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PIERRE POMME, MED. CONSULT. DU ROI,  
ET DE LA GRANDE FAUCONNERIE DE FRANCE

Mors Vitam  
Immortalitatem Sibi.

*L. Nodding pinx.*

*Sharp sculp.*



A  
T R E A T I S E

O N

*Hysterical and Hypochondriacal*

D I S E A S E S,

I N W H I C H

A new and rational Theory is proposed, and a more simple and efficacious Method of Cure recommended, from reiterated Experience.

Translated from the Fourth Edition of

D O C T O R P O M M E ' s

*Traité des Affections Vapeureuses des deux Sexes,*

W I T H A P R E F A C E,

BY JOHN BERKENHOUT, M. D.

L O N D O N:  
PRINTED FOR P. ELMSLY, IN THE STRAND.  
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T H E

P R E F A C E.

**A**T the request of the publisher, I have compared the following translation with the original, and find it sufficiently accurate and literal. From this attestation, I shall doubtless be deemed necessary to the publication; it seems therefore incumbent on me to introduce this foreigner to the faculty in England, by a few prefatory observations in his favour. This, I presume, will be considered as a civility due to every stranger who wishes to become a naturalized Englishman. The translation, I am assured, was undertaken with the consent and approbation of Doctor Pomme, the author.

Those who practice physic in the common *rotine*, will, in the perusal of this volume, find frequent cause of astonishment; but whenever their credulity is put to the test, I must intreat them to recollect, that the author is really a physician of credit and veracity: therefore, with regard to facts, his assertion must be admitted as sufficient evidence, how opposite soever it may seem to our medical precepts and established opinions.

Since the time of Hippocrates, the revolutions in physic are scarce less numerous than those of empires. The successive reigns of the Emperics, the Theorists, Galenists, Chemists, Mechanists, Stahlists, Experimentalists, &c. are sufficiently known to those who are acquainted with the history of medicine. Few years have elapsed since the Boerhaavian system was almost universally received and established,

blished, and yet we have lived to see that system totally exploded in the first medical university in Europe †. But one of the most remarkable revolutions in the history of physic, appears in the present mode of inoculation, and in the general treatment of the small-pox. This singular instance is sufficient to make us cautious how we reject an apparent innovation, because it happens to clash with received opinions. Nothing can be imagined more extravagant, than the present system of inoculation appeared to be on its first promulgation: yet nothing can be more certain, than that this revolution has been attended with infinite benefit to mankind.

With regard to the warm bath, so universally recommended in the following treatise, though the au-

† Edinburgh.

thor be the first who has used it as a specific in hysterical and hypochondriacal diseases, it is evident, that the ancients were perfectly acquainted with its utility. Our Bible informs us, that bathing was a constant practice among the Jews. David first beheld his beloved Bathsheba\* in the bath, and Sufanna was also bathing, when the two elders were smitten with her charms. Homer speaks of warm-bathing in different parts both of the Illiad † and Odysssey. Andromache orders a warm bath to be prepared for Hector against his return from battle ‡, and Hecamede also prepares a warm bath for her master Nestor. There are, in short, innumerable passages both in the ancient poets and historians, which evince the universal practice of warm-bathing,

\* 2 Samuel chap. ii.

† Illiad, xxii. 444.

‡ Ibid. xiv. 6.



particularly after fatigue. Diodorus Siculus \* speaks of the hot-baths in Sicily, in which Hercules was said to have bathed after his labours, in order to recover his strength. These baths are also mentioned by Pindar †: and that the Theban poet was well acquainted with this reviving power of the warm bath, is evident, from the following passage.

Οὐδὲ δερμον ὕδωρ τόσσον  
 Γε μαλθακά τευχει  
 Γυῖα τόσσον ἐυλογία φορ—  
 Μιγχι συνάσρος. *Nem.* iv. 6.

Plato, in his book *De Legibus* ‡ recommends warm-bathing, not only after fatigue, but for the cure of diseases. Dionysius of Halicarnassus §, in his description of Italy, mentions various *Thermæ*, which were celebrated for the cure of

\* Lib. x. 23.

† Olymp. xii. 27.

‡ Lib. vi.

§ Lib. i.

chronic disorders. That baths were used medicinally in the time of Hippocrates, is evident from several parts of his writings\*: *Calida balnea, (says the divine old man,) jejunum attenuant, ac frigefaciunt, a cibo accepto, eadem calefaciunt, ac humectant.*

*Dolorem lateris, et pectoris, ac dorsi, balneum lenit, et sputum maturum facit, ac educit; & facilem spirationem reddit, et lassitudinem eximit, articulos enim, et cutis superficiem mollit; sed et urinam ciet, et capitis gravitatem solvit, et nares humectat §.*

I could remind the reader of many more passages in the writings of Hippocrates, which prove the frequent medical use of bathing in his time; but these sufficiently answer the purpose for which they are quoted.

The public and private baths of

\* De Diet. II. xxxv. 6, 7. 10.

§ De Vict. acut. xxxii. 8. ad. 13.

the Romans are universally known, not only from history, but from the magnificent ruins of those of Agrippa, Trajan, Severus, Caracalla, Dioclesian, Constantine, &c. *Thermæ* were however by no means confined to the great, nor to Rome. They were common in every part of Italy\*, as is evident from a variety of ancient inscriptions. Seneca, in one of his epistles, censures the plebeians for expending such vast sums of money in the decorations of their baths. The public baths of *Baiæ* were as universally frequented by the people of Italy, as Bath in Somersetshire is, in the present age, by the *beau monde* of this island. *Baiæ*, like Bath, Spaw, Aix-la-Chapelle, and other places of public resort, was

\* Montfaucon. Antiq. expl. tom. iii. part 2. lib. i. cap. 1—4. et suplem.

§ Senic. Epist. 86.

indeed visited by many persons for pleasure: the situation is delightful. Horace says,

*Nullus in orbe sinus Baiis præluet amœnis* \*.

But from another of his epistles †, we learn, that Baiæ was also the resort of invalids.

Strabo ‡ celebrates the medical virtues, not only of the hot-waters of Baiæ, but of several other springs in Etruria, which were equally frequented by sick people.

Celsus || often prescribes both warm and cold bathing. That Galen made frequent use of baths in the course of his practice, is evident from many passages in his Commentary on the Aphorisms of Hippocrates §, and in other parts of his works. From the writings of

\* Epist. i. lib. i. 82.

† Epist. 15. lib. i. 2-7.

‡ Lib. 5.

|| Lib. i. c. 1. 3.—Lib. ii. c. 17.

§ Gal. de usu part. lib. 1. c. 3.—Lib. 3. c. 5.

Avicenna\*, we also learn, that bathing was used medicinally by the Arabians. But, what is much more to our purpose, Aretæus † and Tral-lianus positively prescribe frequent warm-bathing *ad melancholiam curandam* ‡.

Hence we see, that this simple medicine was in considerable esteem among the ancient physicians: we also learn, that the idea of prescribing warm bathing to melancholic patients is not entirely new. This is not said with the least intention to depreciate the merit of Dr. Pomme. He himself, in his chapter on *spasmodic fevers*, disclaims, *le titre odieux de novateur*: and, after quoting several passages from Hippocrates, Galen, Celsus, &c. he adds: *bien loin de vouloir m'eriger*

\* Canon. lib. 3. fen. xvi.—Lib. 1. fen. ii.

† Aret. de curat. morb. diut. lib. ii. c. 13. lib. i. c. 5.

‡ Tral. lib. 1. c. 16.

*en maitre de l art, je fais gloire, au contraire, de me montrer, le disciple de ces hommes illustres qui ont ouvert les routes penibles dans lesquelles nous marchons.*

As to his *racornissement des nerfs*, which he supposes to be the *causa proxima* of all hysterical and hypochondriacal complaints; how improbable soever it may seem, let us not reject it, until we have discovered one more rational. If his practice be successful, be his theory what it may, it is certainly entitled to our consideration, especially when we find ourselves obliged to acknowledge, that our medicines usually prescribed in hysterical and hypochondriacal complaints, seldom effect more than a temporary relief, and that, even in this expectation, we are often disappointed.

I began the practice of physic with a very high opinion of the  
power

power of that class of medicines which are called *nervous*: that high opinion gradually declined, and now, after many years experience, I am convinced, not only that they are of very little utility, but that from misapplication, they are frequently injurious: and in justice to this author, I must farther acknowledge, that since I read his book, I have been much more successful than before, in my treatment of hysterical patients. I do not mean therefore to insinuate that he is to be implicitly followed: on the contrary, he must be read with caution, and as cautiously imitated. His total exclusion of pharmaceutic medicines, is carrying the idea of simplicity too far. I have often prescribed some of these with evident advantage in hysterical paroxysms; but in confirmation of Mons. Pomme's theory, I must confess, that the medicines which I have  
found

found most effectual, were not of the class called nervous, cardiacs, cephalics, or hysterics.

I have already told the reader, that since I met with Dr. Pomme's book, I have succeeded much better with my hysterical patients than before. If the usual limits of a preface would allow it, I could relate several cases in proof of my assertion: one, however, of the most remarkable, I must intrude upon the reader.

In August last, I was called to a gardener's daughter at Twickenham, a girl about nineteen. I found her in a violent hysterical fit, and was informed that, for some days past, these fits had succeeded each other so rapidly, that the interval was seldom more than a quarter of an hour, and often not above five minutes; and that her agitations were frequently so violent, that it required two or three persons



persons to hold her in bed. The apothecary informed me, that she had been, for some time past, hysterical; that her present paroxysm had continued above a week, with very little intermission, and that she had taken a considerable quantity of medicines commonly prescribed in these cases, but without effect. Her pulse beat ninety strokes in a minute, but without any preternatural strength or fulness. She recovered her senses during my visit, but relapsed in less than five minutes. I prescribed a very simple saline draught to be taken every six hours, a moderate opiate at bedtime, and the tepid bath, as soon as it could be prepared. My orders were, that she should remain in the bath at least an hour the first time, that the bath should be repeated daily, and that the time of her continuance in the water should be gradually increased. It appeared however

however, upon experiment, that she was never able to remain in the water much above an hour without fainting. After her first bathing, her fits became gradually less frequent and less violent, and in less than a fortnight every hysterical symptom vanished. She is now in service, and continues perfectly well. I have selected this case from several others, because the symptoms were more violent, and apparently more obstinate, than those of any hysterical patient I ever saw.

Exclusive of the benefit which hysterical and hypochondriacal patients may receive from this treatise, I am of opinion, that it may afford a hint to those physicians who are particularly employed in the cure of maniacal patients. The object is of infinite importance to individuals and to society. Our present beaten track seldom leads to sanity; if therefore, bold experimental

mental practice be ever justifiable, it is certainly in those cases, which from their general defiance of the medical art, are considered as desperate. The analogy between hysterical and hypochondriacal diseases, and various species of madness, is so obvious, that it were difficult to prove them not the effects of the same proximate cause: if therefore it be true, that immoderate evacuations are destructive in these first-mentioned diseases, the present unsuccessful treatment of maniacal patients is easily accounted for.

Richmond, Surry,  
Jan. 1, 1776.

J. B.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

P. S. Since I wrote the above, I have had an opportunity of trying the effect of warm bathing in a very singular case, and with great success. A girl at Hounslow, about eighteen, was suddenly and violently seized with a *Scelotyrbe chorea Viti*.\* She, soon after, appeared an idiot, and in about a week from the first attack, became quite insane; talked perpetually, never closed her eyes, had no evacuations, and her limbs were continually in motion. Such was her situation when I first saw her. After once bleeding and one dose of physic, I ordered her into a warm bath, in which she sat between three and four hours every day, for about a week, with very little appearance of advantage. The bath was nevertheless continued, and from that time a cloth, dipped in cold water, was applied to the crown of her head, whilst she sat in the bath. On the first application of this cloth she screeched violently; but in a few days it gave her no pain. After sixteen days the bath was discontinued, the girl being perfectly restored to health of body and mind.

\* *St. Vitus's Dance.*

A  
T R E A T I S E

O N T H E  
HYSTERIC AND HYPOCHONDRIAC PASSIONS;

O R  
V A P O R O U S A F F E C T I O N S.

C H A P I.

*Definition and Symptoms.*

**B**Y vaporous affections, I mean that general or particular affection of the nervous system, which produces their irritability and cornuosity. In women they are called hysterical, because the antients considered the morbid affections of the *uterus* as the sole cause of these diseases. They call it hypochondriac or melancholic in men, because the same authors suppose the cause to be fixed in the hypochondres and *viscera* of the lower belly.

The enumeration of the symptoms is as vague as it is extensive. Proteus in his metamorphoses, as Sydenham expresses it, and the

B

camelcon

cameleon in its different colours, but faintly illustrate their unaccountable variety. The head is always more or less affected. The patient feels a heaviness that benumbs the faculties, and sometimes an acute fixed pain. Many are troubled with a throbbing in the temporal arteries, others complain of a coldness on the top of the head, and the generality are afflicted with noise in the ears, giddiness, apprehension, frights, horrors, universal tremor, lassitude, pain, numbness, &c. distress, melancholy, and depression imbitter all their enjoyments. Their mind being in constant agitation, they laugh, sing and weep without reason. The patient is troubled with frequent sour and nidorous eructations, constant spitting, and sometimes with the tooth ach. The generality are afflicted with the most terrifying suffocations, and sometimes with a dry convulsive cough. Spitting of blood, hickup, and palpitation of the heart, are, in this case, very common, and the latter symptom is so violent, at times, as to be distinctly heard, especially if the patient be thin; there is also perceived a pulsation in the lower belly, supposed to be in the cæliac, superior mesenteric

ferent artery, or in the *aorta*. The pulse is small, irregular, intermitting, and even scarce to be felt in some paroxysms. A fever sometimes ensues. The patients commonly complain of anxiety and *nausea*, and are tormented with a vomiting, which is often so violent as to resemble the iliac passion: They feel a painful creeping in their bowels, and are even subject to terrible cholics. The belly is hard and swelled. Several patients fancy they feel a motion upwards like the rising of a ball, (I have myself observed that this undulation moves in a serpentine direction) as it were from the lower belly to the throat, till they are almost strangled. *Diarrhœa*, costiveness, pale limpid urine, its total suppression or retention, are as frequent symptoms of these two affections, as the heat and cold by which they are succeeded. This heat and cold is chiefly perceived in the back, which is frequently the seat of very great pain. The patient's repose is often disturbed with cramps, and restlessness in the legs, which swell to such a degree, and are so hard, that the finger makes no impression; nor is this swelling dispersed either by rest or the warmth of the bed. These are the symp-

toms which are most common to vaporous affections in both sexes; and which, according to Sydenham, are complicated in such a manner, that it is difficult to distinguish them from each other: *Si tamen affectiones, hypochondriacas vulgo dictas, cum mulierum hysteriarum symptomatibus conferamus, vix ovum ovo similis quam sunt utrobique phænomena, deprehendemus. (1.)*

Hysterical affections are sometimes periodical, and are attended with particular symptoms, viz. a contraction or strangulation in the throat, difficulty of swallowing, loss of speech, suffocation, and a kind of profound sleep, which deprive the patient of all sensation. She is sometimes bereft of her reason as suddenly as in an apoplexy, for which it has been, more than once, mistaken by those who have not attended to the jaw, which is convulsed in the hysteric fit; and sometimes the most terrible convulsions ensue, very little different from the epilepsy. The muscles used in breathing, and those of the lower belly, are violently agitated, particularly the belly, which heaves prodigiously.

(1) Sydenham in *Epist. ad Guillel. Cole*, M. D. tom. i. p. 256.



It is sometimes not unlike a fainting fit, and is distinguished from it only by the paleness of the face and cold sweats; but these are of short duration, whatever may be the issue; whilst, on the contrary, hysterical fits may continue for many days. In some women the pulse and respiration are so totally imperceptible, that you might suppose them dead.

Many hysterical patients, though deprived of speech and motion, are nevertheless attentive to every thing that passes, and are sometimes restored to their senses, if displeased by any body present. One in particular, mentioned by a celebrated author, gave her surgeon, who was preparing to apply blisters, to which she had an aversion, a smart box on the ear; and what is still more extraordinary, immediately relapsed into her former situation.

Vezale actually began to dissect the supposed dead corpse of a woman who had been so long in one of those fits, that it is probable the paroxysm was near expiring. At the first stroke of the knife, she cried out; which so frightened the anatomist, who was thence apprehensive of being put in the inquisition, that he left Spain immediately.

mediately. Asclepiades was more fortunate; for, meeting the corpse of a woman, as they were carrying her to the grave, he discovered that she was not dead, but in a swoon. Mr. Raulin tells us, that he has seen those fits last almost a whole day. (I have myself seen them continue for many days together.) He prevented some people from burying a young girl, her colour not being perfectly changed. She recovered some hours after. The young lady, whose case is the first which I shall recite, would have been many times interred, had not her friends been familiarised to those nervous and hysterical paroxysms. From these examples, continues Mr. Raulin, you will see the necessity of attending particularly to hysterical patients, that you may not confound the living with the dead.

Hysterical fits are sometimes terminated by sweats, but more frequently by urine, as will hereafter appear. The patient, when the fit goes off, sighs heavily, laughs heartily, and makes a thousand ridiculous gestures: but as soon as she recovers her reason, she complains of a painful heaviness, a confused head, a great sinking, and feels as if her

her

her bones were dislocated. Such are the strange and unaccountable symptoms which characterise vaporous affections, whether hysteric or hypochondriac. There is indeed some difference between them; the symptoms of the latter being rather less violent, but more ungovernable.

## C H A P. II.

*The Causes of vaporous Affections.*

THE proximate cause of these diseases has already suffered many contradictions. Every author who has written upon the subject has a favourite opinion. Sydenham adopts, as the immediate cause, the irregular flux of the animal spirits: *Spirituum ataxia*. (a) Hoffman supposes it to be a spasmodic tension of the nerves, proceeding from some defect in the womb: *Motus nervorum spasmodicus ex uteri vitio*; (b) but, with regard to men, he is of opinion, that it proceeds from the inverted peristaltic motion of the intestines: *Motus nervorum spasmodico flatulentus ab inverso ac perverso motu intestinorum peristaltico*: Mr. Raulin acknowledges the same defect of the nerves, which he terms sensibility or irritability of the nervous system; but, not thinking this a cause sufficient to produce such a variety of symptoms, he adds, some particular obstruction of the

(a) Sydenham, vol. i. p. 26.

(b) F. Hoffman, *tract. de malo hyss. & hypoc. Sect. 1. cap. 5. & 6.*

viscera of the lower belly. I shall take no notice of a certain modern author, who imagines a certain seminal prolific spirit, an acid sulphurous fermentation, &c. but shall confine myself to those practical authors who have written only with an intention to serve the patient and the art of medicine. Neither will I stop to examine, whether their opinions be true or false; impelled by the same principle, humanity, I mean to cure, and will therefore explain my system, and determine according to my own experience; whence I am convinced that spasm, and cornuosity of the nerves, are the proximate cause of this disease, and the only one which merits attention. Other vices of the habit are merely effects.

Upon this principle, there is no more reason to suppose the disease to be in the *uterus* than in the spermatic vessels of man: it will indeed sometimes be more particularly affected on account of its formation and the peculiar circulation of its fluids. The obstruction of the viscera of the lower belly, and the irregular flux of the animal spirits, will be equally produced by this cornuosity and extream sensibility of the nervous system.

