡ Turner's Syphilis. Wiſeman's Surgery.

treatment

treatment of it, their practice is more ſucceſsful, and its appearances milder.

It is named venereal, from its being moſt frequently communicated in the celebration of Venus's rites;—but the infection may be communicated by other means.—From parents it may be given to their children; from an infected child to a clean nurſe; and *vice verſa*; from venereal matter lying long on any ſpongy part of the body, or inſinuating itſelf into a cut, ſcratch, or ſore, as ſometimes happens to midwives, ſurgeons, and nurſes *.—This diſorder appears

* Allow me here to adviſe every ſurgeon and midwife, to be careful how they attempt the delivery of any perſon in the leaſt ſuſpected of being in-

appears in various forms;—at the particular part, where the infection is firſt received, its effect generally firſt ſhows itſelf. Its different degrees have acquired different appellations.

A diſcharge of matter from the parts of generation of either ſex, is called Gonorrhœa;—a ſwelling and affection of the lymphatic glands in the inguina, or under the axilla, is termed Bubo;—a corroding ulcer about the private parts, Chancre;—and when the virus, abſorbed into the maſs of blood, occaſions ulcers of the throat, pains of the bones, and eruptions on the ſkin, it is named Lues

fected with this diſorder, while they have the ſmalleſt ſcratch on their arms or hands: a friend of mine lately ſuffered through neglect of this particular.

Venerea,

Venerea, or confirmed Pox. The different ſymptoms of this laſt have been variouſly diſtinguiſhed, according to the appearances they aſſume, or the place they attack—nodi,—tophi,—gummi,—venereal ophthalmia,—&c.

Authors have been divided in their opinion, whether gonorrhœa, and ſyphilis are the ſame diſeaſe, in different ſtages, or entirely different diſorders; and much has been written on both ſides.—I cannot here enter into the controverſy:—all the arguments are, or eaſily may be known. I ſhall content myſelf with declaring, that in my opinion they are the ſame diſeaſe, in different ſtages; and ſhall here aſſign no reaſon for thinking ſo, as I believe the reader will find, that I

had rational ground for determining in this manner, when he perufes the following pages *. We fhall now proceed to the defcription of the firft ftage, Gonorrhœa.

* Several experiments I have lately made (and which I intend foon to make public) ferve likewife to convince me of my opinion being perfectly well founded.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of GONORRHŒA; *its appearance on its first attack; its various symptoms; progress, and termination.*

GOnorrhœa—the most frequent form in which the venereal disease makes its first appearance—is a discharge of matter from the urethra in men, and the vagina in women.

According to its different symptoms, authors have divided it into different species *. A small discharge of a thin

* Van Swieten Comment. vol. v. sect. 1448. Fordyce's Review of the Venereal Disease, p. 24, &c.

consistence,

conſiſtence, with ſometimes a drop of the ſame matter lodged at the point of the urethra, attended with ſcalding in making water, makes the firſt ſpecies.—When, ſoon after connection with an infected perſon, there is an inflammation of the glans, matter oozing from it, or from behind it, or from the inſide of the prepuce, attended with heat, when touched by the urine, without ulceration of or diſcharge from the urethra itſelf — they name this their ſecond ſpecies.

The third is, when, upon preſſing the glans, a ſmall quantity of matter is ſqueezed out, apparently coming from the body of the glans, or not farther than an inch from the urethra.

The

The fourth, confiſts in a plentiful diſcharge of matter flowing into the whole cavity of the urethra; with the ſymptoms before deſcribed attending. In this ſpecies, Cowper's glands are ſuppoſed to be affected.

When the matter comes from the neck of the bladder, it is the fifth ſpecies. And when theſe laſt are joined to incontinency of urine, and incapacity of retaining the ſemen, the ſixth and laſt ſpecies appears;—and here the veſiculæ ſeminales are affected.

Theſe are rather different ſtages than different ſpecies of gonorrhœa, all of them requiring nearly the ſame method of cure, except the two laſt, which I would

would rank with lues, or confirmed pox; and all the others being ſometimes produced by the neglect of the firſt ſpecies, or the firſt appearance of the diſeaſe.

In moſt caſes which have fallen under my notice, the ſeat of the diſorder was in the urethra, about an inch, or an inch and a half, from the extremity of the penis; although I have often ſeen it farther up, and in ſome caſes where it had continued four or five months, it ſeemed to have reached the proſtrate gland.

The ſymptoms in gonorrhœa, ſeldom appear ſooner than three days after infection, or later than twelve.

At

At firſt the patient feels an itching, pleaſing, rather than diſagreeable, at the point of the penis, with a ſlight ſenſation of heat, along the courſe of the urethra, in making water; and a very ſtrong deſire of coition, which he will then perform with unuſual vigour and pleaſure.

The heat of urine ſoon encreaſes;—a diſcharge of matter from the urethra, at firſt thin, clear, and watery, but quickly aſſuming a green yellowiſh appearance, is perceived;—violent pain is felt in making water, in men, about the attachment of the frænum; in women, about the foſſa navicularis;—the penis is involuntarily erected;—the corpora cavernoſa penis being inflamed,

cannot freely admit the influx of the blood; hence pain enſues; and, as the penis is generally bent ſomewhat downwards, this ſymptom has been called Chordée. Pain and ſwellings in both groins generally appear, and gain ground with the diſeaſe, and alſo decline and vaniſh with it.

If the diſorder is violent, a ſwelling of the perinæum, and ſometimes alſo of the whole penis, often accompany it. The prepuce inflames, ſwells, and contracts, in ſuch a manner, that it cannot be drawn back; and thus the glans remains covered, which occaſions great pain; and ſometimes by confining portions of the venereal matter, endangers the formation of chancres under

der it. This ſymptom is named Phymoſis.—Again, when the prepuce ſwells and inflames behind the glans, ſo as to leave the glans bare; and remains in that ſituation, without a practicability of being drawn forward;—this is called Paraphymoſis.

The continuance of the different ſymptoms differs in duration;—in ſome caſes the heat of urine and chordée quickly diſappear; in others, they continue for ſome conſiderable time; in this varying greatly, according to the ſtate of the patient's health and temperament.

The heat and pain in making water, generally go off before the chordée;—

and

and this laſt-mentioned ſymptom, before the running, which now encreaſes in quantity, and, changing the greeniſh yellow appearance, becomes more of a cream-colour, thicker, and ropy, eſpecially in the morning; then, leſſening in quantity, it grows white, viſcid, like to the white of an egg; and ſhortly after intirely ceaſes.—Sometimes, however, it retains the greeniſh yellow colour a conſiderable time, and continues the diſcharge in much the ſame quantity.

This is the general progreſs of the diſeaſe, when proper care has been taken; but it is often rendered worſe, by neglect or improper management: — the favourable ſymptoms are prevented; and after ſome time, the patient

the repeated Irritation caused by
Medicines
for the same Intention several other
the late Modern Authors, ~~[illegible]~~
in Mercurials & purgatives together
for some or other of the following
ways
~~the Remedies which the late Mr. G. have remained~~
~~ch in the process of correcting &~~
~~rying the General Infection~~
~~ed by the Lues~~ which they suppose
e effected, when

Oxygenated water

tient finds himſelf worſe than at the beginning.

Such bad effects as theſe are frequently produced by the running being too ſoon ſtopt; and often, when the cure is believed to have been ſpeedily and compleatly perfected, ſwelling and inflammation of the teſticles, of the tonſils, of the inguinal glands, &c. undeceive the patient, and convince him, that inſtead of a cure, a confirmed pox has been induced.

Many reſpectable authors have advanced, that the running, in gonorrhœa, is produced from ulceration in the cells of the urethra, &c. occaſioned by the vene-

 real

real virus *; while others maintain, that although by a long continuance of the diſeaſe, ulcers may be formed in the parts before mentioned; yet, that in ſimple gonorrhœa, the running proceeds merely from an increaſed ſecretion in the mucous glands of the urethra, in conſequence of the irritation of the venereal virus: and this latter opinion ſeems now generally to prevail; and has been confirmed, from diſſections of perſons who have died with a gonorrhœa of ſhort continuance on them;—from no ulcers being obſerved in the vagina of women, when labouring under this diſorder;

* Aſtruc on the Venereal Diſeaſe, b. iii. c. 1. p. 249. Van Swiet. in Boerhaave, vol. v.

—from

—from the diſcharge of matter, ſimilar to that from the urethra, without any ulcer, from the neck of the glans, below the prepuce;—and from the encreaſed ſecretion from the noſe, in catarrh, where there is no ulcer.

The appearances of the matter diſcharged, are the ſame in women as in men;—in them, the cellular membrane, and glands of the vagina, with the glandulæ myrtiformes, are the ſeat of the diſorder.—When the inflammatory ſymptoms are ſevere, the cure is ſometimes more difficult in women than in men; the various peculiarities of their ſex often baffling the beſt method of treatment for a very conſiderable time.

It is the opinion of many of the profeſſion, that gonorrhœa never terminates in a confirmed pox :—but from different caſes which I have met with, I muſt ſay, that a gonorrhœa, when ill managed, or when the running has been too ſoon ſtopt, will not only change into a lues; but even ſometimes, when the running has diſappeared gradually, and the diſeaſe has ſeemed to have been properly treated.

When great inflammation, ſtrangury, and little running, occur, the greateſt care is required; and if in ſuch caſes the running has been ſuppreſſed, and cannot again be brought on, a pox will undoubtedly be the conſequence.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the different methods uſed in the cure of GONORRHŒA.

PRACTITIONERS ſeem to agree, that the firſt thing to be attempted, in the cure of Gonorrhœa, is,—the removal of the inflammatory ſymptoms.

The duration of the inflammatory ſtage, will much depend on the method of treatment uſed.

The inflammatory ſymptoms are relieved—by venæſection; (although ſome

deny the good effects of this remedy *, I have had repeated experience of its efficacy, in many cases, where the inflammation was great);—by doses of cooling physic; — by drinking moderately of softening cooling liquors; as milk and water, linseed-tea, water-gruel, or whey; and I would always advise the addition of gum arabic, in proper quantities;—but above all, by a low cooling regimen and repose.

Nitre, and other diuretics, are often prescribed; but sometimes they occasion a great deal of pain to the patient, by their action; and their good effects may be produced, by the use of the

* Dease on the Venereal Disease, p. 33.

mild diluent liquors juſt now mentioned.

Inflammation and ſwelling of the teſticles, may in general be prevented by wearing a truſs; which may be uſed, with great propriety, for ſome time after the diſorder is cured.

Where the inflammation is violent, fomentations and poultices muſt be applied; and waſhing and ſoaking the penis in milk and water, moderately warm, is always proper. This ſerves as a fomentation to the parts, and keeps them clean; than which nothing can be more conducive to the cure *.

* The particular applications in phymoſis, &c. will be mentioned in another chapter.

Opiates have been prefcribed in this ftate of the difeafe; but in all the cafes where I have ufed them, after a temporary alleviation, the fymptoms generally recurred with greater violence. — The inflammation being removed, to ftop the running, and remove all venereal infection, become the chief objects of our attention. And I fhall only mention the methods at prefent practifed for effecting this, omitting thofe of former date, and referring the reader to fuch authors as have written on them *.

Of late, many have oppofed the ufe of mercury in any form, towards the cure of gonorrhœa. At the beginning of the difeafe they ufe mild opening

* Vide Wifeman's Surgery. Turner's Syphilis.

medicines,

medicines, diluting drinks, and a low cooling diet;—afterwards, when the inflammation has gone off, prescribing balsamics and astringents:—and certainly many cures have in this way been performed.

The greater part of practitioners, believing the medicines, now mentioned, inadequate to correct or discharge the venereal virus, add to the former method, small doses of the mild preparations of mercury;—and, after the use of these has been some time continued, compleat the cure with balsamics and tonics.

Another set of practitioners, allowing their patients a more generous diet, than

than either of the former (if the inflammation be not extremely violent) recommend reſt; and truſt the cure chiefly to this, and to injections.

As to the firſt opinion;—compleating the cure without the uſe of mercury;—although I have had experience of the truth of it, yet I muſt own myſelf unwilling to truſt to it in general practice.

The ſecond method I have generally ſeen moſt ſucceſsful; and the baſis of my own practice is built on it, varying as different caſes may make neceſſary.