Were

Were we to enumerate the symptoms, and scrupulously to survey all the internal and external parts subject to this indisposition, we should conclude, that the nervous and membraneous parts are always the most affected. Heartburn, flatulence, cholic and vomiting, sufficiently prove, that the stomach and bowels of hysterical and hypochondriac patients are principally attacked. The *meninges* are affected in their turn: giddiness, drowfiness, the *clavis hystericus* all proceed from their extraordinary tension and cornuosity. The suffocation of the diaphragm, palpitation of the heart, retention of the urine, retraction of the spermatic cords, convulsive motion of the nerves, universal convulsion, and, in short, all those parts which are influenced by the nerves, are consequently prone to the same agitation. The mind is bewildered, and the actions extravagant, because the origin of the nerves, which is the general fountain and reservoir, is disturbed and distracted.

The better to ascertain the cause we have adopted, let us consider those which the pathologists call remote, and we shall then see what kind of persons are the most subject to vapours.

I shall

I shall begin with women. Physicians are of opinion that women dwelling in large cities, and brought up in indolence, are more weak and delicate, and their nerves more irritable. The voluptuous and sedentary lives of some, in others, the immoderate indulgence of their passions, long fasting, extraordinary evacuations, but more especially a great loss of blood, the suppression of the menses and lochia, are, in general, the cause of their complaints. We may also add, that anxiety which is almost inseparable from their situation. It is however very necessary for the physician to inquire into those particulars, as such enquiry will elucidate his investigation, and indicate his mode of operation. On the contrary, women brought up in the country, accustomed to labour and exercise, are, on advanced age, more strong and robust, and their nerves less susceptible of irritation than those who are more delicately brought up; even in their youth. The Scythian women, in ancient times, were never subject to the vapours. Hippocrates tells us, that they were taught the exercise of arms, served in the cavalry, and were never allowed to marry till they had killed three of the enemy.

With

With regard to men, the causes are infinitely diversified. The studious solitary recluse, the young debauchee, immoderate evacuations, excessive drinking, the abuse of tobacco, and excess in eating. Coffee, chocolate, &c. so much in vogue among all degrees of people, are very pernicious when constantly used, though sometimes salutary.

Let us not therefore be surprized that nervous disorders are become so frequent: the manner of living which gave them birth, renders them hereditary. Is it to be expected that valetudinarian parents can produce healthy children? If indeed they sometimes appear healthy, it is because nature has made an extraordinary effort; but it is not long before we see them inherit the same diseases, the seeds of which were in embryo during their youth; and with this disadvantage, that their powers were increasing in proportion to the time of their concealment.

Can it be imagined that hypochondriac parents, whose nervous fluid has been constantly degenerating, can produce children not afflicted with the same disease?

Willis (a) relates many examples of girls afflicted with hysterical complaints inherited

(a) *Willis de motibus convulsivis, cap. 10.*



from their parents. It were in my power to corroborate his testimony with innumerable instances, were it consistent with my plan. It is sufficient for my purpose that I have already recounted the remote causes of nervous diseases; let us examine their effects, and we shall then perceive, that all the nerves are become cornuous, because the fluid which should keep them lubricated, and flexible, is evaporated. The blood and other juices must necessarily be affected by such a constitution: they will become more dense, the secretions will be impeded, and the circulation disturbed. The embarrassment of the viscera, their obstruction, the obliteration of the vessels, and the defect of nutrition, will be the consequence of this cornuosity. A general atrophy succeeds, and a total consumption closes the scene.

## C H A P. III.

## Method of Cure.

**H**AVING discovered the real causes of vaporous affections, we hope to succeed in our attempts to destroy them, by a procedure diametrically opposite to that which is commonly practised. Far from endeavouring to brace the nerves by strong and violent remedies, we shall endeavour to relax them by contrary means. Thus we shall restore the elasticity of the solids, and consequently their harmony with the fluids. A moistening and diluting plan appears to me, not only the most proper, but the only means required: viz. simple or compound, tepid or cold bathing, *pediluvium*, glisters of cold water, or even ice, as the particular case or season may require; fomentations with emollient herbs, cooling ptisans, veal or chicken water, whey clarified or distilled, broth made of pullet or turtle, of lamb, of calf's pluck or of frogs. Oily, sweetening and mucilaginous draughts, and  
acid

acid mineral waters. I shall never have recourse to the supposed anti-hysterical or antispasmodic medicines; such as the tincture of castor, oil of amber, camphire, assafoetida, musk, balm, mugwort, valerian, &c. with an infinity of emenagogues, bitters, carminatives, and gentle purgatives. These remedies, though wonderfully efficacious in various disorders, must necessarily, in the cases I have described, be of pernicious consequence; because they serve no other purpose than to add fire to a flame already too violent, and which ought on the contrary to be extinguished by mild and gentle means.

I should not fulfil my intention, were I to confine myself to a mere enumeration of proper and improper medicines. The time and manner of their application is of equal importance. That we may proceed methodically, I shall distinguish the hysterical from the hypochondriac affection, the former requiring peculiar treatment.

The hysterical paroxysm generally precedes the time of menstruation, or happens even during the period. The blood at this time circulating with difficulty through the *uterus*,

rus, partly on account of its density and partly by the diminution of the diameter of the vessels already stretched and cornuous. Hence suffocation and irritation, more or less violent in proportion to the cause. Hence the increased spasm and tension of the nerves of the uterus, which communicating with the whole nervous system, produces the most horrible symptoms of the hysteric passion, viz. suffocation, fainting, heartburn, convulsions, violent cholic, vomiting, &c.

These paroxysms are often so dreadful as to terrify not only the friends of the patient, but even the physician himself. The women generally practice on such sort of patients, and every female physician has her particular medicine. One runs to the bottle of hungary water, to the *eau de carme*, or to the vinegar bottle, and not content with administering the odour only, they never fail to make the patients swallow a few drops, either by fair means or foul, at the risk of breaking the teeth, or dislocating the jaw (now in a state of convulsion) of the unhappy patient. Some, yet more to be dreaded, administer certain fashionable

able spiritous elixirs, and quintessences. Others, with more modesty, content themselves with the application of plaisters to the belly, blisters between the shoulders and to the legs, cupping-glasses, and certain other remedies, which, for the sake of decency, I omit to name; but which are more dangerous, as they more immediately affect the irritated parts. When all these different medicines have been tried, the physician is called in. The doctor better instructed, consoles the patient and her friends, pronounces a favourable prognostic, and assures them, that the disease is hysterical. In order to proceed according to art, he writes a prescription, consisting, doubtless, of anti-hysterical water, with the addition of tincture of castor, a grain or two of camphire, and a few of Sydenham's anodine drops. This medicine, as detestable on account of its smell, as on account of its strength, is intended to save the life of the poor victim; and she takes it, if she can, drop by drop. Nevertheless, the paroxysm runs its full period, and when it ceases, the medicine has the credit of the patient's recovery: though nothing can be

more evident, than that such recovery is entirely owing to the force of the spirits being exhausted. All spasms are generally succeeded by relaxation. The storm once appeased, what do we observe? A dry tongue and fauces; and a thirst, hardly to be assuaged, already demonstrate the pernicious effects of these pretended specifics. The belly becomes inflated and tense, the menstrual discharge suppressed, which is probably considered as the cause, rather than the effect of the disease. Strange error, and strange infatuation! There is now a cessation of hostilities till the next attack; and such are the vicissitudes of medicine and of this disease.

How shall we remedy so many mistakes, and so many evils? The empiric answers, That violent disorders require violent remedies. On the contrary, I am of opinion, that the more violent the disease, the milder should be the remedy. In such cases, I order the patient frequent clysters of common cold water, and in some cases, and according to the season, I prefer ice-water. This medicine never fails of its effect. The excessive heat of the bowels, the usual consequence of their strangu-

strangulation and irritation is thus assuaged, their tension is diminished, the spasm relaxes, the brain is relieved, the circulation becomes free, and the flow of the animal spirits is restored to its former equality. The simplicity and success of this remedy, are reasons sufficient why it should be preferred to musk with dragons blood; as also to sulphur, and other anti-hysterical medicines. If I want to relieve a violent suffocation, or the sudden suppression of the menses, I order the patient's foot to be put into cold water up to the knees: and this pedeluvium, like a charm, removes the suffocation; but if it should not have the desired effect, I then prescribe bathing in warm water, but more frequently in cold, which effectually relieves the suffocation. In the East Indies, the cold bath is considered as specific, according to the report of the physicians, and of patients who had experienced its salutary effects. In South Carolina, where nervous diseases are endemic, they have no other remedy. M. Lionet Chambers, physician of Charlestown, of that province, attests this fact. England, Scotland, and Ireland, are greatly

prejudiced in favour of cold-bathing. The efficacy of this remedy, both in hysteric and hypocondriac complaints, has been so well attested by Sir John Floyer, who was its great advocate, that we cannot refuse the cold bath all the merit it deserves. In short, however violent the rarefaction of the blood and spirits, they cannot resist this application. Their volume being diminished by concentration, the nerves must necessarily relax. If the paroxysm returns at the beginning of the menses, I have no objection to a small bleeding in the foot; but I never repeat it, because this evacuation, when too copious, deprives the nerves of the fluid by which they are lubricated, and destroys the equilibrium which should subsist between the veins and the nerves. With this bleeding I begin; but if I find it insufficient, I proceed immediately to cold clysters, *pedeluvia*, and the bath; but the cold clysters generally answer every purpose. I allow no other diet than to drink plentifully of pullet, barley, or rice-water, and some *soupes au lait*, having always observed that the volatile particles of the *bouillon* irritated the villous coat of  
the



the stomach, and prolonged the paroxysm. With this mode of proceeding I have generally had reason to be satisfied.

This regimen I make my patients observe, keeping them in the water for several hours together. The tempest once calmed, I suffer them to come out till the next day, obliging them to stay in the bath for three or four hours every day during the entire interval of the paroxysm, and sometimes six hours, or even more if necessary, according to the degree of cornuosity which I attack; and in this case it may be allowable to say, that violent diseases require violent remedies. With this treatment we may reasonably conclude, that however extreme this cornuosity of the nerves, (a) three or four repetitions, or at

(a) Among the proofs of this extreme cornuosity, there is one which will be thought sufficiently convincing. The philosophical physician will, with satisfaction, observe his patient swim on the surface of the bath, until the relaxation be complete; when the specific gravity of the body being increased, by the decrease of internal heat, and consequent density of the air, she will sink to the bottom. The hysteric girls, who are the subject of the first, second, third, and fifth following observations, evince this fact.

most fix, will effect a radical cure, provided the patient be sufficiently tractable.

The return of the menstrual flux, which was before suppressed, generally indicates, that the fibres of the *uterus* are relaxed; but if there should yet remain any obstruction in the passage, it will certainly be removed, by soliciting the circulation to the lower extremities. The warm *pedeluvium*, and the friction of the limbs, so highly extolled by the celebrated Boerhave, will, in this case, have a wonderful effect. The application of cupping-glasses to the *vulva*, according to M. Majault, will generally be attended with good effects. Other relaxing medicines may be employed in the interval between the paroxysms; they may be even substituted for these last mentioned, when the disease is more mild and less inveterate.

The hysteric paroxysm often begins with a violent cholick, attended with a diarrhoea and vomiting; symptoms full of danger when improperly treated. Oily clysters, oily, balsamic, and mucilaginous draughts, joined with narcotics, are frequently of great service. These medicines act sometimes as cathartics, and sometimes as emetics,

ties, according to the sensibility of the fibres of the stomach and bowels, and are absolutely necessary for discharging the first passages of the irritating matter which augments the symptoms, and counteracts the effects of the sedatives prescribed. After this, chicken-water will supply the place of the stomachics and cordials which are usually prescribed.

The *clavis hysterica*, of which hysteric patients so frequently complain, knows no other specific than the application of cold water to the crown of the head, succeeded by warm bathing. These answer every purpose of narcotics, which are generally used, and which are, at best, very suspicious. The convulsive cough, to which hysteric women are commonly subject, never fails to yield to fomentations, and to the use of chicken-water. In case of fainting, I prefer cold clysters to irritating medicines. The heart-burn, which either precedes or follows, may be cured by drinking copiously of warm water, or by frequent clysters, in case chicken water, oily and sedative draughts are not to be had.

The hickup is another frequent hysterical symptom, which is a convulsion of the

diaphragm, and sometimes of the upper part of the stomach. Balsamic drinks are frequently ineffectual; but whey and bathing may be considered as real specifics.

Sometimes the breasts are distended, which I have known to be mistaken for a real tumour: a mistake necessarily attended with fatal consequences. This distension of the breasts is always painful and alarming to the patient. It is caused by rarified air in the cellular membrane, and the strangulation of the mamillary veins, by the reflux of the hypogastric. The application of a cloth wet with cold water, seldom fails to remove the complaint. The other symptoms, which it were unnecessary to recapitulate, will infallibly give way to the general treatment above directed: the special application of which must be left to the sagacity of the physician.

The hypochondriac disease is owing to the same defect in the nervous system, and is therefore subject to the same laws. In men, indeed, the symptoms are seldom so violent as in women; we shall therefore treat them with less severity. Domestic bathings are also serviceable; but require more caution. Hypocrates forbids the  
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use of milk, and we are convinced by daily experience, that it is indeed pernicious; but whey, chicken-water, warm and cold clysters, fomentations, &c. should be employed equally as in the case of women. But if men are to be treated with more caution, their disorder requires greater perseverance. The application of cupping-glasses to the hemorrhoides, so frequently practised by the ancients, and at present too much neglected, will be of singular efficacy in restoring a very salutary discharge. The passions and diseases of the mind, frequently render the disorders of the body difficult to cure; we are therefore obliged to pay equal attention to both. The physician should neglect nothing to amuse and obliterate, if possible, the gloomy and erroneous ideas of the patient, and gradually to convince him of his illusion. Dissipation on horseback and in a carriage, concerts, and assemblies, should make part of the regimen prescribed by the physician. Mineral acid waters are adviseable; but I have found that they succeed best when the disease is, in some degree, overcome; because the mineral particles require a certain degree of relaxation of the fibres of

of the intestines, to enable them, without difficulty, to carry off the extraneous matters lodged in the different *viscera* of the lower belly.

Diluting and emollient remedies will effectually eradicate the cause of this disease, however inveterate; which, on the contrary, is rendered incurable, by the use of cordial, aperient, purgative, and antispasmodic medicines: a mode of practice very much the fashion at present, even with many of our most celebrated and experienced physicians.

Even Hypocrates, that great legislator of the medical art, was acquainted with this fact. (a) Sanctorius tells us (b) *Hypochondriaci, si frequentibus balneis eorum corpora reddantur persparabilia, & victo humido utantur, sani fiunt.* Celsus (c) prescribes for his hypochondriac patients, warm bathing, and to drink plentifully of cold water. Galen, Aretæus, Cælius Aurelianus, advise fomentations and bathing. Alexandre de Trales (d) has recounted in terms abundantly

(a) It is, doubtless, from Hypocrates that we say proverbially: *melancholici in tantum curantur, in quantum balneantur.*

(b) Sanctorius, Aph. 102, Sect. 1.

(c) Cels. lib. 1. cap. 2.

(d) lib. 1. c. 17.

energetic, the advantages of this treatment: *Dulcium balneorum usus, si quid aliud opitulatur, aliam namque partem bilis discutere, aliam humidorum qualitate contemperare, totum vero corpus aqua calida superfundere, caput tepida potius, & luteis ovorum abstergere, ac universum sane corpus hydroleo, caput etiam rosaco ungere convenit, &c.*

Hoffman, upon the credit of many authors, relates wonderful and speedy cures, of the hypochondriac disease, effected by the use of warm bathing only. Baglivi, in imitation of those oracles of medicine, informs us, that all other remedies are ineffectual; *Fateor tamen ea remedia aliquid posse contra morbos animi, quæ statum sanguinis funditus emutare valent, quæque non superficialiter agunt; sed fluidarum æquè atque solidarum corporis partium intima quæque loca pervadunt.* And what are these remedies which not only palliate, but which attack the disease at its source: by acting equally, on the solids and fluids? *Et inter hæc balneationes frequentes.* If after this, physicians complain of difficulties in the cure of this disorder, they ought rather to attribute it to their own mismanagement, than to any thing obstinate or unaccountable

able in the disease. They will, doubtless, forgive this reproach, and I flatter myself, will thank me for the ingenuous discovery of my method of treating these two affections, so equally common to both sexes; for we have daily instances of men who may be deemed hysterical, and of women who are truly hypochondriacal. If Nature chuses thus to sport with our art, is it not allowable for us, in turn, to forsake our rules, and to follow her in her wanderings?

These two affections are frequently complicated with other diseases; and, in that case, what attention and care do they not require? In such cases, a perfect knowledge of the constitution is very essential. Women in child-bed often exhibit the worst symptoms. After a difficult labour, every membrane of the body is in a state of sympathetic irritation from the *uterus*; the *lochia* are diminished or suppressed, and the consequences are phrenzy, fever, spasms, convulsions; which often terminate in death. It is therefore necessary to use our utmost endeavours to restore the *lochia*. Sydenham, a most respectable author, used certain antihysterical plaisters; he mixes cordials, aperitives,



aperitives, and antispasmodics; of these, with the addition of volatile salts, he forms an electuary. What can we possibly say in favour of such a medicine, when so many physicians have experienced its pernicious effects?

Another more modern author (M. Raulin, p. 265) confesses this truth; but too timorous to substitute any other medicine, he leaves all to Nature, who, he says, does frequently more than medicine. M. Hazon, *docteur-regent* of the faculty of medicine at Paris, instructs us, from his own experience, what ought to be done in such cases. Attentive only to the cause of the disease, he did not hesitate to plunge his patient into the bath, and by this powerful assistance, the *lochia* returned. (a) Such an example ought to influence physicians to throw off the yoke of ancient prejudice, and to proceed with us in a new method, where they will meet with continual proofs of the truths we have announced. The miliary fever, so common to women in child-bed, especially in England, Germany, and Italy; does it not pro-

(a) Vide Journal de Med. fev. 1756, p. 110.

ceed entirely from the suppression of the lochia, and is not that suppression generally produced by the anti-hysterical medicines usually given to lying-in women, in those nervous complaints which always precede their labour? The disease of M\*\*\* (a) sufficiently proves their fatal effects; and there is great reason to suppose that she would not have died, if she had not been drenched with cordial and anti-spasmodic draughts: chicken-water, frequent clysters, and the other remedies that might have been substituted in their place, would have infallibly composed the *subfultus tendonum*, shiverings and universal tremors; and the miliar eruption would have saved the patient. For this reason, doubtless, Frederick Hoffman considers the immoderate use of coffee, as one of the causes why this disease is so general in the electorate of Brandenburg.

Most women with child would have much easier labour, were they to submit, during the time of pregnancy, to a regimen suitable to their constitution, and were they to make use of mild remedies only for their nervous complaints. The disorders to which they are most subject

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(a) Journ. de Med.

at that critical time, would not then be so fatal; the most frequent of which disorders are continual or intermitting fevers.