And now as to the laſt, or the cure by injections.—Although poſſeſſed of the greateſt reſpect for gentlemen who

have

have ſo much praiſed the virtues of injections, I muſt candidly acknowledge, that, upon repeated trials, I was never ſenſible of having reaped any benefit from them, eſpecially in the inflammatory ſtage of gonorrhœa; nay, in ſome caſes, I had very great reaſon to repent of my practice;—for, although I had every reaſon to believe, that the patients adhered ſtrictly to my directions, and were not expoſed to a freſh infection, yet, ſome time after the running had been ſtopped, and the other ſymptoms had diſappeared, a lues was the conſequence *. From theſe facts,

* One of theſe, a friend of mine, lodged under the ſame roof with me; and I can ſafely aver, that he followed my advice with the ſtricteſt attention in every particular; and (if one perſon may

facts, I cannot bring myſelf to approve of committing the cure to injections; nor do I wiſh to encourage their uſe; nay, think it pernicious, in the beginning or inflammatory ſtage of the diſorder.—Aſtringent injections are compoſed of blue and white vitriol, ceruſs, ſaccharum ſaturni, different boles, alum, &c. ſuſpended or diſſolved in watery or oily liquors.—Digeſtive injections, of either balſam. capaiv. or ſome other natural balſam, in the yolk of an egg; to which mel roſarum, oil, and water, are added;—calomel and mercur. præcip.

may ever venture to vouch for another in this circumſtance) I think I can with truth affirm, that he was not expoſed to any new infection.—The injection uſed in both caſes, was compoſed of calomel pp. ſacchar. ſaturn. gum arabic, and water.

alb.

alb. have likewiſe been added. Injections of this laſt kind, on firſt uſing them, occaſion conſiderable diſcharge of thin matter from the urethra; afterwards, the matter becomes thick and ropy; in a few days they entirely remove the running, and the pain and heat of urine alſo quickly diſappear;—but on omitting them even for a day or two, the running returns.—After the running becomes ropy, ſome aſtringent injection is commonly uſed for a few weeks.

From what has been already ſaid, it will be perhaps eaſy for the reader to imagine the method of cure which I wiſh to follow, and which experience has hitherto pointed out to me as the beſt.

Although

Although I have formerly ſaid, that the cure of gonorrhœa may be performed by means of a cooling regimen, without the uſe of mercury, yet I then mentioned my unwillingneſs to truſt too much to this method:—and, in general, after the inflammatory ſymptoms have abated, by the uſe of the cooling medicines, diluent drinks, low diet, and evacuations, already recommended—I order the patient a grain of calomel, made into a pill, with conſerve of roſes, to be taken at bed-time; which is repeated every ſecond or third day;—or, a drachm of the unguentum mercuriale, to be rubbed on the inſide of the thighs at bed-time:—taking care to keep the belly gently open, and continuing the uſe of the mercurials as long as may be

be judged proper; but never ſo long as to affect the mouth. The parts are to be waſhed with warm milk and water ſeveral times a day, and to be kept clean. — Care muſt be taken to avoid expoſure to cold; — and the uſe of the diet and drinks already recommended, is to be perſevered in, throughout the courſe of the diſeaſe.

When the running begins to become ropy, and the other ſymptoms have abated, the uſe of ſome mild, ſtrengthening, aſtringent medicine will greatly aſſiſt, and forward the cure.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of a GLEET.

WHEN, after the virulent ſymptoms of gonorrhœa have diſappeared, a running of matter, of a clear ropy, or limpid watery colour, continues for a conſiderable length of time, it has been named a Gleet.

But diſcharges of matter from the urethra, extremely different in their nature and cauſe, and conſequently in the method of cure, have likewiſe, very improperly, acquired this appellation.

It would be needleſs, here, to enumerate ſuch; — ſuffice it to ſay, — that they generally proceed, from irritation of particular parts of the urethra, by excreſcences, ulceration, &c. and cannot be cured, till theſe exciting cauſes be removed; beſides, as I conſider them as belonging to lues venerea, this would be an improper place to treat of them.

The ſpecies of gleet conſequent to gonorrhœa, proceeds from debility, which is either of the ſyſtem in general, or local, of the mucous glands of the urethra, veſiculæ ſeminales, &c. or both.—In all of theſe, the cure is to be effected by tonic medicines;—a gene-

rous diet — taking care, however, to avoid every excefs in eating or drinking;—by the ufe of the cold bath;—and by the ufe of fome gently-aftringent injection, which now will be of great fervice.—Exercife may be taken moderately, often with advantage; avoiding carefully every violent exertion; forbearing venery, and fhunning, as much as poffible, every idea, that may raife and ftimulate the defire of fuch enjoyments; as both tend to relax and weaken the parts, already in a ftate of too great debility. In weak habits, I have found great benefit from the ufe of opium.—Thefe remedies, when continued for a proper length of time, will commonly be found fufficient to

remove

remove a gleet, properly ſo called. The other ſpecies will be treated of in their proper place.

CHAP. V.

Of the SWELLED TESTICLE, *or* HERNIA HUMORALIS.

THIS very diſagreeable circumſtance, frequently occurring in gonorrhœa, may ariſe from irregularity, or neglect in the patient; or from improper management in the ſurgeon. The former may have uſed violent exerciſe, expoſed himſelf to cold, &c.; or the ſurgeon may have neglected the uſe of a ſuſpenſory bandage (which always ought to be worn during the whole courſe of gonorrhœa); or may have ſtop-

ped

ped the running by means of improper applications.

Inflammation of the teſticle may occur at any period of the diſeaſe.

On its firſt attack, the patient feels a lancinating pain, from the bottom of the ſcrotum, along the courſe of the ſpermatic cord; with a ſenſe of heat, and heavineſs in one or both teſticles.—Shortly after, the teſtes become exceedingly painful to the touch, and appear red and enlarged. After this, every ſymptom is aggravated, and the patient's condition becomes truly miſerable. A violent degree of fever takes place; the ſwelling of the teſticle is greatly en-

creaſed; and the ſlighteſt touch of it, excites the moſt excruciating pain.

In theſe circumſtances, reſolution of the inflammation becomes the principal object; and for this purpoſe, bleeding is attended with the beſt effects;—it is generally very ſtrongly indicated;—and it has the advantage of evacuation by ſtool, as it both ſooner tends to carry off the inflammation, and no ways diſturbs the patient's reſt and poſture, ſo requiſite to be maintained;—and this laſt ought always to be horizontal:—for which reaſon, alſo, emollient clyſters are to be preferred to purgative medicines; they will be ſufficient to keep the belly open; and they may be uſeful as fomentations

to

to the rectum, &c. — Venæſection is to be repeated, as circumſtances may indicate.

As to topical applications, the teſticle is to be ſuſpended by a bandage, which prevents pain, incident (at that time to the ſpermatic cord) from the weight of the teſtis; and warm fomentations are to be applied every two or three hours, and continued for ſome time, which in this inflammation are particularly beneficial.