What gross mistakes are every day committed, in such cases, by the abuse of the Peruvian bark? This remedy, though efficacious in many cases, becomes very dangerous, when too freely used in nervous constitutions. Its astringency contracts the fibres of the stomach and bowels, and its volatility increases the disorder of the spirits, and the impetuosity of the humours. Diluting, sedative medicines, ought to precede the use of this drug, which indeed should never be administered except in conjunction with the other.

The *Tympanites* is a frequent disease of hysterical women, and generally appears on the cessation of the *catamenia*. The irritation of the *uterus*, which is communicated to the bowels and abdominal muscles, is the cause of this supervening inflation. The tension and pain with which it is attended, prove this to be the case. Carminatives and purgatives should be considered as poisons; their irritation increases the pain; the *viscera* become embarrassed, a redundancy of serous and lymphatic humours

mours in the cellular membrane of the muscles, and in the cavity of the abdomen, generally terminates this disease, by uniting it with a *leucophlegmatia* and *ascites*. Bleeding, and moistening remedies used in the beginning, will remove the disease and its consequences. The irritations will be soon calmed and suspended, and the consequent relaxation will proclaim the triumph of our art.

Our hypochondriac male patients are liable to the same complications, and require the same treatment. If one of these patients happens to be venereally attacked, with what extraordinary care and attention ought he not to be treated! Our preparations in this case should be more extensive; our domestic bathings more frequent; whey, chicken broth, fomentations and clysters must be added, to counteract and allay the commotion, which mercurial medicines must necessarily occasion; and which, in that respect, are diametrically opposite to a nervous temperament.

A learned professor of medicine, in the university of Montpellier, too much enlightened not to be sensible of the dangerous effects of this powerful specific, teaches

us, by his practice, (a) not only the method we ought to pursue; but, at the same time, the general errors to be avoided. We have therefore, nothing to add to a method no less interesting than rational, and I adopt it with the more confidence, because a contrary treatment would be dangerous.

Can we suppose that the scorbutic complicated *virus* will better support the effect of acrid antiscorbutics? The hemorrhages become more considerable, a fever succeeds, and a retraction of the nerves and tendons, obliges us, very soon, to abandon those remedies, and to have recourse to other assistance. In this case, acids alone may fully answer our purpose; and, after Dr. Lind's example, (b) our whole dependance must be on vegetable and diluting regimen.

The king's evil requires no less caution, in this case, attenuants must be combined with diluting and emollient medicines; and, if by this method, we do not entirely correct the lymph, we are, at least, certain of not increasing the evil, by destroying the solids, the general consequence of indiscreet practice.

( ) *Methode de guerir la verole par M. Haguénot.*

(b) *Traite de Scorbut*, translated from the English of Dr. Lind.

Even the gout, in a nervous subject, requires a particular regimen. Warm stomatics, and the different wines, so highly extolled by some authors, become superfluous, not to say dangerous; the *metestasis* of this humour being more to be apprehended, on account of the oscillation of the vessels, if we do not, by proper remedies, diminish their elasticity. White meats, asses' milk, whey, and a total abstinence from wine, will prevent the fatal effects of this extraneous humour; and I will venture to affirm, that this mode of proceeding will totally eradicate the disease, if timely applied.

The hypochondriac *cachexia* requires also the most attentive treatment. If the fluids superabound in this constitution, it is, because, as there are fewer vessels, there are also fewer intervals. What then becomes of these fluids, when the natural emunctaries deny them an easy exit? They are necessarily diffused thro' the habit; the supervening *cachexia* of this constitution, will be a complication of symptoms of *cachexia* and melancholy. Reiterated purgatives, and violent diuretics are generally opposed to the cause of this malady. *Anasarca,*

*farca*, *leucophlegmatia*, and *ascites*, which are the usual consequences of such treatment, will very soon discover the mistake; whereas, simple whey, or sometimes a little acidulated, will subdue the disease and its consequences. This practice is more particularly applicable to the town of Arles, because, according to the opinion of all the physicians of that province, the dryness of the climate, the quality of the food of the inhabitants, that of the air which they respire, all contribute to the dryness of our fibres, and the density of our humours. Hence the diseases to which we are generally exposed are of this class. M. Raymond, physician at Marseilles, proves this fact. "I have had, says he, a great number of dropical and tympanitic patients at Marseilles, in the *Hotel-dieu*, in the *quarter de la Misericorde*, and in other parts of the city; and, I can, with truth, affirm, that I never discovered any other cause of these diseases, than heat and dryness: my patients, therefore, were constantly relieved by diluting medicines; and, on the contrary, their disorder increased by a different treatment. I appeal to the physicians of that city."

In a word, where spasm is complicated with other diseases, it requires special attention, and can be only relieved by diluting remedies. The following cases will, I hope, prove what I have asserted. Of these cases, I shall, at least, furnish a sufficient number to explain the symptoms which characterise the disorder of which I am writing. The first is of itself sufficient to establish my system; it will also support the rest, as I am particularly indebted to it for my success,



## C H A P. IV.

*Hysterical Cases, attended with extraordinary Symptoms.*

WERE it necessary, in this place, to describe the hysteric affection, I should borrow the definition already given by a very celebrated author, and I might truly say, with him, that under the title of this disease, may be comprehended many others. *Morbis ille, aut potius morborum cohors, quam per vocem affectiones hystericæ interpretantur veteres.* In short, the variety of its symptoms, the uncertainty and caprice of its termination, and the difficulty of the cure, have so much astonished those who have attempted to investigate the cause, that after several successful attempts, they are obliged to be content with painting the disease in the different colours furnished by a variety of authors. All these difficulties would still subsist, and the disorder in question would be still among the number of those which admit of no theory, if practical observation had not shewn us that these various ap-

parently irregular *phenomena*, are but so many different rays, which converge in one common centre.

Observation is the only guide capable of conducting us to the perfect knowledge of diseases; it is indeed the sole foundation of rational practice, and of the art itself. It would consequently be superfluous to amuse ourselves with vague and borrowed definitions, the insufficiency of which are well known. Let us, therefore, attend solely to experience, which, by discovering the errors we ought to avoid, will naturally lead us to the truth which we are seeking.

In the course of the year 1744, Miss Autheman, about nineteen years of age, of a bilious and sanguine temperament, was attacked by a violent pain in the great toe of her right foot, which deprived her both of sleep and appetite. This pain continued in the same degree about six weeks, and then increasing, produced a fainting fit, from which, by means of cordial medicines, she was with difficulty recovered. This was succeeded with dreadful convulsions, attended with very singular and terrible symptoms. If you pinched any part  
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of her body ever so slightly, or dropped upon her one single drop of water, her disorder immediately increased to a very alarming degree. It was a machine entirely out of order, in which every motion was performed by fits and starts, with a degree of irregularity which may be easier imagined than described. Bleeding, in some degree, restrained the disorder, but without calming the agitation of the mind: and a *delirium*, with a *hæmiplegia* of the right side supervened. The arm was immoveably bent upon the breast; the abdomen, the entire length of the *lenia alba*, was considerably raised; the leg and thigh were stretched out inflexibly. She continued eleven days in this situation, and without nourishment, the jaw and the tongue having partook of the *hæmiplegia*.

Many of the physicians assembled on the occasion, acknowledged, that her disorder proceeded from the tension of the nerves, and scanty of the fluids, and that diluting medicines were plainly indicated. Accordingly, bathing was used with success; it immediately removed the *delirium*, the spitting of blood, vomiting, suffocations, and other symptoms which constantly at-

tended bleeding; but did not restore flexibility to the limbs.

It was very difficult for a young, lively girl to persevere long in a strict regimen. She was therefore subject to frequent paroxysms: one of which was so violent, that her life was despaired of. She was seized with a lethargic stupor so excessive, that a pin thrust deep in her flesh was not felt. The strongest *irritants* were applied for twelve days to no purpose, till at last, the brain was relieved, and the cause removed, by a thick, black, glutinous hemorrhage from the nose. The heat of the stomach and bowels, occasioned by so long a privation of aliment, stripped the tongue of its skin, and rendered it paralytic.

Eight whole years passed in frequent relapses. It was necessary to bleed her almost every month, which constantly produced *delirium*, and the most shocking convulsions, which left her terribly shattered. In this melancholy situation, she was committed to my care. The task was difficult, and I should not have undertaken it, but that I was animated by the desire of instruction, and the secret hope of success, which, nevertheless,

nevertheless, was founded rather in desire than expectation.

An ebullition of the blood which gradually increased, with spots resembling the measles, attended with a fever, were strange symptoms; but so far from disheartening me in my undertaking, which commenced the 6th of November, 1752, that I was encouraged thereby to redouble my attention. I had no doubt but bleeding would produce a calm, and that it would prevent those suffocations which the rarefaction of the blood seemed to threaten; but the vein was scarcely opened, when the face became entirely convulsed, and every part of the right side inflexibly fixed.

Though these frightful symptoms were of less consequence than those which were prevented by bleeding, it was, nevertheless, necessary they should be appeased. I had recourse to domestic baths, and to chicken tea. The rigour of the season did not deter me from prosecuting this moistening diluting plan: and I was right; for scarce were we arrived at the twelfth day, when we heard a violent noise in the bowels, and a little after, also in the thigh, like the crackling of dry parchment,

parchment, or like that of the joints of the fingers when suddenly stretched, but louder. I concluded, that this noise, so agreeable to the ears of a physician, in such a situation, proceeded from the violent and sensible impulse of the blood, forcing its way into the closed and cornuous vessels. The next morning, the impetuosity of the blood removed the obstruction in the arm, which, at that instant, struck against the sides of the bathing vessel. When she got out of the bath, her belly, thigh, and arm, were flexible, though paralytic; but the *delirium* still continued, attended with circumstances not less irregular than the *hemiplegia*, of which I have already spoken.

Her countenance was smiling, her humour agreeable; she thou'd every body without distinction, and having lost the use of the right arm by the palsy, she combed with the left, and embroidered with inconceivable dexterity; nor were the productions of her mind less astonishing than those of her fingers. She repeated verses, which, tho' her first essays, were remarkable for her vivacity and delicacy.

This ingenious *delirium* was periodical, but returned sometimes irregularly. In her  
last

last paroxysm, she remembered every thing she had said or done in the preceding *delirium*. Her memory was even better than before her illness. She asked for her pen, or needle and thread, to finish what she had before sketched, and performed every thing with a natural and composed air. I leave the trouble of expounding these astonishing and various effects to the physiologists, who will also determine, whether poetical enthusiasm be not a species of *delirium*: for though this girl, during the paroxysm, made innumerable verses, yet, when in health, she knew nothing of poetry.

The patient continued in this manner till the month of July; which being remarkably dry and hot, produced a strange effervescence in the blood, and caused a symptom, perhaps, never before heard of. The blood violently rushing into those vessels, the coats of which were contracted, burst with impetuosity, at a periodical time, into the womb, and then, sweating, as it were, through the corners of the eyes, the cutaneous pores of the neck, the ear, the nose, the navel, the under part of the  
thigh,

thigh, and the foot, all on the paralytic side; which caused a catelepsy.

In combating this hydra, I used the same weapons, though with greater exertion. In short, by means of white diet, of ice, which melted in her mouth, without her perceiving the cold, bathing for ten or twelve hours every day, during ten whole months; (this term will not appear too long, if we consider, that in the space of nine years, there had been but short intervals between the paroxifms) by means, I say, of this diluting, moistening process, I had the satisfaction to see her convulsions entirely cease. The joints of her rigid limbs were less painful, and the crackling of the *meninges* dispelled the *delirium*. Nature oppressed, relieved herself by a copious discharge from the stomach, of a yellow matter, and sleep, which narcotics had not been able to procure, returned. The blood, therefore, had lost its impetuosity; but its density, and the dryness of the vessels, were yet obstacles to the menstrual discharge. At this critical instant, I plunged my patient into the bath, in consequence of which, the discharge was so copious, as to tinge the water.

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The powerful melody of the violin, completed the re-establishment of the functions of the brain, the eye, the jaw, the ear, and the nose, by several small cracklings, and the violent agitation of a carriage, appropriated to the purpose, recovered the use of her paralytic limbs, and restored the circulation in the lower belly, attended with the same noises, though more painful. Thus was this young lady, as if miraculously, restored to her former health.

We will not, however, disguise the truth; but frankly confess, that she enjoyed her former state of health for one year only, which seems to have been nothing more than a repose of Nature, to enable her the better to support a fresh attack. She soon became a prey to another malady, which the delicacy of her sex, and her own natural modesty, rendered very alarming. It was a suppression of urine. Necessity obliged her to apply to a surgeon, to save a life, which she had rather have lost a thousand times. The catheter removed the danger, but not the cause. Certain extraneous substances presenting themselves to the internal orifice of the  
*urethra,*

*urethra*, caused this difficulty. The urine became turbid, and brought with it a quantity of gravel, and bits of membrane: her pains became more and more sharp, and a stone presented itself in the passage. What agonies! what torments! what trials! It was, however, necessary, to help Nature with every assistance of art. The stone, at length, came away, enveloped in a cyst. It was of the size and form of a white chestnut, and brought with it pieces of membranes, and a large quantity of grumous blood.

Being now rid of this evil, she thought herself cured, and who would not have been of the same opinion? The pieces of membrane, like bits of soaked parchment, continued to separate with slight pains, and daily came away with the urine. The right side of the *urethra* began to strip in its turn, and, at last, came away entire, by the same channel. The pains, and difficulty of making water, nevertheless, continued increasing to such a degree, that at last, the passage was again entirely stopped. Alarmed with the apprehension of another stone, we had, once more, recourse to the catheter, which convinced us, that  
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our fears were groundless; but a softer substance, which exactly filled the passage, was equally alarming. I no longer doubted that the internal membrane of the bladder was entirely detached, and gathered into this place. The hardening of the internal coat, had undoubtedly rendered this separation necessary. Was it not the same case with the internal coat of the intestines, which formerly being separated, came away by the *rectum*? The *œsophagus*, the *trachia*, were also stripped, and the membrane came away, either by vomiting, or expectoration.

Being thus informed of what had happened in the bladder, the next step was to remedy the evil. It was necessary to assist Nature in the expulsion, and injection seemed the most obvious means. Having caused various injections to be composed, I tried their effect on the pieces of membrane, which I had carefully preserved, and found that the preference was due to the water of *Baerge*. These injections were frequently repeated during three nights and days. The crisis was doubtful, and the patient, being at the last extremity,

tremity, I was obliged to have recourse to cordials, and Nature triumphed at the instant, when hope seemed to have left us. The injection detached three fungous substances, which were formed by the different replications of the internal membrane of the bladder, and with them the internal membrane of the sphincter, which came away entire in substance and in figure. A surgeon-lithotomist of great reputation, whose profession called him to Arles, after examining these membranes, in concert with the family-surgeon, a man of merit and great experience, was entirely of my opinion. He soon discovered the sphincter and the internal coat of the bladder. The patient gradually recovered her health and strength, which she has ever since retained. (a)

(a) It has been maliciously reported, that the cure of Miss Autheman was not radical. Without enquiring into the motives for such a report, I shall content myself with establishing the fact by authentic proof: I appeal to the testimony of the young lady herself, and her family. I intreat the incredulous to make her a visit; they will there learn, that her present confinement is owing to an unlucky fall. Six years ago she dislocated her thigh. Three times they endeavoured to reduce it, but in vain, and this young lady is condemned to pass the remainder of her life, reclined on a sofa. This sedentary life has already occasioned some indolence in the primæ viæ, which have

What a triumph for the art of medicine, and at the same time, what an indisputable proof of the reality of my hypothesis. The hardening of the fibres will be no longer contested, since we have now ocular demonstration. Anti-hysterical medicines will be no longer considered as remedies for this disease. The young lady, who is the subject of these observations, will attest that they are poisons; and her example will convince posterity of the efficacy of a contrary treatment.

How happy would it have been for Mr. Laugier's patients, had he been timely informed of this case. Miss Majot would not then have perished under his hands. The two physicians consulted, were, I suppose, equally ignorant of the discoveries which I have related concerning the cure of hysterical diseases. My first essay was

two putrid fevers, and several paroxysms, of a tension and quartan ague, of which she was also cured by the usual means, viz. bleeding, emetics, purgatives, and febrifuges; which remedies would certainly have revived the hysterical symptoms, if the disease had not been totally eradicated.

To these irrefragable proofs, I may add, that the attempts to reduce the thigh, produced no convulsion. What is still more, the expulsion of a stone by the urethra, attended with inexpressible pain, occasioned no return of her original complaint.

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published in the year 1760, and in the succeeding year, a succinct account of the disorder and death of Miss Majot, was published in the *Journal de Medicine*. I shall transcribe it literally, and then, by comparing the two cases, one may judge of the different practice of physicians.

*An Account of a spasmodic Case, in which the Patient was bled Three Hundred Times, during the Space of Two Years and Two Months; related by Mr. Laugier, Doctor of Physic at Pellifane in Provence.*

“THE description of this case presents us with two distinct characters, though, in many respects, very much alike. A concatenation of the most contradictory symptoms, frequently confounding each other, has not prevented us from penetrating into their real source, and considering the whole as an hysterical epilepsy, which, having been, for some time, neglected, was the more alarming and obstinate.

About the beginning of September 1758, Miss Majot of S. Maximin, in Provence, twenty-two years of age, of a sanguine and atrabilious constitution, agreeable, good humoured and sprightly, being with some relations.

relations at Pellifane, an unexpected fright caused a total suppression of the *menfes*. The fourth of the same month, she had a most violent epileptic fit, which was followed by two others equally strong. The same day, was perceived, convulsive motions, frothing at the mouth, violent agitation, distortion of the lips, and of all her limbs; the next day, she complained of painful oppression, alarming suffocation, and constant labouring of the *thorax*. A few days after, Mr. Barthone of Salon, was sent for, a man very much esteemed for his worth, and knowledge, to whom I am greatly indebted for the particulars of the commencement of this disease. When the doctor came, he found her in the interval, between the paroxysms, so placid and composed, that he could hardly be persuaded she was the object of his journey. But he did not long enjoy his agreeable mistake, for while reflecting on what he had just heard, she was seized with one of the most violent attacks, attended with still greater agitation, the most irregular emotions, spasmodic contractions, suffocating oppression, and frothing at the mouth. He concluded immediately, that there was a mixture of epi-

lepsy with hysterics, for which reason, to begin with the most alarming symptom, he ordered many repeated bleedings in a very short time. The patient recovered her senses, and the use of her reason. This opportunity was taken to administer the sacraments. She was then purged and vomited. These attacks continued with very little variation, and to such a degree, that, at the expiration of eight days, her stupor resembled death. Blisters were applied, but to as little purpose.

Bathing, anti-epileptics, slight aperatives, and cephalics were proposed, and in some measure begun; but the unsteadiness and obstinacy of the patient, rendered them all ineffectual. Mr. Joannis of Aix, a physician of great reputation, and many others, were consulted on the occasion; but for the same reason, all their endeavours were useless; all this happened in the space of five or six months. The first of April 1759, I began my attendance upon this young lady; I found her sitting up in her bed, with an easy and composed air, shewing no other signs of illness, than a face rather paler than ordinary; in other respects, neither altered nor emaciated.



ated. Her eyes were lively and animated, even to vivacity, which seemed to belye her situation, she was in tolerable good case, strong, vigorous, and elastic, which might naturally be supposed, from her having been able to support the many attacks, and to overcome the violent and repeated agitation which she had experienced. Her pulse was full, quick, and free, her hand very hot, and the skin of her arm a little moist. I was, in general, informed of what had been done, and, whilst ruminating upon what I had heard, the patient, as if unwilling that I should determine her case by my own reflections only, gave me ocular demonstration. I now became spectator of one of her paroxysms, when it was least expected; she shut her eyes, bowed her head, and dropped on the pillow; stretched out her arms, clenched her fists, and lost all sensation. Her respiration was less quick, but her pulse kept up, and insensibly rose rather than sunk. Hitherto, I took this fit, which lasted only about half a quarter of an hour, for nothing more than an hysterical paroxysm. When she came to herself, she seemed very composed, and as if but just

awoke; she would sometimes prepare her company, and bid them farewell, in a jocular manner. Whenever any body came into the room, whom she was not used to see every day, and who made a more than ordinary impression on her mind, she fell into one of her paroxifms, which seldom continued longer than seven or eight minutes, but which, at other times, returned frequently in the day, and lasted longer.

I was desired to take notice, that she had a confirmed hereditary *thifis*, that she relished nothing but high seasoned meats, and made-dishes. I returned the next day, and having made many reflections on this extraordinary disorder, I conceived, that I had to encounter *a disturbed brain; a blood sharp, dry, and sily; a nervous system continuous, obstructed; its motion irregular, and its tubes rudely harrowed by an acid fluid;* all which plainly indicated, on account of her delicate constitution, the *slightest aperatives, sedatives, moistners, diluters, and balsamics.* To this purpose I ordered the country air, bathing, milk whey, chicken or turtle broth and creams; at one time, adding anti-epileptics, at another, anti-hysterics,

terics, such as *poudre de guttete*, powder of castor, and others of the same kind: but, of all these, milk only was administered, which was solely continued to the end, and which, for some time, constituted her only nourishment.

The favourable season of the year, aided by a milk diet, gradually rendered her paroxysms less frequent; so that she was able to rise, dress herself, and sit in a chair; in which situation I once found her tolerably easy, though her respiration was somewhat difficult. Thus she continued for some days, till, by imprudently exposing herself at a window, in order to see a procession, she was again attacked by her former disease. She was, soon after, thrown into a violent fit of passion, by being reproached for her imprudence. Being naturally extremely irritable, this passion caused so excessive a commotion, that her fits returned with great violence, and were attended with such a suffocation, that we thought her life in danger.

Things remained in this situation till the middle of summer, about which time, she often continued two whole days, and sometimes longer, in a cataleptic state;

motionless, and as if in a swoon, except that her pulse was perceptible. In these paroxysms, she was cold, and her face of a pale, livid, deadly colour; her respiration deep, and so imperceptible as scarce to move the flame of a candle. Her pulse was weaker and more concentrated than usual. After these paroxysms, which she had in the months of July and August, she appeared quite shattered, which was not the case after those which were simply hysterical.

Doubtless the reader hath perceived, that the epileptic symptoms, which, at first, appeared with such violence, became latterly less frequent, and somewhat different; no convulsions, spasms, nor frothing at the mouth, at least, very seldom. At present, an acute, quick, and piercing pain in her head, throws her into the most surprising agitations. In the height of her pain, she desires to have her head girt and bound extremely tight, from which she fancies she receives some little relief. She rests her head on a cushion, on which she thumps hard, and throws herself repeatedly. The compression of that side of the brain, being arrived at its greatest height, it extends its influence even to the  
source

source of the organs of motion and of the senses ; and thus, the patient immediately becomes motionless for some minutes, and recovers her reason only to be sensible of suffocation.

In this case it is difficult for the human mind to conceive, how the poor patient could possibly undergo such terrible fatigue, without expiring a thousand times. She sometimes, when her fit, which generally lasted for about half an hour, was at the height, sprung two feet above the bed. Her situation was so painful, fatiguing, and affecting, that those who were obliged to remain with her, could scarce support it. In such a state of danger and distress what was to be done ? Palliatives were the only remedies indicated, and those afforded but a momentary relief.

From the beginning of the disease, she was accustomed to be let blood in the arm, and this was continued even to the last. However blameable this practice, which was greatly condemned by all the physicians who were consulted, it was, nevertheless, pursued. When easy, the patient consented not to be let blood, but when the paroxysm returned, she would fire the  
house

house if they refused to bleed her: she declared, she would herself open a vein either with her teeth or a knife, if she could not have it done otherwise. One might easily have prevented all consequences, if the surgeon who visited her, had complied with the physicians, who endeavoured to convince him of the danger of the abuse of this practice, which served only to confirm the disease, and render it incurable. A ridiculous ignorance, supported by great presumption, a culpable weakness, an improper complaisance, and perhaps motives of another nature, were more powerful than either his consideration for the patient, or his own duty. It is very true, that the patient appeared better after bleeding; but, in a very short time, it was necessary to bleed again. This was the case for a certain time, almost every night, and the next day it was repeated.

Her blood was dissolved, serous, with a yellowish sediment, and mixed with a very small proportion of *coagulum*. I often remonstrated with the patient, on the disadvantage of such frequent bleedings, which only served to ruin her constitution, and, consequently, add strength to the disease.

If

If she was determined to be bled, I told her she should rather be bled in the foot, which might give her the relief she expected, and cause a revulsion that would also relieve her head and breast, if it were now possible. She consented, and it was accordingly executed with some degree of success, and to the satisfaction of the patient, as it prevented the paroxysm of the day; but whether this was contrary to the opinion of the phlebotomist, or whether he found more difficulty in the operation I know not, but during the whole time of my attendance, it was never done more than three or four times.

When the patient recovered from her suffocation, finding great heat in her throat, and eagerly asking for drink, they gave her water mixed with syrup of capillaire. As she slept very unquiet, almost the whole time of her illness, they gave her syrup of white poppies; which, as it must necessarily hurt her breast, on account of the suffocation, when all narcotics are improper, and as the constant use of sugar would most certainly injure the body, I at last succeeded in having them discontinued. For, with regard to this patient, it must be observed,

observed, that the physician was only nominal, and had frequently the mortification to find his prescriptions entirely neglected. (a) With regard to her regimen, it was to no purpose to prohibit high-seasoned food. She would eat nothing but ham, salt herrings, saufages, and the like. Her liquor was white wine, of which she drank an amazing quantity. She also drank cinnamon-water burnt with sugar very frequently. It was in vain to represent the danger to which she exposed herself; her passions got the better of her reason. Her bowels were so much injured by this sort of diet, that it is not much to be wondered at that she was a week, and sometimes a fortnight without going to stool, to which her want of exercise, probably, did not a little contribute. There never was any thing particular in her urine, except that it was generally crude, though naturally somewhat of a lemon colour.

(a) The obstinacy of the patient is, in such cases, a very bad excuse for the physician, whose timidity is generally the cause of this perverseness. Under such circumstances, it is more prudent to abandon the patient to her unhappy fate, than by an ill-timed complaisance, to bring the sufficiency of our art in question.

Her



Her legs were quite emaciated and relaxed. In spite of all her sufferings she was always cheerful, and even droll during the intervals of her suffocations and head-ach; which, for the last year, became periodical, that is to say, every other night. As this was always the most critical time, except after having been let blood in the foot, which delayed the paroxysm for one day, as I have already said; so during the whole time of my attendance, I found her in a continued fever, which became habitual. The hot fit continued during the day, and going off towards night, she became cold as ice till the morning. In this manner she went on, without the least variation.

One of the particularities of this case was, that her window, which, during the summer, was kept half shut, being closed or opened more than usual, she immediately fainted away. This was doubtless, occasioned by the different effect of air and light upon her nerves. (a) If at any

(a) I once knew an hysterical patient who lived many years in a dark chamber, the retina of her eyes being too irritable to support the least glimpse of light. Her physicians constantly prescribed hot medicines.

time she was moved ever so little from the part of the bed in which she usually lay, she became motionless. I once attempted to administer the *pedeluvium*, with an intention to relieve her head; but before I could have her removed to the bed-side for that purpose, she fell into one of her paroxysms.

Though in general her appetite was rather voracious, and her food improper, I have known her, after the paroxysm, remain two days without eating. She drank indeed pretty plentifully of milk, without which she could not possibly have lived. When she came out of her fit, she opened her eyes immediately, but was some minutes before she saw, or recovered her senses. Any voice that was too loud, or too long continued, gave her pain. It often happened that her head-ach brought on a singular species of *delirium*, which sometimes continued twenty-four hours, during which time she talked very incoherently, and used frequently to rub her forehead backward and forward with her hand, as if she meant to tear away the cause of her disorder. In the midst of her suffocation, not being able to speak, she  
pointed

pointed to the bend of her arm, to signify her desire of being bled; and if it was not immediately complied with, she was highly offended with the surgeon. If during the fit she became cataleptic, she continued to the end, precisely in the same attitude in which she happened to be when it began. Whether she was sitting, or stretched upon her bed, one arm perpendicularly extended with any thing in her hand, her head raised or reclined, her legs bent, or otherwise, there was not the least alteration in her position so long as the fit continued. It often happened that she was seized whilst talking, and in the middle of a word, which she never failed to finish when the fit went off. There was something so engaging in her manner, so chearful and agreeable in her conversation, that every one was fond of her company. If in the course of conversation, she was taken with a fit before the subject was finally discussed, she resumed the topic as soon as she recovered. When in a cataleptic state, if you touched the back of her hand, or one of her toes, she immediately began to move her head, which  
continued

continued shaking while the part was touched.

Very frequently, and with little trouble, she spit up clots of blood into her handkerchief. The indolent state of her bowels producing a stool but once a week or fortnight, (as we have already said,) frequently obliged her to have recourse to purgatives; but this did not render her stools a bit more regular. (a) Towards the end of her disorder, her blood had scarce any consistence or natural colour, being yellow and pale, rather than red. This strange head-ach and suffocation, as we have before observed, became periodical, though it sometimes varied its intervals; upon the whole, it continued always in the same state, from the end of the year 1759 to the year 1760.

At length, in the latter end of October, our poor martyr was seized with the most

(a) “ If you would attempt to relieve an habitual constipation by means of purgatives, you do not assist nature, but rather confirm her in her error; because, by thus encreasing the heat, which hardens the fœces, and also the rigidity of the fibres of the intestines, which deprives them of their suppleness and elasticity, you must necessarily encrease the evil.

sharp

sharp and cutting pains in her belly, which made her constantly cry out, and make bitter complaints. Her gums, her mouth, and her lips grew black. From this state she fell into a lethargic sleep, which lasted till the first of November 1760, when, without much struggle, she breathed her last.

It is astonishing, that this young heroine, after so many bleedings, violent shocks, dangerous moments, being sometimes whole days without eating, and generally living upon unwholesome food, was not more emaciated. This may be attributed to her having taken very little exercise, and the consequent parsimonious dissipation of the aliment she took.

The consideration of this extraordinary case, were sufficient to amaze the human understanding, if examples of this infinite and capricious variety of symptoms, in nervous and spasmodic diseases were not daily before us. And what is most remarkable is, that though these symptoms are striking and frightful, nevertheless, though they are generally obstinate they are least dangerous. The patient in question, is a strong instance

of the truth of this assertion: she died of a disorder totally different from that which seemed every instant to threaten destruction; for if we had been suffered to open the body, I have not the least doubt, that we should have found her bowels gangrenous or scorbutic. The blackness of the whole mouth and lips, and the violent pain in the abdomen, before her death, confirms this opinion. A ridiculous prejudice, the want of use, a mistaken delicacy, and the total ignorance of its benefit to the living, renders the opening of dead bodies very uncommon in this country. Indeed, the general difficulty of obtaining permission, in such cases, prevented the request.

As to the original cause of this disease, it is not surprising, that the reflux of the *menfes*, being first thrown upon the brain, should, by compressing it, produce obstructions. These obstructions then, which were alternately removed and renewed, must infallibly, by affecting the origin of the nerves, disturb the mechanism of the parts to which they extend.

As there is no disease more frequent  
and

and universal in this country, than this hysterical epilepsy, it must necessarily become obstinate, and increase daily, because, for want of attention, it is considered as merely hysterical, and treated accordingly. Sooner or later, they have reason to be sorry for their mistake. It also frequently happens, that we are not consulted in time; for the simple hysterical affection, will sometimes rapidly accumulate the epilepsy. For this reason, the good of mankind, the credit of our art, require the utmost exertion of our endeavours to discover a general and more certain method of cure; and this can only be done by an accurate and faithful history of the disease. For this reason, I was impatient to contribute my mite, by an immediate narrative of the above case."

Such is the tragical picture of an hysterical disease. The attending physicians, as well as those who were occasionally consulted, are no more responsible for the death of this young lady, than the surgeon who was innocently her executioner; because they all pursued the common routine of

practice. Let this example, however, teach us to avoid so dangerous a road, and prompt us to attempt the discovery of one more safe. The inefficacy of the remedies applied at the beginning of Miss Majot's disorder, gave Mr. Laugier a just idea of her case, and the indications which he established, were precisely conformable to that which I so fortunately pursued with my patient; his intention, like mine, being to combat *a disturbed brain, a blood sharp, dry and sily, a nervous system, cornuous, obstructed, its motion irregular, and its tubes rudely harrowed by an acrid fluid*; which, as he observed, plainly indicated *the slightest aperatives, sedatives, moistners, diluters and balsamics*. In like manner, most physicians know the enemy they have to combat, but the general mistake lies in the administration of the remedies.

Macerating, diluting medicines will always be considered as specific in this disease, and, in a methodical course, are always used in their turn; but the intervals are infallibly occupied by purgatives and the most powerful antispasmodics, the fatal effects of which render the disease incurable. Is it then wonderful that this disorder de-

generated



generated into a confirmed scorbutic *diathesis*? Such repeated bleedings, so many purgatives, and other irritating methods equally prejudicial to the ferous and balsamic parts of the blood and juices, soon rendered them unfit for circulation. They became thick and acrimonious, and produced the scorbutic disease, which terminated in the death of the poor patient, who like many others, fell a sacrifice to this ruinous practice.

Amongst the number who have perished in the same manner, I shall instance one only, whose case very much resembles Miss Majot's. She was wife to a *procureur* of Arles, (a) eighteen years of age, and had been subject to hysterical complaints from the first year of her marriage. She was always indulged with cordials and elixirs of every kind, without which she supposed she could not exist; nor was she more sparing of the hungary-water and *l'eau sans pareille*, which she drank as often as she smelt to them. The most remarkable symptom of her disease was a continued and dead pain, which, she said, moved from place to place in her

(a) Mademoiselle Deville.

intestines, and sometimes rose as high as the neck and throat; attended with a tightness, which gave her much pain in swallowing, and sometimes she even breathed with so much difficulty, that she was every moment apprehensive of being choaked. This pain was more or less violent according to the position of her body; for when she raised her head, which she was forced to keep reclined on her bosom, ever so little, the pain became insupportable, and she was relieved only by a noise in her stomach, still more painful while it continued. This obliged her to resume her former bent position as quick as possible. (a) In this melancholy situation she lay-in twice, and had afterwards several miscarriages, attended with the most immoderate evacuations, which at last terminated in a confirmed scorbutic *diathesis*. She lost her teeth and gums, and then died at the age of 25, having kept her bed two

(a) This symptom sufficiently evinces the reality of my comparison, as it perfectly discovers the cornuosity of the stomach and intestinal canal, which in this case was so extreme, as not to bear the least extension by the muscles of the neck and thorax. The noise occasioned by this forced extension, exactly resembling the stretching of dried parchment.

whole

whole years, and was cornuous to such a degree, that it was impossible to extend her contracted body and limbs, even the least part of an inch.

Miss Majot's three hundred bleedings, and my patient's considerable hemorrhages, constitute the outlines of the history of these two cases. The elixirs which the one was continually drinking, and the white wine and cinnamon water, which was the common beverage of the other, so perfectly agree, that the same disease by which they were both of them affected, terminated in the same kind of death.

## C H A P. V.

*Hysterical Cholic.*

**T**HERE is no disease more frequent in this climate than that species of a cholic, which is called hysterical, to which most women are more or less liable, according to the texture of their fibres, and the acrimony of their juices. The most obvious characteristic of this species of cholic is the presence of the menses, from the irregularity of which its symptoms principally arise. Hence the learned Piso, in his treatise *De morb. a collusione serosa ortis*, calls it the sanguine cholic, because the patient is generally relieved by restoring the menstrual discharge in the one sex, and the hemorrhoidal in the other.

The observations I have made on this hysterical symptom, will be of service in the curative plan which I shall propose; and the efficacious remedies which I constantly employ, convinced me more and more of the reality of the cause I have assigned. A towel wet with cold water, and applied to the whole abdomen, and frequently renewed, drinking plentifully

plentifully of cold water, and cold clysters often repeated, are the only specifics that I know to relieve the pain, and at the same time, restore the menses, upon which the cure entirely depends. By thus condensing the rarefied blood and other juices, I diminish their volume, as also that of the air in the intestines, which by distension, produces the spasms that obstruct the menstrual discharge. From this obstruction proceeds the pains of hysterical women in the hypogastric region, which by affecting the whole nervous system, produces the variety of symptoms incidental to the hysterical disease; they are, however, not difficult to be removed, when their source and principles are once known.

Many celebrated authors before my time, were acquainted with this cause; for they used the same remedies. *Amatus* and *Zacutus Lucitanus* afford examples of this. The first of these published the virtue of snow-water in this kind of cholic, and the other, that of cold bathing in the consequent palsy. *Septalius* in his animadversions, predicted the efficacy of this remedy, when the pains had been increased by hot medicines. Frederic Hoffman is of the same opinion, for he tells us : *Neque in colica flatulentâ*

*tulentá a causa calidá, frigida exteriùs applicata penitùs improbanda veniunt. Qua in re, auctōritate eximiorum medicorum, Cratonis, item Valesci de tarentá, niti licet, qui lintea aquá frigidá madefacta & ventri imposta, in colicis doloribus sedandis magnificiunt.*

Another author, not less eminent in his practice than those which I have just mentioned, though reprehensible in the hypothetical ideas which he had invented, adopts, in this case, the same method of cure, viz. *Quando nimia fibrarum crispatura & irritatio adest cum magno impetu spirituum, secretiones humorum in partibus minuuntur vel abolentur; tunc datis remediis, crispaturum laxantibus, secretiones restituntur: ob nimiam enim irretationem ac stimulum, fibra quasi indentitur, induratur, ac veluti immobilis evadit; unde impeditæ fluidorum secretiones.*

He further adds: *Tota igitur curatio dirigenda est ac impendenda in tollenda morbosa irritatione & crispatura, per balnea, per oleosa, anodina & laxantia remedia; nam ea sublata, impeditæ tollentur liquorum secretiones.* And he thus concludes: *Et si contrario modo procedatur, plurimum auctōr erit medicus difficultium lethaliumque concretionum liquidorum in parte affectá. (a)*

The

(a) Baglivi, de fib. mot.