The application of leeches, to the part, is often uſeful, eſpecially, when the topical inflammation continues, after the pulſe forbids general bleeding.

When the inflammation has in ſome degree abated, poultices will be ſerviceable; but till then, I never would adviſe the uſe of them, as the pain, occaſioned by their weight, ſeems to me to overbalance the advantages they give; eſpecially as the ſame good effects are obtained by fomentations. Poultices may be either of bread and milk, or cicuta, with or without ſacchar. ſaturn. When they are applied, they muſt be kept on by means of a bag truſs.

After copious bleeding, I have uſed emetics, and always found them very powerful in diſcuſſing the inflammation. The patient muſt, through the cure, be kept on a very low diet, and uſe the cooling

cooling diluent drinks already recommended. By theſe means, I have * been fortunate enough to get the better of every complaint of this kind, that has come under my care. — The inflammation gradually decreaſes; — the teſticle grows ſofter; — and we may at length feel the epididymis ſeparate from the body of the teſtis. After this has acquired its uſual feel, there is little danger of the patient's relapſe; yet let the ſuſpenſory be continued, as the uſe of it, for ſome conſiderable time, will prove extremely beneficial, and wholly prevent any recurrence of the complaint.

Caſes of ſwelled teſticle will ſometimes occur, where the teſtes, without

* Chap. iii.

much

much pain, are greatly enlarged and hardened, and put on the appearance of ſchirrus. Here a mercurial courſe is often ſucceſsful, compleatly removing the complaint. Such ſwellings, after they begin to leſſen, quickly diſappear, leaving, however, ſometimes, an induration of the epididymis, which often continues a conſiderable time. A caſe of this kind I had under my hands about three months ago.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the ſecond ſtage of the Venereal Diſeaſe;—LUES VENEREA, *or* CONFIRMED POX.—*Its different appearances;*—*and method of cure.*

THE venereal virus, abſorbed by the lymphatics, into the maſs of blood, falling upon different parts of the body, is called a Lues, or Pox.

Its evils are various, as are the parts it attacks:—appearing on the penis, it occaſions ſmall eroding ulcers, called Chancres;—in the axillary, or inguinal glands, Bubo;—in the throat, Ulcers;—

in

in the bones, excruciating pains, eſpecially when warm in bed. Scurfs are formed on many parts of the body;—excreſcences about the anus, termed *Mori Feci*; — eruptions on the ſkin, blotches, and excreſcences *, eſpecially on the forehead and breaſt, and on other bones which are leaſt covered; as thoſe of the ſkull, tibia, &c.—caries of the ſkull, bones of the noſe, and palate.—And, when the diſeaſe has been of long continuance, all the bones have become carious; and the whole body being covered with ulcers, the patient, a moſt miſerable and loathſome object, has died, diſtreſſed beyond the power of relief.

* Nodi, Tophi.

Having

Having thus given a deſcription of the diſeaſe, I ſhall firſt conſider the general method of treatment, for removing the venereal taint or infection from the ſyſtem; — and afterwards take notice of particular ſymptoms, requiring peculiarities from the general method of cure.

When, by the appearance of any one or more of the ſymptoms already mentioned, the patient is found to labour under the lues, or confirmed ſtate of the venereal diſeaſe, practitioners ſeem to have agreed, that mercury, in proper quantities, is the only medicine we can truſt to for its compleat removal and radical cure.—But, although they agree in the medicine,

they

they differ as to the intentions in which they uſe it. Some introducing mercury into the ſyſtem, and continuing its uſe, until the ſalivary glands, becoming affected, the medicine is allowed to run off with the encreaſed diſcharge of ſaliva. — Others, exhibiting mercurials in ſmall doſes, for a greater length of time, allow it to be carried off equally by all the ſecretions, encreaſed by its action, avoiding a particular determination to the ſalivary glands. This laſt, which is named the alterative method of cure, I have always found preferable to the former; and therefore endeavour to compleat the cure in every caſe, without ſalivation.

But,

But, in the exhibition of mercury, with this laſt intention, the greateſt caution muſt be obſerved; the mode of conveying it into the ſyſtem; the quantity requiſite for effecting a cure; and the ſpace of time neceſſary for continuing the uſe of it, varying in almoſt every ſecond caſe that occurs.—And this ſhews the impoſſibility of laying down any general rule on the ſubject. It may, however, be proper to offer ſome few general remarks on the uſe of mercury, as far as is conſiſtent with what has juſt now been mentioned.

And firſt,—the greateſt attention is to be paid to the patient's conſtitution:—without this, inſtead of reliev-

ing his complaints, we may aggravate them. It is almoſt incredible to think, how careleſs in this particular ſome practitioners are; for no ſooner do they find a venereal complaint preſent, than they preſcribe mercury, be the conſtitution of the patient what it may.—Of this a very pregnant proof lately fell within my knowledge, in the caſe of a young gentleman of a ſcrophulous habit, and ſubject to pulmonary complaints; who was ordered, by his ſurgeon, to rub two drachms of mercurial ointment on his legs and thighs every night; but this, inſtead of removing the complaint, began to be productive of very great miſchief, encreaſing the pulmonary complaints, and inducing ſome degree of hæmoptyſis.—The continuance

tinuance of the venereal complaint, was attributed to the too ſparing uſe of the medicine. Great exactneſs was therefore ſtrongly recommended in rubbing the quantity preſcribed;—but no notice was taken of the other ſymptoms. However, as the young gentleman paid more attention to the particular circumſtances of his caſe, than his ſurgeon had done, he grew weary of this method of treatment; and, applying to a phyſician, was, by his advice, ſent to the country,—allowed a nouriſhing diet:—and when, by theſe means, he had got the better of the other ſymptoms, the venereal complaint was removed by the uſe of gentle alteratives.

In all ſcrophulous habits, every ſymptom of the venereal diſeaſe is particularly dangerous; and mercury, if given in large doſes, will, in general, be detrimental. In ſuch perſons, when mercury in large doſes has been uſed, venereal ſores, inſtead of being healed, or the diſcharge from them mended, put on a very unfavourable appearance; and the patient ſeems inclined to become hectic. But upon mercurials being laid aſide,—the bark given in proper doſes,—and a nouriſhing diet allowed, they generally heal up, and the cure may be compleated by ſmall doſes of the ſame medicine, which in large quantity ſeemed to threaten ſo much miſchief.