The observation of these authors were so conformable to my own opinion with regard to the hysterical cholera, that I was determined to be influenced by them in every respect. The heat of the intestines, which they suppose to be the cause of this disease, is by no means ideal, since the effect of medicine proves its existence beyond all contradiction. We may therefore conclude, that the friction of the constituent parts of the blood, and the reciprocal action of the solids on this fluid, produce this extreme heat and rarefaction of the liquids, by which the menses are constantly obstructed. This symptom must therefore be removed, by condensing the air that is contained within the intestines and in the menstrual fluid, which is too much rarefied. I shall illustrate this doctrine by the two following cases.

The eldest daughter of Mr. Vascher, twenty-two years of age, had a dangerous fall at the critical time of her *menses*; being very much frightened, they were immediately suppressed. Some days after, a fever succeeded, and was attended with hysterical cholera. She was let blood both in the arm and foot, but without effect. Warm and emollient clysters were administered, and also narcotics;  
but

but all were equally ineffectual. She suffered patiently during the intermediate time; but at the return of the *menfes*, her pains were so much more violent, that it was necessary to try other remedies. Cold fomentations were administered with immediate success. The *menfes* appeared, and the remedy was discontinued. Her pains again returned with still greater violence: the same means were again used, and with the same effect. It was surprising that the cold fomentations never checked the menstrual discharge; but, on the contrary, terminated the disease.

A poor girl, called Seignorette, having been for many years hysterical, was attacked with violent cholics attended with suffocation, which so cruelly harassed her, that she was believed incurable. Bleeding in the arm and foot had been several times repeated, when I was called to her assistance. The cold fomentations operated so instantaneously, that the suffocation was immediately removed, the cholic abated, and the menstrual discharge became so copious, that it prevented the paroxysm, and the cold bath completed the cure. (a)

(a) She often relapses in consequence of hard labour, from which it is not in her power to abstain; but she has the



These two cases are sufficient to prove that the cause which I have assigned is the true one, and the medicines which I employ efficacious. The cornuosity of the fibres which compose the texture of the vessels of the uterus, and the extreme rarefaction of the fluids which circulate through them, seem evidently to produce this hysterical symptom, for which hot medicines are generally applied, though draughts of cold water are a certain specific.

the satisfaction of being always able to repel the paroxysm by means of cold fomentation : so that as soon as she perceives any irregularity in her evacuations, she has recourse to these fomentations, which never fails to produce their salutary effect.

## C H A P. VI.

*Hysteric Suffocation.*

THE obstruction of the menstrual discharge in its passage by the neck of the *uterus*, becoming daily more obstinate, it must necessarily follow, that this fluid, having irritated the nerves of the *uterus*, returns through different parts of the body, and thereby produces spasms, more or less considerable, according to the power of the cause. The breast will be first affected; and will suffer most from a suppression of the *menfes*, because its blood vessels and nerves sympathize by *anastomoses* with those of the uterus. Hence the lungs will be oppressed by a partial *plethora*, and therefore, expanding with difficulty to receive that portion of air necessary towards respiration, they become agitated by this sudden impulse, which constitutes that species of suffocation, commonly called hysterical, to distinguish it from that which does not originate in the uterus.

We are already informed, by the theory of this symptom, what are the specifics that may be administered with success; I mean

all

all those remedies which immediately relieve spasms, and at the same time condense the rarefaction of the fluids, which alone constitutes a *plethora*. The following practical observation will elucidate our idea of the cure.

Madam \*\*\*, an Ursuline Nun, twenty-two years of age, was for three years liable to attacks of the hysterical suffocation, which returned very regularly at the critical time of menstruation. She was so often bled, that it was difficult to recollect the number of times (a).

Anti-hysterical draughts, purging pills, aperatives, and emenagogues were not spared; but they only served to increase

(a) Though the number of bleedings which this poor nun suffered was so very considerable, it was far short of Mr. Brillonet's operations, (surgeon major of the hospital of Chantilly) who, in the space of 19 years, bled an hysterical patient one thousand and twenty times, viz. 80 times in the foot, and 940 in the arm. Vide *Journal de Med. mois de May, ann. 1757, p. 292.* M<sup>lle</sup>. de Andelot of *Franche Compte*; whom I attended, assured me, that she had suffered an equal number of bleedings, in the various paroxysms of hysterical suffocation to which she had been subject.

The translator can't help observing in this place, that it were happy for the French nation, if their monarch would, by an edict, entirely prohibit the use of the lancet.

the

the disease to the highest degree. Chicken-water, and cold clysters were the chief remedies which I administered, and the cold *pedeluvium*, which I ordered in her first fit, after my attendance, produced an immediate calm. The *menfes*, which were before suppressed, returned a little the next day, and removed the paroxysm. She was then ordered the domestic bath, and to live upon white meats during a month. By these means the following period was less violent. She continued the same remedies during four months successively. The nerves of the *uterus* became relaxed and supple, the *menfes* returned, and the patient was perfectly restored.

M<sup>lle</sup>. \*\*\*, youngest sister to the nun whom I have just mentioned, fifteen years of age, of a sanguine and very atrabilious temperament, was seized some time after her sister's recovery, with a continued and inflammatory fever. The fatigue which she underwent during the time of her sister's illness; her frights and alarms at the frequent sudden returns of her suffocations, brought on this disease. Repeated bleedings, clysters, fomentations, and cooling emulsions, carried off the fever and the symptoms; a gentle purgative

gative was then administered, but without effect: the belly became tense and painful; oily draughts, fomentations, and clysters were also ineffectual. The time of her *menfes* returned, and was preceded by terrible cholics, accompanied with suffocation. These symptoms were, for some moments only, checked by the cold *pedeluvium*: it was therefore necessary to have recourse to the domestic bath, in which she was kept, the first time, for two and twenty hours together. She continued the use of this remedy during the whole interval, and remained in the bath six hours every day. The second period was, by no means so violent, and the third period completed the cure.

There are numbers of hysterical women subject to this disease, who use no other remedy than bleeding, which is sometimes repeated every day as long as the suffocation continues. By thus diminishing the quantity of blood, you reduce, it is true, the *plethora*, and thereby remove the danger which it threatens; but how does this cure the disease of the solids? The quantity of the fluids being diminished, the vessels naturally contract,

the oscillations become stronger and more frequent, and the cornuosity of the fibres is the consequence. Thus we see these poor unfortunate victims languish out the remainder of their life in continued misery.

## C H A P. VII.

*Hysterical Hæmoptoïsis.*

**T**HE same cause which produces hysterical suffocation, is also the cause of the hysterical *hæmoptoïsis*, or bleeding of the lungs, if the blood vessels of the lungs happen to be too weak to resist the impetuous reflux of the menstrual fluid. The vessels of the lungs being thus distended and overcharged, after many repeated percussions, at last give way, and the quantity of blood discharged will be in proportion to the impulse arising from the spasmodic contraction of the blood vessels and nerves of the *uterus*. This *hæmoptoïsis* is indeed difficult to cure, because it becomes periodical: but is by no means incurable, when properly treated.

M<sup>lle</sup>. Mauche, 26 years of age, of an atrabilious and hypochondriac temperament, had been for a long time afflicted with the hysterical cholick, supposed to be occasioned by the hemorrhoids, to which she had been for many years subject. The suppression of the *menfes* increased this evil. A *hæmoptoïsis* ensued, accompanied with hysteric fits and con-

vulsive twitches, which, at length, alarmed the indolence of her friends.

I was then called to her assistance: the cause of the disease being of a long standing, was the more difficult to remove, it was therefore necessary to have recourse to the most powerful remedies. Bleeding in the foot was the first thing attempted. The patient submitted without murmuring; but being naturally perverse, she rejected every other assistance. The periodical return of her *menfes* arrived, the *hemoptoïsis* also returned, but with greater violence, accompanied with convulsions, and the patient was deprived of her senses. The stiffness of the jaws prevented her from receiving any liquid; she was no longer able to take nourishment; her blood became more and more enflamed, the nerves more inflexible, and the cause of the disease was very soon at its utmost height.

In this situation I became master of my perverse patient, but the evil grew more invincible. She was kept in the warm bath for eighteen hours, which terminated the paroxysm. She then grew more tractable, and consented to every thing prescribed; she resumed the bathing, and used herself to stay in the water six hours every day. The third period



riod was nevertheless very perplexed: there was scarce any appearance of the *menfes*; but the fourth and fifth carried off the disease.

A nun of a certain order, twenty-one years of age, was, in the same manner, attacked with a slight *hæmoptoïsis*, which returned for several times periodically. The belly was tense, high, and painful, and but very little appearance of the *menfes*, which shewed her disease to be an hysterical affection. She was bled in the foot without any effect; but the cold clysters, chicken-water, and domestic bathing, destroyed this growing evil in its infancy.

If the cause of the periodical return of the *menfes* hath always embarrassed the professors of the medical art, the means of restoring them to that regularity when they disappear, is at this day attended with no less difficulty. Attentive only to the disorder they occasion, and to the extraordinary courses they will sometimes take, it seems as if we were determined to follow them in their wanderings, and to attack them in the part to which they are directed by nature. Hence it is that we often attribute an *hæmoptoïsis* to a local defect of the lungs; an *ophalmia*, to a simple inflammation of the membranes of the eye, or to the acrimony of some extraneous hu-

mour; a vomiting of blood to the relaxation of the veins of the stomach, or to the rupture of some other blood vessel: and so of the other parts of the body where the *menfes* have sometimes appeared. (a) These capricious effects so often impose upon physicians, by assuming the appearance and symptoms of particular diseases, that it is indeed difficult to avoid deception, if one is not well acquainted with the patient's constitution, and the signs which preceded the disease. What enumerable faults and errors in practice! And who among us is entirely free of this accusation? Let us therefore for the future be upon our guard, and we shall, with no great difficulty, avoid the snares which are continually spread for us by nature, always industrious and capricious in her wanderings: we shall, I say, find little difficulty, if in our enquiry into the causes of female complaints, we do not, with so much contempt, reject the hysterical.

Let us consider all the diseases to which women are most liable, and we shall find none more common at present than hysterical

(a) In the *Journal de Med.* for the month of January 1759, there is a case related of a female whose menfes were periodically discharged by the breasts and the face.

affections. The celebrated Baglivi teaches us, that in the diseases of children we should be always apprehensive of worms: *Pueris suspicandum de vermibus*; in men, of the venereal virus—*generaliter in virorum pertinacibus morbis de lue veneræ*; and with regard to women, that we should always suspect an hysterical cause: *Fæminis vero de affectione hysterica*. Such advice, if properly attended to, would save many lives, and we should perhaps find, that those who would otherwise have been pronounced hectic, (a)

(a) Madame la Comtesse de S. fell a victim to this general mistake. M. Lorry and myself, to whose care she was at first entrusted, were of the same opinion, and our method, so far from aggravating the symptoms, relieved her by degrees: but our process being rather tedious, the patient and her family became impatient, and proposed calling other assistance. We were obliged to consent to their importunities. Other physicians were called, who all affirmed her disease to be pulmonic. Powerful remedies were administered to repair, as they said, the injury which our method had produced. Those brought on an inflammation of the lungs, which was succeeded by suppuration. She died in the space of forty days from that time. The body was opened, and we discovered that two lobes of the lungs, were invincibly attached to the plura, which had also adhered to the intercostal muscles; this adhesion confirmed our prognostic, by giving us ocular demonstration of the cornuosity of this viscus.

apoplectic, epileptic, or paralytic, were only hysterical.

The emollient remedies administered with this intention would do no harm in case the disease were of another kind or complicated; whilst, on the contrary, a different practice might be both injurious and fatal. I am nevertheless persuaded, that there are physicians more capable of distinguishing than myself: I do not address myself to those, but to such only as are desirous of improving by this advice.

## C H A P. VIII.

*Hysterical Epilepsy.*

SINCE it is possible for the reflux of the *menses* to produce suffocation in the parts above the *pelvis*, the brain will of course be exposed in its turn, to be more or less oppressed according to the *plethora*, occasioned by the degree of compression which is then formed in the hypogastric vessels, in which are comprehended those of the *uterus* and *vaginae*. This compression is owing to the same cause by which other hysterical symptoms are produced, *viz.* a spasmodic tension of the nerves, and their extraordinary sensibility and cornuosity, which obstruct the menstrual fluid, and occasion its reflux to different parts of the body: hence such variety of symptoms.

In the present case, the epilepsy becomes periodical: for whenever the menstrual fluid is obstructed, by the contraction of the uterine vessels, it is then forced to regurgitate, and must necessarily flow back upon the brain, where it is no sooner deposited and detained in the different sinuities in the substance

stance of this *viscus*, than it forms compressions more or less great and irregular; these affect the circulation of the animal spirits, and thereby produce general or partial convulsions, epilepsy, and the various diseases which proceed from the different obstructions of the brain.

The epileptic paroxysm happens only at the time of menstruation; and it is this periodical return that distinguishes it from the real epilepsy, which proceeds from some particular disease in the brain. Thus we generally see it threaten during the time of menstruation, and actually commence when that ceases. Upon this principle, established by experience, and therefore incontestible, we must not conclude, that all the women subject to epilepsy are incurable: for, by relieving the intestines from spasms, and likewise the hypogastric vessels, we certainly re-establish the circulation of the fluids, and also provoke the menstrual evacuation.

This can be no paradox, because the fact is founded on the experience of several patients; amongst the rest, the lady who was the subject of our first case, and Louisa Bourbon whom we shall hereafter mention, were both of them attacked with epileptic symptoms,

toms, sufficient to denominate them real epileptics, and which they would actually have been, if by mistaking the true cause, contrary remedies had been applied, or if they had been abandoned to their unhappy fate. The epilepsy which I call here symptomatic or secondary, would have become in the end essential, and perhaps incurable; because the brain so frequently overcharged would have suffered prodigious compressions, which would infallibly have produced certain dilations and obstructions in the coats of the veins and arteries of this *viscus*, from whence the epilepsy proceeds.

M<sup>lle</sup>. M<sup>\*</sup>. is of this number; the proof is evident, because the epileptic symptoms which she so frequently experienced, never fail to return at the periodical time, and always accompany the menstrual discharge, which never appears without much trouble and pain, and which sufficiently characterises the spasm of the uterine vessels, and also their dryness and contraction: a dryness the more sensible and entire on account of its inveteracy; and particularly because it had been sustained by the continued use of antispasmodic and antiepileptic medicines, which this young lady used by the advice of her  
uncle,

uncle, who, though a skilful apothecary, was by no means enough of a physician to judge of the power of these medicines.

I could mention many cases of this incurable kind; every city unhappily abounds with them, and yet we behold with indifference the ignorant quack, appropriate to himself the sole management of a disease which we term incurable, because it is obstinate. If the difficulty of the art of healing had discouraged our first masters, what would that art have been at present, and of what use their conjectures, their mistakes and uncertainties? From the enumerable difficulties so frequently met with in the cure of divers diseases, one would imagine that a man destined to this important employment, should exert his application in proportion to those difficulties: they are great, I confess; but are they insurmountable? How many physicians have enjoyed, and still continue to enjoy the honour of triumphing in the discovery of the latent cause of diseases. Of the disease in question, it is evidently in the *uterus* and in the nervous system. The latter is too tense, and must be relaxed: the other is obstructed by the contraction of its vessels; consequently they must be rendered more  
supple,



supple, and the fluids diluted which should pass through them, if we mean to prevent the reflux above mentioned. By these means it is evident we shall eradicate this formidable disease: for in the two cases above related, and in many others, the patients were cured without the least relapse.

## C H A P. IX.

*Hysterical Delirium.*

WE do not attribute the cause of this *delirium* to an inflammation of the brain or of its membranes. Fever, which is inseparable from every species of inflammation, never exists in this case, which essentially characterises it maniacal and hypochondriac madness; but the obstruction of the blood vessels produced by their contraction, is the only difficulty that we have to overcome.

In short, the menstrual discharge being prevented by the cornuosity of the uterine vessels, the superfluous blood must necessarily return to one of the superior cavities, as hath been already explained. The *thorax* and brain will be by turns overloaded, and the different symptoms of the hysteric passion will depend on the degree of *plethora* and obstruction, which symptoms deceive the physician by the various diseases they personate. But his surprize will cease, and he will become familiarized to these symptoms, when  
 he

he hath learnt with me to acknowledge, that the supernatural tension of the nerves is the cause of these various disorders.

Being convinced of this truth, it is easy to conceive, that this supernatural tension of rigid fibres must render them more susceptible of vibration than those which are naturally elastic, and are thence enabled to yield to the different degrees of circulation, and that the least obstruction of thick acrimonious blood, must occasion such rude attacks upon these fibres, as not only to disturb the functions of the brain, but of every part thereon depending. What confusion through the whole machine! The solids will become the sport of the liquids, and a continued supernatural friction, must infallibly destroy the whole machine.

M<sup>lle</sup>. \*\*\* aged eighteen, of a sanguine and atrabiliarious temperament, was at the approach of her *menses* suddenly attacked by a lethargic *stupor*. She was consequently bled, and this symptom vanished. At the next period, the stupor returned in a greater degree. She was three times bled, and was then left to nature during several months. The disorder continued to increase, and was succeeded by

by the hysterical *delirium*, which increased every period, until this young lady, abandoned by her physician, became quite mad, *cum furoré & audacia*, refusing every species of aliment, so that she was declared incurable.

For seventeen days her death was hourly expected; but the constancy of the disease announced its duration: I was therefore called in; such a situation required immediate and effectual relief. The bath appeared to be indicated. She was plunged into it in my presence. Her indocility required coercion, but the remedy soon took effect. Her voice, which was become hoarse from her cries, began gradually to clear, and in the space of twelve hours which she continued in the water, became perfectly natural. She was then offered meat and drink, which she first refused as if from custom: She was pressed, and she complied. A progress so satisfactory restored tranquility and hope to a disconsolate family, who now determined the patient entirely to my care. Eight hours every day in the bath, with the application, to her head, of linen wet with cold water, and very frequently renewed, removed the *delirium* in

two months. The *menses* returned, and the health of the patient was entirely re-established.

I must not conceal her relapse, though I am not able to assign the cause; but I have at the same time the consolation to declare her re-establishment, by a repetition of the same medicine. (a)

Is it not demonstrable, that if this lady had been properly treated at the first appearance of her disease, it might have been prevented? The first obstruction which was produced by the reflux of the *menses*, would have yielded to one or two bleedings, if assisted by diluting remedies. The blood circulating with less impetuosity, and less rarified, would have caused less irritation in the fibres of the *uterus*, and their reflux upon the brain would never have produced such variety of disorders. The next period would in all probability have removed the cause of the

(a) We read in the *Journal Encyclopedique* for the month of January 1762, p. 77. the case of a girl who was become an idiot and deaf, escaping in the woods, where she continued five days without nourishment; during which time she suffered two whole days and nights continual rain, and was thereby perfectly cured.

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disease,

disease, by timely extinguishing those sparks which in the end produced the constriction of the brain. For this reason, it was necessary to have recourse to more powerful remedies. Had there been the least hesitation from a doubt of the event, the patient would certainly have died.

I have by me some cases of the same nature, which I am restrained from publishing, in submission to the persons concerned. I may, however, be allowed to relate those, which from a principle of gratitude, have been communicated to me by other physicians, Mr. Debaux, physician at Marseilles, distinguished for his success in inoculation, favoured me with the following history.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Being a zealous partisan for your system,  
 “ I have just tried an experiment very much  
 “ to the satisfaction of us both. The 18th  
 “ of November, 1760, I was sent for to vi-  
 “ sit the captain of a Dutch vessel; he was  
 “ about forty-five years of age, above the  
 “ middle size, strong, vigorous and muscu-  
 “ lar. He came from Holland, by land, to  
 “ take the command of a ship freighted at  
 “ Marseilles.

“ Marfeilles. In travelling through France,  
 “ as foon as he entered thofe provinces  
 “ which produce wine, he got completely  
 “ drunk every day during the remainder of  
 “ his journey, and continued the fame prac-  
 “ tice, after his arrival at Marfeilles, for  
 “ about three weeks; but not contented  
 “ with wine alone, he indulged himfelf  
 “ equally in the ufe of the ftrong fpiritu-  
 “ *liquors* of this country; thefe at laft pro-  
 “ duced the difeafe which I fhall now de-  
 “ fcribe.

“ The 14th of November, he was at-  
 “ tacked by a very violent fever, (accord-  
 “ ing to the report of the furgeon who was  
 “ called the fame day) attended with a vio-  
 “ lent head-ach, burning heat, and inex-  
 “ tinguifhable thirft. His pulfe beat re-  
 “ markably ftrong and hard, particularly in  
 “ the temporal arteries. A *subfultus tendi-*  
 “ *num* became frequent, which was succeed-  
 “ ed by fpafms and convulfions in all the  
 “ mufcular, membranous and tendinous parts.  
 “ Thefe were followed by a hickup, which  
 “ fatigued the patient for feveral days, fre-  
 “ quent *naufea*, and a yellowifh bilious vo-  
 “ mitting. He was obftinately coftive. He

“ made water very frequently; but it was  
“ small in quantity, without colour, smell, or  
“ sediment. In this state he continued four  
“ days, during which time the surgeon bled  
“ him twice in the arm, and once in the  
“ foot; administered several anodine and  
“ laxative clysters, caused him to drink  
“ plentifully of a cooling ptisan, and purged  
“ him once with a common dose of physic,  
“ quickened with a few grains of stibiated  
“ tartar. On the 18th I was called in, I found  
“ the patient without fever; but so violently  
“ convulsed and frantic, that four of his  
“ strongest sailors could hardly keep him in  
“ bed. He spoke in a very loud tone, and  
“ his cries were sometimes such, that he  
“ seemed rather to howl. His pulse was  
“ strong and tense; his skin burning, dry,  
“ and scaly. His convulsions increased to  
“ such a degree, that no human force could  
“ possibly have bent one of his limbs. He  
“ had refused all kind of nourishment except  
“ drink. But notwithstanding his *delirium*,  
“ he answered most of my questions con-  
“ cerning his disorder, and constantly com-  
“ plained of a sharp pain about the crown of  
“ his head.

“ I ordered



“ I ordered him to be bled in the jugular  
“ vein, and eight clysters of cold water to be  
“ administered every day for four days suc-  
“ cessively ; in the intervals, between which,  
“ I applied to his head, well shaved, a blad-  
“ der half full of cold water, which was re-  
“ newed every quarter of an hour, for it be-  
“ came very soon hot. I made him drink  
“ plentifully of chicken-water, acidulated  
“ with nitre, and ordered him to take,  
“ every twelve hours, a nitrous and anodine  
“ emulsion. The application of the bladder  
“ gave him some intervals of ease, and the  
“ cold clysters relaxed the fibres a little.  
“ These two remedies, in some measure, mo-  
“ derated the disease ; but not appearing suf-  
“ ficient to complete the cure, especially so  
“ immediately as the state of the patient re-  
“ quired, I determined to plunge him into a  
“ cold bath, notwithstanding the opposition  
“ of his attendants, and the north-east wind  
“ which had then continued a fortnight.

“ The patient was put into the cold bath  
“ on the 22d, at six o'clock in the evening,  
“ and was kept in the water by force, a full  
“ hour and a half, with a bladder full of cold  
“ water upon his head, renewed every quar-

“ ter of an hour. At half past seven he was  
 “ taken out of the water, which was become  
 “ sensibly warmer. He was wiped with cold  
 “ towels, and put into a cold bed, in which  
 “ he shivered about half an hour: he then  
 “ begun to warm gradually and fell asleep.  
 “ He had not slept during a single moment  
 “ for eight days before; his sleep was pla-  
 “ cid, and continued thirteen hours, during  
 “ which time he sweated profusely. As soon  
 “ as he awoke, I gave him a little weak  
 “ soup; after which he slept ten hours, and  
 “ perspired more copiously than before. He  
 “ awoke, at last, without any pain in his  
 “ head, *delirium* or convulsions, and in ten  
 “ days time was able to take the command  
 “ of his ship. (a)

“ In the month of December I was cal-  
 “ led to a lady about fifty, of a hot and atra-  
 “ bilious temperament. She had for some  
 “ days past been violently afflicted with a  
 “ *clavis hystericus*, which I cured, as if mi-  
 “ raculously, by the application of a bladder  
 “ half full of cold water to her head, with

(a) In the memoirs of the royal academy of sciences for the year 1713, there is a case very similar to this above related.

“ assistance of a few cold clysters. These,  
“ my good friend, are experiments in your  
“ own way, and as often as any thing of  
“ the same kind occurs in my practice, you  
“ may depend upon hearing from

Yours, &c.”

## C H A P. X.

*Hysteria Tooth-ach.*

SINCE, in these diseases, all the nerves in general suffer a certain cornuosity, why should not the fifth pair, which are distributed to the jaw, be susceptible of the same impression? The teeth must necessarily suffer, because each of them is furnished with a nervous filament, which when irritated and dragged, will produce spasms; these are immediately communicated to the jaw, and occasion the most intolerable pain. Besides, the circulation being intercepted in these parts, owing to the rigidity of the nerves and vessels, the humours stagnate in them, and thereby acquiring a greater degree of acrimony, cause new irritations, not only in the nerves of the jaw, but also in all the blood and lymphatic vessels which are there distributed; the consequence of which is, the *caries* of the teeth, sometimes even that of the sockets, and yet more frequently the loss of the gums, their blackness, scorbutic scars, and the entire corruption of the mouth.

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To remedy such evils, we vainly attack the part affected. The surgeon, however dextrous in his operations, cannot remove the latent cause of the disorder. The texture of the blood and humours, and the state of the solids are inaccessible to his dexterity. These are to be attacked by remedies capable of changing their texture and correcting their vices. In this complaint, the acrimony of the humours, and the dryness of the solids, ought doubtless to fix our attention; but the disorder which these two causes produce in the circulation, should immediately employ the physician on the appearance of this symptom.

And indeed it is always from the irregular compression of the *viscera* in the *abdomen*, owing to the diminution of the diameter of the vessels, and frequent irritations, that the different spasms in the head proceed. The blood, compressed and confined in its circulation, will return to the superior parts, which wanting flexibility, will be easily surcharged, and the consequence must be a stagnation in the blood and lymphatic interior and exterior vessels of the brain. Hence the fixed and flying pains in all the nervous and  
membraneous

membraneous parts which cover the *cranium* within and without. If the obstruction happens to the fifth pair of the nerves, or in any of the parts on which its branches are spread, the tooth-ach is the consequence.

If, on the contrary, the membranes of the brain be affected, the *clavis hystericus* will be the complaint. A violent irritation or obstruction of the optic nerves, is followed by loss of sight, and a very obstinate *ophthalmia* is frequently the consequence of a violent pain in the orbit of the eye. So it is of every other part of the brain, each of which will produce its symptoms in proportion to the degree of irritation and obstruction produced by very distant parts.

But that which seems most astonishing, is the *metastasis* of these humours, which acting upon vessels in a state of extreme tension and elasticity, are violently agitated and expelled by these vessels, and thus alter their situation without changing their character. (a) This cannot fail to make horrid ravages in the system. Thus

(a) It is well known, that every *metastasis* in the body is performed by means of the cellular membrane, the mechanism of which is universally understood.

we see these poor victims tyrannised by the vicissitudes of their complaints, and the physician astonished to behold such a variety of symptoms; which sometimes, from their similitude, appear to be effects of the same cause, and sometimes are so opposite in their appearance, that the variety and deformity of their aspect exhibit a most grotesque assemblage.

To render the picture still more like, let us add to these capricious appearances, those disorders which are produced by the exhibition of a contrariety of remedies. What confusion in the whole machine! Nerves irritated by the *spiculæ* of active and caustic medicines, spirits agitated by so many volatile particles, producing the most shocking ravages in the circulation of the blood and spirits. The functions of the brain, those of the heart and lungs, and also those of all the *viscera* of the lower belly thence immediately affected. If in such a case proper remedies are neglected, we soon perceive the whole fabric give way, in consequence of the reiterated injudicious attempts to support it.

The hysterical tooth-ach therefore requires all our attention, since from the observations we have just made, we cannot mistake the  
real

real cause by which it is produced; and if it be necessary to distinguish this tooth-ach from every other, our neglect of this distinction must be constantly attended with great cruelties, as will be evinced by the following recital.

A cobbler's wife, immoderately hysterical towards the latter end of her pregnancy, was afflicted with the most intolerable tooth-ach: she was several times bled, had recourse to the most powerful narcotics, as well as to various remedies eagerly prescribed by her visitors; but all were ineffectual. The pain which she felt in her jaw was so exquisite, that she had determined to have all her teeth drawn, if the approach of her lying-in had not suspended the execution. She waited the hour of her delivery with great patience, in hopes of being then also delivered of her pain. After she was brought-to-bed, her friends were in great hopes that her tooth-ach would return no more, and of this they were so perfectly convinced, that they would not even suffer the poor woman to complain. Her pain nevertheless continued, and being no longer apprehensive on account of her situation, she insisted on the surgeon drawing three of the *molars* of the under jaw. This operation performed



performed, the pain again returned, and knowing no other remedy, she submitted to a second operation, and lost two more. Her pain still continued, and now despairing of relief from the dentist, a physician was sent for.

I knew this woman to have been, for a long time, hysterical; I had therefore no doubt of the cause of her complaint before I heard her story. I ordered her immediately into the warm bath, where she remained for several hours. Clysters were repeatedly administered, and instead of the many elixirs which she had been accustomed to hold in her mouth, she was ordered a simple gargle of spring water with a few drops of vinegar. The intervals between the times of bathing, were employed in the application of emollient fomentations, which had the desired effect.

Some days after, the wife of Mr. Martau, an apothecary of this town, a neighbour of our cobbler's wife, was affected in the same manner. Her neighbour's example was too striking, not to think of using the same remedy; but she imagined herself prevented by a menstrual discharge of long continuance. She hesitated many days, and during that  
time,

time, made use of a great variety of pharmacutic remedies; but all to no purpose: she was obliged at last to have recourse to the warm bath, in which she found a cure for both her complaints.

Pains in the ear are often produced by the same cause, and are consequently to be cured in the same manner.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XI.

*Hysteric Vomiting.*

**T**HE spasm of the stomach, and particularly the extreme tension of the nervous tufts which form the vilous membrane of this *viscus*, ought to be considered as the cause which produces the hysteric vomiting, because the vomiting of which I now speak, cannot be cured but by correcting this vice.

The sensibility of the nerves, according to the physiologists, is only in proportion to their tension, which gives them that degree of elasticity which prevents their relaxation. In the present case, this sensibility appears extreme, because the vilous membrane of the stomach revolts at the contact of the the mildest aliment, and even of the most simple drink, from which we must necessarily conclude, that this effect is produced by the extreme tension of the nerves.

As to the complicated causes which concur in producing this vomiting, besides those which act on parts remote from this *viscus*,

*viscus*, we may also add the acrimony of the gastric liquor, which by constantly irritating the coats of the stomach, promote its convulsions. The following cases will confirm these indications.

In the month of February, 1756, I was called to one Susan Gouiret, about thirty years of age, of a robust and sanguine temperament, who from the age of puberty, had never been regular. She was afflicted so violently with the hysterical vomiting, that she rejected every species of liquor, with such straining, as to bring up blood. The first remedy administered was, according to custom, an anti-hysterical draught, composed of balm and mugwort-water, with some drops of the tincture of castor, and also of the liquid laudanum of Sydenham. This drink it is true, was the only thing that remained on her stomach. The dose was repeated in order to check the vomiting. The spasms of the stomach affected the *oesophagus*; but it was no longer in her power to swallow, and even the offering her of a single drop of water brought on the retching.

The extreme tension of the fibres of the stomach, and of the whole intestinal canal  
 appearing

appearing to me to be the real cause of her disease, I ordered the bath as the only specific. I even insisted on the patient's continuing in the water till she was perfectly cured; but, as confirmed prejudices are difficult to overcome, I was scarce able to prevail on her to remain in the bath ten hours a day. This water was her only remedy: by penetrating the pores of the skin, it preserved the natural fluidity of the blood, and passed off by urine. On the seventh day, the relaxation took place, which was announced by a sudden fainting. At that instant she swallowed for the first time. With an intention to dilute and correct the acrimony of the juices of the stomach, she drank plentifully of rice-water and was perfectly cured.

Now, let any one compare this effect of the bath with that of our common anti-hysterical medicines, and the truth of my doctrine must evidently appear. If I am asked, why the stomach rejected every species of liquid, except the anti-hysterical draught, I shall answer that laudanum was the cause; nevertheless, it must be acknowledged, that the virtue of this powerful narcotic did not prevent the volatile particles of the castor, and of the different cordials which enter into the composition

tion of Sydenham's liquid *laudanum*, from leaving that impression on the fibres of the stomach, of which the spasm and general rigidity of the fibres of the whole intestinal canal were the consequence.

M . \*\*\* aged twenty-five, of a sanguine and atrabilarious temperament, had from her obstinacy, or from a natural antipathy to the bath, for six whole years been afflicted with the hysterical vomiting. She was always perfectly regular, except that the discharge was sometimes rather too copious. She took whey, by my order, for a whole year, but without any effect. This convinced me that the cornuosity of the fibres of the stomach, and of the intestines, was arrived to so great a height, that the most powerful diluters could not by common means penetrate into the blood. The solids were parched, and the fluids dried up from a deficiency of aliment, and the disease daily acquired fresh strength. We are therefore authorized, for the second time, in prognosticating this to be an incurable case, if the patient does not, at last, submit to the domestic bath, which by relaxing the texture of the skin, and opening the pores, will communicate to the blood the moisture of which it is deprived; thus the nerves will be relaxed,

laxed, and every function of the body restored.

We cannot, in this case, accuse the *uterus*, there being no obstruction of the menses; shall we not therefore seek for the hysterical cause in some other part? Extreme tension of the nerves does not exist in this viscus, since it appears free from irritation, and not in the least obstructed.

## C H A P. XII.

*Hysterical Heart-burn.*

**H**YSTERICAL women are liable to pains in the stomach and in all the hypogastric region, which though frequently relieved by the most trifling remedy, will return afterwards with greater violence. These pains proceed also from the tension of the membranes of this viscus, which tension prevents the circulation of the juices therein secreted; from whence proceeds distension in the stomach and *duodenum*, which by overstretching the nervous filaments, produce pains more or less violent in proportion to the tension and sensibility of the part affected. The more certainly to remedy these evils, we shall regard only the original cause, viz. the spasm and extreme tension of the nerves; and we must begin by vigorously endeavouring to relax the membranes of the *viscus* affected, that we may prevent the different disorders which are generally produced by contrary remedies.

A young urfuline nun, of a bilious and sanguine temperament, and a constitution the  
 most



most robust, was, after excessive summer heat, and an immoderate use of coffee, suddenly attacked with a most intolerable heart-burn, accompanied with convulsive faintings, which terrified the sisterhood the more, because this was her first attack. They had recourse to cordials before I arrived. Her fits became more frequent, but were removed by the effect of two cold clysters, which were successively administered. The *cardialgia* returned with increased violence, attended with cholics, *borborygmi*, vomiting and hickup: In short, it was evidently an hysterical case. Chicken-water was preferred by the patient to every other remedy: of this she drank plentifully, and the sixth day a bilious *diarrhœa* ensued, and relieved her from a disease which she always dreaded.

The *crisis* which terminated the *cardialgia* of which I have been speaking, sufficiently declared the relaxation of the membranes of the stomach and intestines, by the effect of the chicken-water; and the symptoms which the patient experienced, were a convincing proof of the extreme tension and contraction of the intestinal canal.

In this state the efflux of the juices secreted in the intestinal canal was totally suspended,

and consequently the glands overcharged, which produced those catchings in the nervous filaments, and the spasms, which from their nature and situation, characterize the heart-burn. The vicinity of the heart occasioned the fainting, by the agitation of the eighth pair of nerves, which communicating with the brain, disordered, for a time, the circulation of the blood and animal spirits.

The hiccup, vomiting, cholick, and *borborygmi*, which at the same time tormented the patient, perfectly indicated the same cause; that is to say, the diaphragm was also affected and suffered the same agitation. All these parts were consequently subject to the irregular vibration of their nerves: the same remedy was therefore required.

The remote causes were, in this case, quite sufficient to produce this dryness of the nerves, which is the immediate cause of the disease in question. The immoderate use of coffee, in which this nun had indulged from her infancy, by acting continually on the vilous coat of the stomach, and likewise on the ferrous part of the blood and juices, produced this effect. These juices being thus inspissated, were unable to supply the different secretions of the stomach and intestines. Digestion  
being

being thus impeded, the chyle crude, and the bile less fluid, must necessarily occasion embarrassment in the system, and, becoming acid from their stagnation, produce the ravages above recited. Had they persisted, as they began, in administering cordials, there is no doubt but the consequences would have been fatal. The nervous system irritated afresh, by the acrid and volatile particles of antispasmodics, would have suffered prodigious shocks, and would have generated the seeds of a disease, which was always rebellious, and hitherto incurable, and which would never have yielded but to a contrary treatment. (a)

(a) The regimen of hysterical patients is a very essential consideration. I have in such cases, absolutely prohibited all kind of meat-broth, ordering in their stead, rice soup, barley, or oat-meal gruel; because the sulphureous and alkaline particles of broth irritate the vilous coat of the stomach, and thus promote the *cardialgia*.

## C H A P. XIII.

*Hysterie Shiverings.*

**A**MONGST the various symptoms of hysteric diseases, we comprehend that sensation of cold and heat by which every part of the body is at different times affected. Some patients complain of a troublesome sense of cold in some one particular part of the body, and others suffer universal cold, in spite of all their precautions to guard against the inclemencies of the air. The cause of this symptom is evidently proved, by the different effects of my remedies from those of a contrary nature, which were previously administered to the patient who is the subject of the next case.

A lady of some rank in this town, about forty years of age, was for many years afflicted with a sensation of universal cold, which obliged her to clothe even in the hottest dog-days, as carefully as others in the midst of winter. In spite of all her precaution to preserve herself from cold, she was equally sensible of its effect. The excessive heat of the stove in her chamber, together with a bed warmed,

warmed and immoderately covered, being found insufficient, she at last sought medical assistance.

The first physician she saw, pronounced her disease to be the effect of obstructed perspiration, which he accordingly endeavoured to restore. Bleeding, cathartics and sudorifics were alternately employed, but without effect. The insufficiency however of these remedies made no alteration in the curative ideas of the physician, for he ordered the sand bath. Before it was administered, I was consulted.