All

All weak and delicate habits require the greateſt attention in their treatment.—Even when the conſtitution is ſound, although leſs care ſeems neceſſary, yet we can never ſhew too much. Here, previous to the uſe of mercury, we may with great propriety take away ſome blood; and this will tend to obviate any bad effect from the velocity of the circulation being afterwards encreaſed by the uſe of the mercurials.—The bowels ought likewiſe to be cleanſed by ſome doſes of cooling phyſic.—And in every caſe, where it can be done, the patient ought to uſe the warm bath ſeveral times; which, by relaxing the ſurface, allows the mercury to go off gently by perſpiration; and thus prevents determi-

nation to the ſalivary glands. And with the ſame intention, during the whole courſe (and it will be found uſeful to continue it for ſome time after) the patient ought to wear a flannel ſhirt and drawers. Theſe circumſtances being premiſed, and the patient having reſtricted himſelf to a light diet, mercurials may now be exhibited; and the ointment ſeems, at preſent, the moſt approved preparation.

Let a drachm of this be rubbed into the inſide of the thighs; at firſt, every ſecond night; afterwards, every night, at bed-time; — and this may even be encreaſed to a drachm and a half; which quantity I have always found ſufficient. — During the courſe of the

 frictions,

frictions, we muſt always carefully guard againſt the ſlighteſt appearance of ſalivation; and if any ſuch occur, the rubbing is to be diſcontinued; which, with keeping warm, and the uſe of a gentle purgative, will, in general, remove all tendency to an encreaſed diſcharge of ſaliva.

The diet, throughout the courſe, ſhould be light, and moderately nouriſhing; and may conſiſt of milk, and weak broths.—The diluent drinks, already recommended in gonorrhœa, ought alſo to be uſed.—A decoction of the woods, taken twice a day, in the quantity of half a pint each time, often proves extremely beneficial.—The uſe of this decoction may be continued

with advantage for ſome time after the cure is accompliſhed.

Profuſe ſweats,—debility,—diarrhœa,—ſwelling of the fauces, with difficulty of deglutition, ſometimes occur during the courſe. When the firſt of theſe happens, the uſe of mercurials muſt be diſcontinued, and the patient's ſtrength ſupported by the cortex, and a more liberal diet.

Although I would adviſe the patient to be kept warm, and to ſhun every expoſure to cold air, I can by no means aſſent to the extraordinary degree of heat which ſome recommend, having generally found it prejudicial.

The

The diarrhœa may be removed by a gentle purgative; by bathing the legs and thighs in warm water, or fomenting them with flannel cloths wrung out of warm water. An opiate, after the operation of the purgative, is generally of good effect.

Swelling of the fauces, often attended with great difficulty of deglutition, ſometimes continues very obſtinate.—The drawing the ſteams of warm water into the mouth and throat, acting as a fomentation, will generally give relief. And fomentations applied externally, tend to relax, and reſtore perſpiration. If the inflammatory ſymptoms be alarming, blood-letting (proportioned to the patient's ſtrength) will be found advan-

tageous; and blifters may be applied to the throat.—Again, fhould any tendency to putrefaction happen, the cortex is to be exhibited. Mercurials muft here likewife be laid afide, till every fymptom of the inflammation has fubfided. This method of treatment, when properly perfevered in, will, for the moft part, be fuccefsful, in removing thefe accidental fymptoms.

The ufe of mercury can only be judged to have been long enough continued, when the fymptoms abate: having already obferved, that no precife quantity of the medicine, nor any limited fpace of time can be fixed on, as fufficient for the cure; in fome cafes, the patient may be as much recovered in

in five or ſix weeks, as in others, in twice that time. The healing up of ſores, affords a very excellent mark of the medicine having taken proper effect. And when their cicatrices have acquired the colour, and approach in ſoftneſs, the feel of the neighbouring ſkin, we may then conclude, that the medicine has been properly perſevered in, and that its farther continuance may be diſpenſed with.

Relapſes, however, frequently occurring, it may not be improper to take notice of ſome circumſtances, which may enable us to diſtinguiſh their appearances, from thoſe of recent infection.

In caſes of relapſe, buboes very ſeldom

dom appear:—the parts moſt commonly affected, are, the fauces, the ſcrotum, the anus, and the parts neareſt to or on the ſurface of the body.—The ſores, in ſuch caſes, diſcharge a thinner matter, from the patient being debilitated by the former courſe. And the uſe of the bark thus becomes more neceſſary, than in caſes of recent infection.

When the cure has been compleated, the patient ought, for ſome time after, to continue the uſe of a light cooling diet; and carefully to avoid every exceſs.

Having now given a general deſcription of the general method of cure in the confirmed ſtate of the venereal diſeaſe, I ſhall proceed to mention

mention ſuch particular ſymptoms and appearances, as require aſſiſtance peculiar to themſelves.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of CHANCRES.

CHANCRES are ſmall eating ulcers, ſituated on the private parts; and may be the only ſymptom of lues venerea, or may be accompanied by others. Previous to the ulceration, a ſlight degree of inflammation is perceived, or ſome red ſpots, on portions of the glans and prepuce; and theſe becoming more diſcernible, at laſt a thin matter is diſcharged.—By the number of red ſpots, we may generally foretel that of the ulcerations;—they

ſeldom

ſeldom run together; each remaining ſingle.

Chancres have been thought ſymptoms always belonging to lues venerea. — That they generally are ſo, is undeniable; but that, ſometimes, they may be only local, ſeems to be clear. Chancre, induced by a portion of the venereal virus adhering to a particular part of the penis, in coition, exciting inflammation and ulceration, may ſurely, at firſt, be conſidered as local; and, as ſuch, may be cured without the uſe of mercury. But although this is the caſe, when the inflammation firſt appears, yet, in the after ſtate, we are by no means to truſt the cure to any thing, but the preparations of mercury.

Of

Of the poſſibility of curing chancre in this firſt ſtate without mercury, I had an inſtance a few months ago, in the caſe of a gentleman who applied to me ſhortly after connection with a ſuſpected perſon.—On the right ſide of the prepuce, there was an appearance exactly ſimilar to that preceding chancre; but no ulceration had taken place. This I entirely cut out; and the part was healed by common dreſſings.—And to this day no venereal complaint has appeared; nor has the gentleman ever uſed a ſingle grain of mercurials.

When chancres occur in the ſtate of ulceration, the general method of cure, recommended in the preceding chapter,

chapter, is to be purſued;—it only remains to mention the external applications proper to be applied.

And all that is neceſſary to be obſerved on this head, is, that the ſores are to be kept clean, by waſhing them often with milk and water; and ought to be dreſſed with digeſtive, or cerate. And this method, experience has ſhewn me, is infinitely better, than that of applying mercurials to the part; as they are leſs apt to encreaſe inflammation: and when they are uſed, the alteration of the appearances in the ſores, demonſtrates with more certainty the effects of the mercury thrown into the ſyſtem.

When

When the lips or edges of chancres rise, gentle pressure will be found preferable to repress them, rather than the application of caustic to such delicate parts.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of PHYMOSIS.

WHEN the prepuce (in conſequence of inflammation) adheres to the glans, without a poſſibility of being drawn back, or the glans denuded, Phymoſis is ſaid to take place.

And this is, with great propriety, divided into two diſtinct ſpecies. The firſt, where inflammation alone appears; and the ſecond, where it is attended with chancre.

And the following marks may be adduced for diſtinguiſhing the two ſpecies:

In the firſt, or that without ulceration, although the inflammation is frequently more violent than in the other, the prepuce is not ſo much indurated, and affords a reddiſh or chryſtalline appearance; and we can perceive the diſcharge of matter to proceed from the urethra;—the inguinal glands are not ſo frequently ſwelled, as in the other ſpecies;—and laſtly, we may the rather judge this ſpecies to be preſent, when the patient, at the time of its firſt attack, has laboured under ſimple gonorrhœa.

When the ſpecies, attended with ulceration, takes place, beſides the induration

tion of the prepuce, there is a conſiderable diſcharge from the part, and the glands in the groin almoſt always appear ſwelled: — beſides, the duration of the complaints may ſerve to direct our conjectures, as to ulcers being formed.

The treatment of the firſt of theſe ſpecies, has been already, in part, taken notice of *; and ſeldom requires more, than has been adviſed, for obviating inflammation, if we add, abſtinence from the uſe of mercury.

The other, where chancres on the prepuce and glans are preſent, and where the matter is pent up, muſt be treated in a ſimilar manner; the parts are to

* Vide chap. on Gonorrhœa.

be very carefully kept clean, by means of ſyringing them; and for this purpoſe, milk and water, or the vegeto-mineral water, will be extremely proper. And here, as in the firſt ſpecies, the uſe of mercury ſhould always be laid aſide till the inflammatory ſymptoms ſubſide.

When the antiphlogiſtic courſe has been perſiſted in for ſome time, and proves ineffectual, and the appearance of the diſcharge grows worſe, and the induration of the prepuce ſeems to encreaſe, practitioners recommend the diviſion of the prepuce; which, by removing the ſtricture, muſt tend to diminiſh the inflammation. — And this operation is performed in the following manner:

Having drawn up the prepuce, and introduced a crooked biſtory, with the point guarded, between the glans and the prepuce, as far as the corona, the edge is to be turned upwards, the prepuce pierced, and the operator bringing the knife towards himſelf, the whole is divided, and the operation is compleated. — After this, pledgits of ſoft digeſtive may be applied to the parts; and after the inflammatory ſymptoms have abated, they will heal up, with ſimple dreſſings, proſecuting the general method of cure already laid down.—In phymoſis, gangrene often takes place; and large portions of the penis are often loſt. However, this is rather to be attributed to the inflammatory ſymptoms being kept up by the admini-

ſtration of mercury, than to any thing elſe. When the method above laid down has been proſecuted, this ſeldom occurs. Opiates, abating the irritation, are often uſeful.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of PARAPHYMOSIS.

THE prepuce retracted behind the glans, and ſwelled and inflamed, ſo as to make its return impracticable, is termed Paraphymoſis.

Here, as in Phymoſis, the diviſion into two ſpecies proves uſeful; the firſt, ariſing from inflammation alone; and the other, from inflammation conjoined with ulcer. The ſymptoms adduced as diſtinguiſhing the two ſpecies in Phymoſis, will likewiſe ſerve to point out the difference in this caſe. The cure

varies, as in the like diſtinction in Phymoſis; and little can be adviſed, more than the application of fomentations, &c. conducing to relax the ſtricture;—venæſection, and a ſtrict adherence to the antiphlogiſtic regimen.— In paraphymoſis, we frequently ſee inſtances of mortification taking place; doubtleſs often occaſioned by perſiſting in the uſe of mercurials, given from an ill-judged notion of healing the ulcerations; but which, in reality, by their irritating power, encreaſe the tendency to mortification. When, with the impoſſibility of returning the prepuce, the inflammatory ſymptoms run high, ſcarifications, or rather inciſions, on the ſides of the penis, ought to be made at the neck of the glans; and theſe are to be carried as

deep

deep as the ſtricture; otherwiſe, it is evident, they may be attended with more prejudice than advantage.—It is needleſs, however, to attempt bringing the prepuce forward, immediately after this operation, as that muſt be a work of longer time.—The wound is to be dreſſed with digeſtive, in both ſpecies.—Mercurials are to be abſtained from, till the inflammation has abated; then, in the laſt ſpecies, the cure may proceed as already recommended.—And, in the firſt, the method for the cure of gonorrhœa muſt be proſecuted, after this accidental ſymptom has vaniſhed.

When the matter, diſcharged from the inciſions, puts on an unpromiſing appearance,

appearance, and ſloughs ſeem to be forming, the bark, given in proper doſes, will be attended with the beſt effects.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Of BUBOES.

SWELLINGS in the inguinal and ſubaxillary glands, proceeding from a venereal cauſe, are termed Buboes. They rarely are the firſt ſymptom of infection; but may be produced, by the abſorption of venereal virus,—from chancre,—or from a general taint of the ſyſtem.—Sometimes they appear ſingly; ſometimes they are accompanied with other ſymptoms.—They often ariſe ſoon after the running in gonorrhœa has been imprudently ſtopped.

Theſe

Theſe ſwellings are very different in their nature and progreſs; ſome tending quickly to inflammation and ſuppuration, and others remaining indolent for a long-continued ſpace of time.

Of the firſt kind, are ſuch as occur in young and healthy perſons; and they generally ariſe ſoon after infection;—as thoſe of the latter kind do in patients whoſe conſtitutions are weak or injured, and of a dull cold habit.