By the inefficacy of the remedies which the patient had already tried for a long time, and by certain hysterical symptoms which I discovered in the account she gave of herself, I immediately perceived that her disorder was hysterical. The spasmodic tension of the nerves which terminate in the skin, was the only cause which I had to encounter. The warm bath seemed likely to answer all my expectations, as it would, in all probability, relax the texture of the skin, open the pores, and, by this means, restore the circulation of the fluids therein secreted. The patient preferred it to the sand bath: She began the next morning; and in the space of two months was able to leave off part of her coverings. The completion

tion of her cure was however delayed by a thousand domestic affairs, till the return of summer.

Physiologists teach us, that the skin is composed of a number of nervous, lymphatic and blood vessels, which form the reticular substance, from whence proceed the nervous tufts, which are the only organs of sensation on the surface of the body. Any defect in this substance therefore will produce the symptoms which the patient experienced. If the contraction of the nerves, of which it is composed, be too strong, the blood will be confined and even obstructed; and the *molecules* of this fluid, continually rubbing against the orifices of its tubes, produce an agitation which will be diffused over the body, either wholly or in part, according to the degree of tension and irritability of the nerves which terminate in the skin. This sensation of cold must be the consequence, which will be more or less violent in proportion to the cause by which it is produced.

On this principle, the disease in question will be easily relieved, by relaxing the texture of the skin, and, by that means, facilitating the circulation of the blood, together with that of the juices thence secreted, which is at

all times of too much importance ever to be neglected. The effect of the warm bath sufficiently supports this theory, and the inefficacy of the sudorifics administered by her former physician corroborates our doctrine. The sand bath which he had prescribed, would have increased the evil, by augmenting the dryness of the reticular nerves ; and the rarefaction of the blood which it must necessarily have occasioned, so far from re-establishing the cutaneous secretions, would infallibly have confirmed the malady.

The plan of cure which I here propose from experience, will teach hysterical ladies who have this sensation of cold in any part of the body, not to have recourse to heating medicines in hopes of removing the complaint. Those who perceive this coldness in the brain, are wont to heap such a load of covering upon their heads, as to obstruct the circulation in the integuments of the *cranium*, and thus increase the disorder by their endeavours to remove it. Others, perceiving the same sensation of cold in the region of the stomach, not satisfied with immoderate covering, have recourse to hot and spirituous liquors, with an intention to warm the stomach, which they suppose incapable of performing its functions.

functions. As to the coldness of the hands and feet, to which others are subject, I have no objection to whatever means the patient chuses to adopt, provided they be such as will not increase the dryness of the extremities, nor augment the inflammatory *diathesis* of the blood. But the warm *pedeluvium* certainly deserves the preference, because it is the only means capable of rendering the vessels supple, and, by re-establishing the circulation of the blood and animal spirits, of restoring heat to the extremities.



## C H A P. XIV.

*A total Suppression of the Excretions in an hysterical Patient.*

**I**T is well known that natural evacuations are liable to be much disordered, which seldom happens without becoming the cause of many diseases, and the effect of many others, as the practice of physic daily evinces. Physiologists also know, that these evacuations are so analogous, that they frequently assist each other at the instigation of nature, who is always industrious to preserve her creature. It has been more than once observed, that urine when suppressed, goes off by perspiration, as obstructed perspiration goes off by urine, and in the same manner of other secretions. But has it ever been observed, (a) that a

(a) M. Gignous, physician of Valence in Agenois relates, that a woman was seven years without any evacuation either by stool or urine, but that both were supplied by perspiration in such a manner, as to be equally offensive to the sense of smelling. She recovered contrary to expectation, and without the assistance of medicine. Her natural evacuation returned, and the sweats entirely ceased. *Vide le Journal de Medec. mois de Juin 1759, p. 510.*

total

total suppression of every evacuation was not attended with the destruction of the machine?

This new and extraordinary event was doubtless reserved for the hysterical disorder. Nature in this disease sports in such a manner, that one should never be surprized at her appearance, however odd or extravagant. Though, in the following case, she chuses to appear very unintelligible, it may nevertheless be truly asserted, that a symptom of this kind can never be produced but by the extreme dryness of the blood and other fluids; a dryness essential to this disease, and by which the solids are generally affected; a fertile source of innumerable infirmities, and the physician's chief object in the treatment of hysterical diseases.

Louisa Bourbonne, twenty-eight years of age, of a bilious and very hot constitution, was attacked in the month of August 1754, at the commencement of the *menfes*, with an hysterical and convulsive cholic. The menstrual fluid not being able to penetrate through the vessels of the *uterus*, formed a suffocation, and produced a painful tension

tension of the belly, accompanied with other common hysterical symptoms.

She was several times bled in the arm and foot without any effect. Want of sleep ensued: She lost all appetite, and even remained for a considerable time without taking any nourishment. She grew thin, and was thought in a dangerous situation. At every return of the monthly period, she was seized with very considerable vomiting and spitting of blood, accompanied with hysteric fits so violent, that they might have been mistaken for epileptic. She continued many months in this situation without farther medical assistance, owing, I suppose, to a supposition that the disease was incurable, or to the obstinacy of the patient.

Eight months were spent in these lapses and relapses. The abdomen remained constantly tense, and the suffocation and other symptoms were without intermission. To these was now added another of a more extraordinary nature, which at last roused the indolence of her friends: it was a total suppression of her urine and stools. I was then sent for. I considered the case with all the attention that its singularity required.

quired. She was several times sounded without finding a single drop of urine in the bladder; and it was not till after a multiplicity of experiments that I at last began to discover the truth. This very singular symptom seemed evidently to proceed from the dryness of the blood, which was thence unable to secrete any urine. The suppression of stool was not so wonderful, because there have been many instances of the like nature. (a)

(a) In the *Journal de Med.* for April 1754, we are told of a man who was two years without going to stool. I myself knew an inveterate hysterical patient, who went to stool only every three months. The cause of this indisposition seemed to be the extreme dryness of the bowels, and that burning heat which consumed a considerable part of the excrement. I therefore prescribed chicken-water, warm bathing, and cold fomentation. A physician of reputation was, on the contrary, of opinion, that the disease was organical, and owing to a dilation of the colon, and the consequent strangulation of the subsequent part of the intestinal canal. For this reason he advised dry friction, or with unguents, to the belly, with which the patient complied during a whole year, but without the desired effect. Hence I concluded, that if this physician had been right in his conjecture, the stagnation of the excrement must necessarily have produced symptoms of the illiac passion. I accordingly took the liberty to represent to this oracle, the fallacy of his supposed cause; but when oracles have pronounced, representation becomes useless.

Her want of sleep, and the little nourishment she took, having greatly contributed to the dryness of her blood, and the other fluids, I conceived that the warm bath was the only remedy I could prescribe. She therefore bathed for a month together, at the end of which time she had a very foetid stool in the water, in which she also parted with worms and grumous blood, but no urine. She continued the use of the bath for two whole months, but without effect. During this time she had two clysters every day, to as little purpose. Her constant drink was chicken-water. She took several opening apozems, and emolient oily draughts, and her nourishment was of the most diluting nature.

As it was then summer, I thought it probable that her urine might pass off by perspiration, which carried off the little moisture that could be conveyed into the blood. Debating within myself on the explication of a phenomenon so extraordinary, I consulted with my brethren, who very much doubted the fact. It was necessary to come to the proof. The girl was constantly watched, and closely confined in her chamber: They gave her food and drink during eight days; at the expiration of which, they were convinced, she

had no evacuation. The truth of the fact could then be no longer contested, and she was ordered to continue the bathing.

But as the summer heat became every day more violent, the constant sweat and insensible perspiration prevented the good effects of the warm bath. I requested that it might be changed to the cold, in order to increase the resistance on the surface of the skin, and thereby determine the blood to the kidneys. This immediately operated. The girl had another stool, and made water. I made her continue this remedy for two whole months, remaining ten hours a day in the bath, and to make it still colder, pieces of ice were every now and then thrown into the water, which increased the quantity of urine, and diminished its heat. By this means, I had the pleasure of restoring the patient's natural evacuations. To explain the action of the bath in the case above-mentioned, let us consider its effects; which are to relax, to soften, to moisten the dry and cornuated solids, to condense the rarefied fluids, to dissolve their salts, and to correct their predominating acrimony, by restoring their vehicle of which they were deprived. Thus it operates, and thus it cures the diseases in which it is indicated, being in  
its

its nature diametrically opposite to the different causes by which such disorders are produced. This remedy, properly administered, that is to say, either warm or agreeably cold, will be beyond all contradiction, the greatest diluter we know of; not only for the relaxation and moistening of the teguments, but also for supplying the mass of blood with a sufficient quantity of aqueous vehicle.

The force with which water insinuates itself into the pores is immense. Philosophers are still ignorant of its power. The particles of this fluid penetrate into the pores of the teguments, into their closest texture, even into the glands, and separate the fibres from each other with as much violence as these particles split rocks. The texture of the moistened parts, yielding in every direction, becomes pliable: the water thus soaking into the vessels and membranes, bears down every obstacle; it attacks, by this means, the diseases of the solids, and of the fluids, even into their deepest recesses, where it could not otherwise have entered, the circulation being obstructed.

In the same manner, the extreme dryness of the membranes and nerves yield to this powerful specific. The capillary vessels, whose

dimensions are so much contracted, that the circulation is intercepted, become softened, and easily yield to the impulse of the fluids; the secretions hitherto suppressed by obstruction, or rather by the obliteration of their canals, are at the same time restored; and the fluids, whose density, thickness, dryness, and acrimony, render them unfit for circulation, recover their vehicle, and contribute to the general re-establishment of the machine.

The powerful action of the warm, and, more frequently, of the cold bath, has produced many wonderful effects; and, according to the internal heat or rarefaction, we must regulate the degree of heat or cold of the bath.

It is easily comprehended, that where the rarefaction of the fluids is extreme, and the cornuosity of the nerves at its greatest degree, we can never effect the relaxation of the solids, without previously lessening the rarefaction of the fluids, which cannot be accomplished but by the cold bath. Thus, in such cases, we find the water warmed by the internal heat of the body, and are therefore obliged to replenish it with cold, to render it capable of diminishing this excessive heat, and of producing the desired effect in the temperature of the blood and other juices.



On the other hand, we may conclude, that in this case, the warm bath would be prejudicial; as, by its effect, the blood becomes rarefied, the respiration increased, the fat dissolved, which transpiring by the skin, dilates the pores; the blood becomes more alkalescent, and its texture loose. Let us therefore consider the warm bath, in such cases, as very prejudicial, and entirely opposite to our design. The general warm or cold bath operates on the whole body in the same manner as the partial bath operates on the part to which it is applied; that is to say, if the rarefaction of the blood be greater in any one part of the body, it is generally and efficaciously attacked by this remedy, and its symptoms relieved. The cold fomentation applied to the belly, assuages the intense heat of the intestines, by lessening the rarefaction of the blood, which being forced into these parts, the circulation becomes impeded. If, on the contrary, the brain be affected by the same cause, cold water applied to the head will, by stifling the first sparks, prevent a general inflammation. In short, if the breast, or any one of the three cavities, be affected by the quickness and impetuosity of the blood, and that it is necessary to be expeditious in divert-

ing its course, the cold *pediluvium* in such circumstances, will quickly produce a salutary revolution, and thus, by averting the stroke, will remove the danger.

These are the weapons we should always use in subduing this Hydra; especially when it appears to us in the form of the disease called hysterical. This baleful cameleon will find its antidote in the uniformity and simplicity of the remedy I propose: and though it very frequently appears invincible, the constancy of the physician will nevertheless prevail, and his victory be the more glorious, in having vanquished a disease which hath hitherto been the *opprobrium* of the great masters of our art.

## C H A P. XV.

*Spasmodic Fever.*

THE fever to which hysterical patients are more or less subject, will be of that class which physicians call *non humoralis*, that is to say, not produced by the presence of any febrile matter, but proceeded only from a defect of the nervous system, which consists in a general vibration, and a too great tension of their fibres; the consequence of which is, a considerable increase of force in the heart, the arteries and the veins.

To conceive how it is possible for this nervous defect to produce a fever, we will say with Mr. Fizes, that when the nerves are violently agitated, the whole system becomes disturbed; the nervous fluid will be determined, by those violent and unusual agitations, in greater abundance, to the parts through which they are distributed. Every fibre will thence be extended beyond its natural tone, especially those which are in continual motion; be-

cause, in these parts, the nervous fluid finds less resistance. Thus the solids, especially the heart and arteries, whose motions never cease, act with the greater force; the blood will thus be agitated with more violence, and thereby produce a rarefaction by which every organ is distended, and their elasticity increased. This power constantly increases by the reciprocal action of the solids on the fluids, and of the fluids on the solids. The blood will therefore be propelled with greater impetuosity from the heart into the arteries, and by the arteries again into the heart. Thence the frequent contractions of the heart, and consequently of the pulse.

Besides, the blood being rarefied by this extraordinary agitation, circulates with difficulty through the capillary vessels, and even these vessels being frequently contracted by habitual spasms, transmit very little or no blood, while the other vessels afford a free passage. This is an additional cause for the frequency of the pulse, and the violent contractions of the heart, the two circumstances requisite to constitute a fever, which the same author defines to be, an increased celerity

lerity of the pulse, with a constant and obvious debility of the animal functions.

According to this theory, the hysterical temperature is, beyond contradiction, the most proper to exhibit this species of fever; because the spasmodic tension of the nerves, and the rarefaction of the fluids, are peculiar to this constitution. This fever therefore should be treated differently from the *humoralis*. The cause of this disease can never be removed by purgatives and other alterative medicines, since it does not exist in the fluids; on the contrary, our attack should be made on the nerves, which are to a violent degree stretched and irritated. By thus diminishing the rarefaction of the fluids, we reduce the circulation, and consequently lower the pulse. I might relate many practical cases, which are all deduced from the opinion of the author above-mentioned, evidently proving the existence of the cause which he assigns; but shall content myself with a single example.

M<sup>lle</sup>. de St. Jœurs, a novice of a carmelite nunnery, eighteen years of age, of a bilious, sanguine and very hot temperament, was attacked with a most violent fever,  
attended

attended with a cough, oppression, and a slight spitting of blood. She was repeatedly bled, and the most emolient ptisans, emulsions, and several clysters administered, which removed these symptoms. The fever nevertheless had continued for upwards of three weeks, when I was consulted. The skin was hard and scaly, the tongue dry, with a constant restlessness, symptoms which denoted a considerable effervescence. Hysterical fits ensued, attended with cholics, *borborygmi*, spasms of the bladder and kidneys; the urine was clear and limpid, and the *menses* irregular, all which plainly indicated an hysterical disorder.

The patient had received some relief from the chicken-ptisan, and emolient fomentations; but the tension of the nerves, and the rarefaction of the fluids being so extreme, it was necessary to have recourse to more powerful remedies. The bath, which the patient herself earnestly requested, could only produce the desired effect. An inward burning heat impelled nature to wish for this remedy. She went into the bath with pleasure, and for two months together, remained in it six hours every day. Her sleep returned, and her pulse, which

which beat a hundred and thirty in the space of a minute, was by degrees reduced to ninety, the natural state of this lady's pulse. Her skin became supple and moist; the *menses* returned at the same time with the urine, and brought with them a prodigious quantity of sand and gravel, with which the kidneys had been loaded, by the contraction of the secretory vessels, and the patient was restored to her former health, which she still enjoys.

One may discover in this case, the cause of the celerity of the hysterical pulse, and also comprehend, why it so frequently concentrates, in order to expand alternately in the hysterical paroxysm. The irregular oscillations of the arteries and of the heart, produced by the spasmodic motion of the nerves, and the irregular flow of the animal spirits, are evidently the cause.

The efficacy of the warm bath is, I should suppose, known to every physician, and if they do not more frequently prescribe this remedy, it is doubtless, because they meet with difficulties in its administration.

It is well known, that Hyppocrates himself prescribed this remedy in a fever, which  
he

he said proceeded neither from the bile nor phlegm, but from some other cause (a). Celsus prescribed the warm bath in the *febris ephemera*, and even in the decline of other fevers, when proceeding from inflammation, and that the patient was of a hot and dry temperament. (b)

Alexander of Trales so constantly recommended this remedy in the treatment of this kind of fever, that in his time such patients commonly went to the baths without the advice of a physician. *Qui ob lassitudinem febricitarunt, plerumque medicos non expectant; sed statim ubi febrim declinasse censuerint, ad balneum profisciscuntur, tanquam à natura quadam edocti, optimum præcipuumque remedium esse defatigatis lavacrum. Si namque corporis recrementis vacuum, neque plethoricum, aut vitiosis obnoxium succis inventum fuerit, maximè juvantur* (c). In the hectic fever, Galen was ignorant of any other specific than the warm bath, which he terminated by making it moderately cold: *In hecticis vero febribus,*

(a) Hipp. Lib. 2. epidem. & encore de Morb. lib. 2. de diæta, lib. 2.

(b) Celse, Meth. med. lib. VIII. cap. 2. & lib. 10. cap. 10.

(c) Alexand. lib. 12. cap. 1.



*id quod remedium affert, calidæ solum non est, sed frigidæ (a).*

The antients were, we may conclude, well acquainted with the advantages of this remedy, by the great use they made of it. Read the old medical writers and you will find, that they prescribed the bath in the decline of all fevers. The same oracle above-mentioned, who practised in a hot and dry climate, like ours, even prescribed the bath in the cure of tertian fevers, as he tells us: *Et si tibi coctio- nis signa ostendantur, tunc etiam si sapius la- veris, nihil diliqueris (b).* Alexander expresses himself upon the subject with still greater energy, for he adds: *Balneum, ut maximè præ- sidium ipsis præbendum, maxime calido siccoque temperamento præditis, & qui crebris uti la- vacris consueverunt: nec non coctio omnino ex- pectanda est, sed ubi siccitas urget, etiam ante concoctionem lavare convenit. Quid enim cor- pus bile exardescens humectare aut refrigerare præterquam aqua potest (c)?* Can there be a greater conformity to the system of these great men, than the practice which I recom-

(a) Galen, Meth. med. lib. 10. cap. 10.

(b) Galenus de arte curand. ad glaucon, lib. 1. cap. 9.

(c) Alexand. lib. 12. cap. 6.

mend. Their authority, equally ancient and respectable, will, I hope, clear me from the odious aspersions of being an innovator. So far from desiring to be considered as a law-giver in the art of medicine, I glory in being the disciple of these illustrious teachers, who are at present very little regarded by such as wish to establish a new method.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVI.

*Hypochondriac Vapours.*

A MONGST the variety of letters which I have received from different towns in this kingdom, since the publication of my first essay, I am permitted to divulge one, in which the nervous symptoms are described with the more accuracy, as the patient, who had for many years been subject to a nervous disease, learnt, by his own experience, to express himself feelingly and in medical terms. This letter and the memoire by which it was accompanied, will be followed by my own opinion, which was requested upon this subject; and which furnishes us with a clear and distinct conception of the hypochondriac disease, and of the treatment most proper for it.

LETTER from Mr. De La ROQUETTE.