Practitioners differ much in the method of treating buboes; ſome earneſtly recommending them to be brought to ſuppuration, while others as ſtrongly adviſe their repulſion. Many arguments have been advanced to prove the propriety

priety of each method.—Surgeons adviſing them to be brought to ſuppuration, contend, that bubo ſeems an effort of nature, to throw off the virus, and, as ſuch, ought to be encouraged. To this they add, that after ſuppuration, the cure is completed with more certainty, and with a leſs quantity of mercury.—On the other hand, it is urged, that, as ſuppuration is the cauſe of much pain and trouble to the patient; and as in both caſes mercury muſt be exhibited before the cure can be effected; by repelling the tumour, they both ſave the patient much uneaſineſs, and abridge the time of the cure.

The danger we run of thoroughly poxing the patient, by throwing the venereal

venereal matter into the ſyſtem; and the excellent marks which the healing of buboes affords of the effects of mercury upon the ſyſtem in general, determine me to prefer the cure by ſuppuration;—yet, although I have often found very bad effects from their repulſion, I muſt fairly own, that I have ſometimes ſeen the cure perfected, without the intervention of any ſuch accident.

In buboes of the firſt kind, we ſhall find it no very difficult matter to bring them to ſuppurate; it will only be neceſſary to allow the patient a nouriſhing diet, and to apply fomentations and poultices to the part. Mercury is often preſcribed to accelerate ſuppuration; but as this ſometimes produces the very

oppoſite

oppoſite effect, I ſeldom uſe it at this period, in buboes of this nature. When by the feel of the parts, and the ſize of the tumour, we judge it proper for the matter to be diſcharged, we find three different ways propoſed for giving vent to the matter:—we may allow the tumour to burſt of itſelf;—we may apply cauſtic;—or we may uſe the knife or the lancet. And firſt,

Allowing the tumour to burſt.—This is often productive of very bad conſequence; as the matter rarely having a free vent, abſorption may again take place, and at laſt inciſion be neceſſary.—As to the application of cauſtic; I cannot ſay much in favour of this practice; as the patient has been

often brought into very imminent danger from the blood-veſſels being laid bare; and as we are unable to determine the depth the cauſtic is to penetrate.—And I am inclined to favour the third method, or that by inciſion. Here the ſurgeon, in the manner of operating, muſt follow the dictates of his own ſenſe. If the matter ſeems collected, an inciſion of the length of the tumour, is the moſt proper method; but if the matter be diſtributed in cells (as will often happen) two or three punctures with a lancet will be more adviſeable.—Surgeons have adviſed the removal of a circular piece of the fore-part of the tumour; but I preſume this is always unneceſſary; for even when the top of the bubo has put on

a bluiſh

a bluiſh appearance, I have always ſhunned this cruel operation; and, in its ſtead, have ſubſtituted the opening by ſeton. After making a ſmall inciſion at the upper part of the tumour, I introduce a probe, with a ſkain of ſilk, ſoftened with digeſtive ointment, and carefully examine the proper depth; then, bringing the probe to the lower part of the tumour, and cutting upon it, I draw the ſilk through, and finiſh the operation:—and this, which is not half ſo painful, as the cutting off the cap of the tumour, I have, in many inſtances, ſeen to anſwer perfectly well. The wound has uniformly healed, in proportion as the mercury has taken effect on the ſyſtem. As the cure advances, the number of ſilk threads muſt

be gradually diminiſhed.—After buboes have been opened by inciſion, the dreſſings, proper to be applied, will be dry lint, or digeſtive ointment. Poultices in general ought to be continued for ſome days after the operation; and they are particularly uſeful, when the matter appears confined in cells —Fungous excreſcences are to be removed by cauſtic.

Thus far the method of cure by ſuppuration. Let us now take a view of that by repulſion. In purſuing this plan of treatment, mercurials muſt be adminiſtered without delay, and the patient muſt be kept on a light cooling diet :—in a ſhort time the tumours will generally leſſen, and

gradually

gradually diſappear. Nothing can promote this more, than the repeated uſe of emetics:—leeches applied to the part, and the ſaccharum ſaturni poultice, will be ſufficient topical diſcutients.

After the bubo has entirely vaniſhed, the uſe of mercurials muſt be continued for ſome time. Indeed we often meet with relapſe following the repelling of buboes, as we cannot have any certain mark of the cure being compleated; which we always have when inciſion is practiſed. If at any time I would adviſe buboes to be repelled, it is in thoſe caſes where the tumour puts on a very indolent appearance:—but even here I cannot recommend it, till after all endeavours to bring on ſuppura-

tion have failed; and in ſuch, mercury will ſometimes be found wonderfully to promote the ripening of the tumour. Patient continuance of the remedies for either purpoſe, is requiſite in the greater number of thoſe caſes; and we muſt ſteadily purſue our plan, without regard to every trifling alteration that may occur.

In three caſes of indolent bubo, I have tried the effect of electricity, but without the leaſt appearance of ſucceſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Of Ulcers in the Throat;—Strictures of the Urethra; — Excrescences; — Ulcers with carious Bones; — and Venereal Ophthalmia.

ULCERS in the fauces are often formed; sometimes not a little difficult to be distinguished from such as are present in the common sore-throat. — The following remarks will, perhaps, in some measure serve to point out the difference.

In venereal ulcers in the throat, we find a very striking resemblance to those of the penis; and we see no

ſwelling, nor the degree of inflammation which is met with in the ſore-throat proceeding from cold, &c. We are not, however, precipitately to give our judgment on this matter, as deceptions often happen; and therefore it is only after the antiphlogiſtic courſe, perſiſted in for ſome time, has been unſucceſsful, that we are to pronounce them venereal.

Beſides the general method of cure, it will only be neceſſary to keep the throat clean by mild gargles;—ſome of thoſe called detergent, are often of too acrid a nature.

Strangury, heat, ſuppreſſion, and incontinency of urine, often occur in venereal

nereal caſes: appearing in gonorrhœa, they are generally removed with the other ſymptoms of inflammation; — but we often find them in old caſes, when the patient has long laboured under a venereal taint, or has been repeatedly infected; and ſometimes they are ſo very alarming, as to threaten an entire retention of urine. Theſe ſymptoms ſteal on ſo gradually, as ſeldom to be obſerved by the patient till they have been of ſome continuance, and become troubleſome and painful;— they are often attended with a diſcharge of matter from the urethra, which has been improperly named gleet: — but from this it differs very eſſentially in its cauſe, and method of cure. In

this ſituation aſſiſtance is generally called in. This ſtrangury, &c. has been ſaid to proceed from caruncles in the urethra;—from the enlargement of the proſtate gland, and the mucous glands of the urethra;—ſtrictures of the urethra, occaſioned by cicatrices of former ulcerations;—enlargement of the verumontanum;—and ſchirrus of the proſtate. The different ſymptoms of theſe ſeveral complaints, have not yet been ſpecified with preciſion; probably, from the ſame treatment being proper in all of them. To diſtinguiſh diſeaſes of the proſtate, and veſiculæ ſeminales, from mere obſtructions of the urethra, it is obſerved, that in the former, matter follows the laſt drops of urine; whereas, in

in the latter, it is diſcharged previous to making water. In theſe circumſtances, the method of cure, now generally recommended, is the uſe of bougies; which, by their preſſure, encourage a plentiful diſcharge from the urethra; and, by their keeping the paſſage extended, leſſen the ſtricture. Various receipts have been given for preparing bougies; however, as they all act upon the ſame principle, it is enough that they be poſſeſſed of a ſufficient degree of elaſticity, to prevent their bending, or giving way to every ſlight reſiſtance, without being too hard or brittle.—And the receipt given by Mr. Sharp * will anſwer ſufficiently well.

* Critical Enquiry, p. 175.

In

In the introduction of bougies, we muſt be exceedingly cautious never to puſh them with too much force againſt any obſtacle, which may be productive of violent inflammation, and its conſequences; nor to withdraw them at every ſlight interruption; endeavouring to enter the obſtruction a little way, and keeping in mind, that the ſuppuration, brought on by theſe means, muſt undoubtedly be in greater quantity, and far more conducive to the cure, than when the point of the bougie only touches the obſtacle.—When bougies are uſed, they ought to be of as large a ſize as can eaſily be introduced. Their firſt application is gerally very painful; and we ſhould therefore allow them to remain in the urethra

thra only for a very ſhort time; two or three hours a day will be ſufficient. When the inflammation, excited by their uſe, becomes violent, we muſt lay aſide the bougies for ſome days, or rather till ſuch inflammatory ſymptoms have gone off; and then we muſt again have recourſe to them. After the patient has been uſed to them for ſome time, he may be brought to keep them in for five, ſix, ſeven, or eight hours a day; and the greater number of hours he wears them, the leſs time will be required for the cure.

During the uſe of bougies, the patient ought to live on a low cooling diet, which will tend to prevent inflammation. As to the length of time neceſſary for continuing the uſe of the bougie,

bougie, it is impoſſible to lay down any general rule. In ſome caſes, ſeven or eight weeks will be ſufficient, while others may require ſeveral months.—We can only judge by the complaint diſappearing.—And after this, we ought to continue the uſe of the bougie for ſome little time, leaving it off gradually. Theſe complaints, although venereal, are generally removed by the means now propoſed; yet ſome caſes will be found, where, from being joined with other ſymptoms, mercurials will be found neceſſary; but ſuch caſes, the ſurgeon's own ſenſe and prudence muſt point out.

Excreſcences often ariſe about the verge of the anus, and on the ſcrotum;—they generally diſappear as the medicine takes

takes effect on the conſtitution; and in this caſe they only require to be kept clean, by warm milk and water. — If, however, they be large, and of long continuance, they are to be deſtroyed by cauſtic, or they may be extirpated with the knife.

Ulcers, with carious bones, ſometimes occur;—but caſes of this kind are now rarely to be met with; — they appear moſt frequently in the bones of the noſe and palate; and beſides the general method of cure, there is little to be done, except waſhing them frequently, with mild liquors, milk and water, &c. uſing decoctions of the woods, of ſarſaparilla, or the Liſbon diet-drink.

Ophthalmia,

Ophthalmia, from a venereal cauſe, is often met with. — It generally gives way to topical remedies, the general antiphlogiſtic courſe, and the uſe of mercurials afterwards.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of the difference in the Method of Cure in the two Sexes.

HAVING now conſidered not only the proper method of removing the general infection from the ſyſtem, but likewiſe thoſe ſymptoms which moſt frequently occur, requiring particular treatment—it only remains, that I ſhould mention the difference in the method of cure in the two ſexes.—On this head it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that, in the firſt ſtage of the venereal diſeaſe, gonorrhœa, although the ſymptoms are ſeldom ſo diſtreſſing as in men, yet women

require

require much greater length of time for the cure. The different circumſtances of their conſtitution render them much more liable to a gleet, or a continuance of the running, than the other ſex.—Again, topical applications may be more eaſily applied, and conſequently may be more ſucceſsful in the female. When mercurials are to be given, we ought to be very cautious in exhibiting them, as in women, in general, a much ſmaller quantity of theſe medicines is productive of bad effects, than in men. It is proper to add, that during the uſe of mercurials, women muſt be allowed a more nouriſhing diet, than has been recommended for our own ſex.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the different preparations of MERCURY.

BEFORE I conclude, I think it right to ſay a few words concerning the preparations of mercury.

Although inſtances may undoubtedly be met with, where the acrid preparations of mercury have been ſucceſsfully exhibited; yet, when we conſider the very great difficulty that occurs in introducing them in proper quantity, and the continual danger from the violence of their effects, I believe we ſhall be in-

clined to prefer thoſe of the milder ſort; eſpecially as, without the inconveniences accompanying the others, they are always followed by equally happy effects. —The corroſive ſublimate is now, I believe, ſeldom uſed; and I have never experienced any benefit from it, given either in the ſolution, or in pills, unleſs where opiates were combined with it.

In treating of the general method of cure, I mentioned mercurial ointment as the preparation moſt commonly uſed; and for my own part, I am always led to prefer it; but, as in practice we find many patients poſſeſſed of the greateſt averſion to the uſe of it, it is frequently neceſſary to give mercurials by the mouth; and for this purpoſe, calomel

made into pills with conſerve of roſes, will be found extremely proper;—each pill ſhould contain a grain, or a grain and a half of the calomel; and two may be taken every ſecond night at bed-time. When the common mercurial pill is uſed, two or three may likewiſe be taken every ſecond night; theſe laſt, however, are not always of ſufficient efficacy; for, although they may appear to have been very carefully prepared, yet the mercury is often apt to run together; and in that caſe they prove uſeleſs.

I have often uſed the *Pilulæ Æthiopicæ* of the Edinburgh Diſpenſatory (which nearly reſemble thoſe of Dr. Plummer, deſcribed in the Edinburgh Medical

Medical Eſſays) and have always found them infinitely preferable to the common mercurial pill;—the doſe of them is from five to fifteen grains; and they are likewiſe to be given every ſecond night.

FINIS.