SIR,

IN a tour which I lately made to Montpellier, I read with real satisfaction your work, entitled, *An Essay on the Nervous Diseases of both Sexes, &c.* You make use  
of

of such powerful remedies in the cure of this disorder, and paint them in such striking colours, that one must be doubly vaporous not to approve and acknowledge a method so palpable and so clear. The facts, which are so well supported by your judicious cases, leave us nothing to hope or desire, and every impartial practitioner, every friend to mankind, would think it, I should imagine, his duty to tread in your footsteps. A fine lesson for our slavish imitators of the medical oracles, for our zealous partizans for amber and castor, and for others still more rash, who prescribe no other remedy for convulsive disorders than purgatives and antispasmodics. I could instance more than one victim who has fallen a sacrifice to this fatal practice, and I myself have but just escaped being of this number, as you will judge by the inclosed memoire which I take the liberty of sending you. I flatter myself, from the zeal with which you love to oblige, that you will honour me with your advice concerning the course I should take to recover myself from that state of languor to which I have been for a long time reduced. In expectation of this mark of your goodness,

ness, I beg you will be persuaded, that nothing can add to the respectful consideration with which I am, &c."

Signed La ROQUETTE, a Bréau,  
the 14th of August, 1760.

C A S E.

I AM about thirty-eight years of age, of a thin and dry temperament, and extremely atrabilarious. I enjoyed very good health till I was about twenty-five, when I perceived some slight pains in my head and frequent drowfiness, which proceeded from extraordinary application of mind. My physician ordered me to be bled in the foot, and, four and twenty hours afterwards, to take an emetic dissolved in a sufficient quantity of water, and to drink a wine glass at a time. The first glass made me vomit; but the second passing into the intestines, purged me violently, which greatly increased my pains.

Some days after, I perceived an extreme heat in my stomach, accompanied with very considerable pain, and a fever imme-

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diately ensued. To prevent consequences, I was bled three times; my urine became clear as water, and my belly entirely constipated: I was also attacked with twitchings, convulsive suffocation, and the external hemorrhoides. I was sensible of a throbbing in the abdomen, and in my ears, which still exists, but which I do not feel except in bed.

To relieve me from this grievous situation, I was ordered to use the domestic bath a dozen times; to take aperative broths of every kind, clarified whey, with fumetary, aperative and sedative electuaries, stomatics, bitters, camphor, and the tincture of castor. I was confined to a milk diet; but should tell you, that the milk bound me up, made me drowsy, and the whole machine became insensible.

It were unnecessary to enumerate the different remedies which were applied; I will only say, that notwithstanding my punctuality and perseverance, they were always to no purpose. As it is now almost a year since I have discontinued the use of any medicine, I will endeavour to describe my present situation, which is but little different from what it was, but which will enable you to form  
some

some judgment how ill these medicines were adapted to my disorder.

My appetite is pretty good, but at the end of every meal I am sensible of a stricture across the umbilical region, accompanied with a throbbing which ascends as high as the stomach. If I do not perceive this stricture, or more properly speaking, this spasmodic sensation, my head becomes confused; I am immediately seized with cold convulsive fits: a *nausea* and *mègrim* ensues. And thus am I daily affected in this alternate manner: nor am I better after eating a small bit of bread than after a hearty meal. My sleep is very sound; but when I rise in the morning, I feel benumbed, and as it were bruised.

I am so constipated, that I go to stool but once in four days; after which there remains a hardness in the intestines, or a fulness in the hemorrhoidal vessels. If, by chance, I feel neither of these symptoms, my head is confused, and a *mègrim* follows: the pain is constantly in my right temple.

I live regularly: if I be tempted to eat any thing too salt, my intestines are immediately affected. When I come near the

fire, the abdomen is contracted. I am extremely sensible of cold. There is not the least reason to suspect the venereal *virus*. Since I have read your work, I have debarred myself from the use of wine, *liqueurs* and coffee, of which hitherto I had drank to excess. I now drink nothing but water, and must confess that I find myself better, and the megrim less frequent.

In answer to the above case, I returned the following

### O P I N I O N.

THE symptoms related in the above memoir, perfectly characterise an inveterate nervous disorder. The earnest application to which the patient had devoted himself in his early years; and the heating remedies which he had used, assisted in augmenting the disease; that is to say, the extreme waste of the animal spirits, and the considerable evacuations produced by medicine, had greatly impoverished the mass of the fluids; and these becoming thick and gross, were unable to supply the various secretions; hence the solids grew dry, and a cornuosity was the consequence: and this actually produced the disease in question.

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This disease, though curable, will, for a long time, resist the most proper remedies, owing to the gross mistakes which have been committed in the beginning of the disorder. The innumerable purgatives, emetics, heating stomatics, aperatives, diuretics and antispasmodics, have so disordered the machine, by irritating the nerves, and drying the fluids, that we cannot hope to remove the disease but by a long course of opposite remedies.

The indications requiring our attention, are, to re-establish the digestive faculties by calming their fury; to dilute the mass of the fluids, and to correct a vitiated nervous system, by giving it the flexibility necessary for the free exercise of the functions of the mind and body.

To produce these effects, the patient should instantly begin with taking chicken-ptisan, which should be his common beverage for a whole month. This ptisan should be made with a young pullet about the size of a quail, head and gutted whilst warm, and then boiled in six pints of water for half an hour. Strain it without squeezing, and to give it a flavour, you may add a little bit of lemon peel.

After the use of this ptifan, clysters of common water, just warmed, should be administered: then the warm bath, but almost cold, in which the patient should remain, if possible, two or three hours together. When he comes out of the bath, he should get into a cold bed, and then drink some broth, which should be made with 4 oz. of a neck of lamb, the thighs of three frogs, the heart of a lettuce, and a pinch of bitter succory. Simple water should be his common beverage.

After thirty or forty bathings, and as many messes of broth, he should begin with the mineral-water of *Yeuset*, which he should drink before breakfast, a pint at a time, for nine mornings, quite cold, and without the addition of any kind of purgative salt; after this, let him take clarified, or rather distilled whey. He may use the above remedies alternately, acquainting us with their effect, and of the situation in which he then finds himself.

Bleeding, purgatives, *liqueurs* and coffee, are entirely prohibited. The patient should, by all means, avoid any application of mind, or else medicine will be ineffectual. He should now and then ride on horseback, walk  
every

every day, or ride in a carriage, by way of dissipation, in order to remove the melancholy ideas which his disorder had produced.

His diet should be mild and diluting; such as fresh meats, fowls of every kind, mutton, veal, lamb, and fish, boiled or fried in fat. His constant beverage, pure spring or river water, or, which is still better, cistern or rain-water. Of these he should drink very plentifully, not only at his meals, but several times in the day, especially at breakfast. I flatter myself that the patient will strictly observe the above regimen, and upon these conditions, I dare answer for his cure.

Arles, August  
28th, 1760.

POMME, Junr. Med.

The patient was so well satisfied with the hopes I gave him, that he wrote immediately a second letter, testifying his acknowledgments, assuring me that he was impatient to begin with my prescriptions, being convinced of their efficacy. The very same day, he began with the chicken-water, next with the warm bath, and lest he should fail in his promise, he stayed in

the water more than three hours every day. These remedies procured a calm, by producing the desired relaxation, and the *Yeusot* water, which was the next specific, searched the intestines in such a manner, that it penetrated even into the smallest recesses of the glands and *viscera*, cleansing them of every impurity. The evacuations were so moderate, that the patient's strength suffered no injury. But the tension of the fibres being too obstinate to yield immediately; it was necessary to make frequent repetitions. Distilled whey effectually assisted the additional remedies which we found it necessary to employ. The patient having persevered in this regimen for a year, recovered his usual health, as is demonstrated by the following letter.

LETTER from M. De La ROQUETTE.

SIR,

I HAD positively determined to have the honour of seeing you, but am prevented by the rains, the frost and the winds; nevertheless I flatter myself, that I shall have that pleasure, ere it be long; meantime, beg you will accept of my prayers to heaven in your favour, on this first day  
of

of the year. You ought to be convinced of the sincerity, since you know my motive. You have given me health in the room of a disease, which for twelve or thirteen years kept both body and mind in continual agitation: you will therefore be always entitled to my most lively acknowledgments. I am sensible of the blessing: Could you see my heart, you would then be convinced that I can never be ungrateful, and that you can have no idea of the sincerity with which I have the honour to be, &c.

A Breau, January  
5th, 1760.

La ROQUETTE.

Mr. de la Roquette's gratitude was so ardent, that he was extremely desirous of taking a journey to Arles. Relieved from his complaints, master of his own actions, and fond of exercise, because sensible how greatly it contributes to health, he could not resist giving way to his inclinations. Accordingly, he set out, as soon as the weather would permit, and arrived here the twentieth of April following. To those interested in the subject, our conversation would have been very instructive. The patient's description of his own case, improved by the opinion

nion of the physicians whom he had so frequently consulted, and by the effect of the remedies prescribed, which so far from relieving, had increased the disorder, was sufficiently energetic to engage the attention, and to persuade the most ignorant. The dissection of bodies will sometimes discover the concealed cause of various incurable diseases; but it does not always point out the positive means of cure; while practical observation, directed by a sound and judicious theory, instructs us in the disease, and at the same time in the method of cure.

To corroborate the curative idea which the above case affords, we will authenticate the facts by which it is attended. Two opinions of one of the greatest physicians in the kingdom, which I shall relate *verbatim*, as extracted from the originals transmitted to me by M. de la Roquette, will be sufficient to convince the vaporous of this mysterious incurability, so easily comprehended by those who are not obstinately insensible to the conviction of proof and demonstration.

## O P I N I O N.

*From Montpellier, for M. de la Roquette,  
Anno 1750.*

“ THE throbbing of which the patient complains in different parts of the head and lower *abdomen*, with the other symptoms mentioned in the above memoir, determine his disease to be atrabilarious, occasioned by a thick, dry, and acrimonious blood, and a too great tension of the nervous fibres.

The laborious life which the patient has always led, even to the present time, and the excesses in which he has indulged, occasioned a waste of that mild mucilage which gives fluidity to the blood; hence the blood acquired the bad qualities above-mentioned, and the fibres became rigid.

In this state of the fluids and of the nerves, the blood is sometimes obstructed in its passage through the capillary vessels, and however trifling this obstruction, the nervous filaments being too tense and inflexible, are thereby extremely agitated, which occasions the slight spasms in the different muscular parts, and consequently the

the twitchings, throbbings, and other sensations of the same nature, which frequently seize the patient in different parts of his head, and in the abdominal muscles.

This disease is by no means dangerous, though it may for a long time withstand the power of medicine. Our endeavours should be to correct and support the digestive faculties, to attenuate, dilute and sweeten the mass of blood.

To this end, the patient should first lose eight ounces of blood from the arm; the next day he should purge with an ounce of the root of oak-polipody made into a decoction, two drachms of sena, infused for eight and forty hours near a slow fire, two scruples of rhubarb powdered, and half a handful of the flowers of the mallow. This, with two ounces of manna, dissolved in the first draught of the decoction strained, should be taken the next day; but in the second draught, one ounce of manna only.

He should then begin with broth made of a young pullet, three cray-fish, one drachm of the root of elecampane, two drachms of the male piony root, a drachm  
and



and half of the root of wild valerian, and a handful of bitter garden succory.

This broth should be taken for nine mornings successively; after which he should begin with whey made of cows milk, turned with rennet, which should be taken every morning at breakfast, twelve ounces at a time. This whey should be chalybeated, by quenching in it, three large nails, made red hot; it should be clarified with the white of an egg, and during the clarification, should be boiled in it, a small pinch of the flowers of the hypericum: it should be then strained and sweetened with a little sugar.

Having drank this whey ten mornings, the patient should purge as before, and then begin with the asses milk, of which he should take twelve or sixteen ounces every morning for breakfast, during two months. But every third morning, immediately before the milk, he should take, in two spoonfuls of orange-flower-water, a pinch of a powder composed of ten grains of *cachoe*, eight grains of *millepedes* prepared, and six grains of *crocus martis aperitivus*. If the stomach will not bear the asses milk, it should be mixed with two  
spoonfuls

spoonfuls of second lime-water: but, if after ten or twelve mornings, it should agree with the stomach, he should then take it once more during the day, viz. about ten o'clock in the evening, the patient having supped at six, upon meat soup only. After drinking the asses milk for two months, he should purge as before.

During the winter, the patient should breakfast for ten mornings, every month, upon balm-tea; the following ten days, he should, in his first spoonful of soup at dinner, take eight grains of *crocus martis aperitivus*. If, in the next spring he feels any remains of his disorder, he must begin again with the remedies prescribed for the preceding autumn.

But above all, the patient must be very careful in his regimen. His diet should be confined to soup, boiled or roast meat: he may nevertheless, sometimes eat a little fish broiled on the grid-iron, boiled in water, or lightly stewed, as also some fresh eggs. He must drink good old red wine; but always mixed with treble the quantity of water. He should take moderate exercise and proper recreation.

Montpellier, September  
10th, 1750.

FIZES."

If this atrabilarious or nervous disease proceeds, according to the author of the above opinion, from a dry and acrimonious blood, and from the extreme tension of the nervous filaments, the treatment indicated is to moisten, dilute, and sweeten the fluids, and to relax the nerves. The chicken-broth, whey, and asses milk, which constitute this treatment, would in all probability produce the desired effect, if punctually observed by the patient, and persevered in for a sufficient time to remove the disease. But, if, to these indicated and sweetening remedies, be added, according to the above theory established by the author of this opinion, warm stomatics, cephalics, aperatives and purgatives, there is reason to expect the contrary effect: they cannot fail to counteract the salutary medicines first mentioned, as they favour the cause of the disease.

This has frequently happened to M. de la Roquette, and as frequently happens to every other patient treated in this manner. I appeal to the testimony of every nervous patient in this kingdom, and at the same time take the liberty to ask Mr.

Fizes,

Fizes, if his practical observations could ever contradict this reproach.

It would have been very difficult for this judicious physician to have been longer misled by vulgar practice. So many victims applying to him from all parts of the universe, would so frequently furnish him with cause to reflect on the incurability of this disease, that it was really impossible for this great practitioner not to penetrate the mystery, and correct his mistakes. His last opinion on M. de la Roquette's case, discovers a change in his practice, and that the method above prescribed, viz. the cordials, the aperatives, and all the pharmacutic train, is therein entirely exploded: we may therefore hope, that purgatives will at last be also rejected.

## SECOND OPINION.

“ THE suffocation of which the patient complains, the palpitation of the heart, the throbbing which he perceives in his head, and sometimes in his intestines, the kind of *incubus* with which he is attacked almost every night, the constipation and the wind in his stomach and bowels, the  
 constriction

constriction, which he perceived in the hypogastric and hypochondriac region, and the great terror by which these paroxysms are attended, evidently denominate an hypochondriac affection. The cause of this disease is the dryness and acrimony of the blood, and a too great tension of the nervous system, which evidently appears from the spasms of which he is sensible in these attacks.

It seems, that the violent exercise of the chace, and fatiguing walks, joined to many other excesses, have produced this disease, by dissipating the mild and necessary mucilage of the blood.

This complaint is however more terrifying than dangerous; but it requires a tedious and methodical treatment (a), in order to effect a cure, which I should hope to do, provided the patient takes special care to divert himself, and is persuaded that his life is in no danger from the disorder.

The indications are, to sweeten and gently attenuate the mass of blood, and to rectify the digestive powers.

For this purpose, he should begin by taking, for four mornings, broth made of six

(a) This treatment appears to have continued ten years.

ounces of a neck of mutton, a lettuce, and a pinch of bitter succory. He should then purge with an ounce of oak-polipody made into a decoction, and divided into two draughts, in which should be infused for twelve hours, near a warm fire, two drachms and half of sena, and half a handful of violets. The next day, dissolve two ounces of manna in the first draught, and in the second, one ounce and half only. The second draught should be taken two hours after the first, and the same broth immediately after the second glass.

Two days after his purging physic, he should begin a course of chicken-broth, with a handful of bitter garden succory. Having taken broth for ten mornings, he should begin with the warm bath, in which he should stay an hour in the morning fasting, and when he gets out, should take a little of the chicken-broth.

Having bathed for nine days, and then rested for three or four, he should drink a bottle of *Yeuset* water during nine or ten mornings, observing to take on the first and last day, two ounces and half of manna, in the first and last glass. He may then rest four or five days, when he should return to

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the chicken-broth for ten days, and then purge with the medicine above prescribed. Then should succeed the goats or cows whey, twelve or sixteen ounces at a time, remembering to infuse, during the clarification, half a handful of *gallium luteum*, and a spoonful of powder-sugar.

Having taken the whey for fifteen days, the patient should then drink asses-milk during the space of two months, or till the weather grows cold, observing to take every other day an electuary, consisting of fifteen grains of *craie de Briançon*, the same quantity of the powder *de guttete*, and of red coral prepared, mixed with a sufficient quantity of syrup of capilaire. He should begin with a gill of the asses-milk, increasing it by degrees to a pint, and then purge with the usual medicine.

As long as the winter lasts, the patient should take, only three times in the week, a dish of balm tea, with a scruple of the powder of *guttete*. During the whole course he may eat boiled or roast meat, and drink wine mixed with a large proportion of water.

Montpellier, July  
29th, 1760.

FIZES CROSS."

It is observable in the above opinion, that moistners are the predominating remedies, and it is therefore evident, that M. de Fizes discovered them to be the only specifics in the cure of nervous disorders; but that purgatives, and a few slight antispasmodics, still appear to him indispensable. I dare intreat this learned physician to peruse my cases, and to recollect those, especially, of which he himself has been a witness; he will find in them convincing proofs of the necessity of the reformation which he has already began in his practice. This conviction will induce him to be still more simple in his prescriptions, in order to render their effects uniform; he will then be more certain of success.



## C H A P. XVII.

*Hemorrhoidal Flux.*

**W**HETHER the hemorrhoidal flux be too great, or whether it be suppressed, it is in either case considered as an indication of the hypochondriac disease, as both symptoms are produced by the same cause. Thus with regard to women, the same cause produces either an immoderate flow, or a suppression of the *menses*.

We shall find the explication of this phenomenon in the rigidity of the fibres, and in the thickness and dryness of the fluids. We may however be always most certain to remedy the evil, by attending carefully to the indications of this rigidity.

If the violence and impetuosity of the blood overcome the resistance of the solids, the flux will then be immoderated, and must be diminished, by allaying the organic of the fluids; and according to Hoffman, diluters and refrigerants are the only remedies that should be administered: *Dein usurpanda ea quæ excedentem intestinum partium in sanguine sulphurearum motum componunt, diluentia*

*maximè & refrigerantia, potus aquæ frigidae, seri lactis cum succo citri coacti, &c. (a)*

If, on the contrary, the rigidity of the solids, and the spasm of the intestines prevail over this constitution of the blood and other fluids, the flux will then be suppressed, and our endeavour should always be to relieve the disorder necessarily produced by relaxing the spasm of the intestines, and by opening the emunctories through which the blood ought naturally to be discharged; this must be performed by the same means, that is, by mild and softening remedies; *Quando tamen sanguinis ex hemorrhoidalibus locis fluxum subito sublatum, &c. revocandus is est lenioribus, elicentibus & laxantibus, clysteriis quoque emollientibus & suppositoriis (b).*

We must not, in this case, accuse the relaxation of the vessels, nor administer styptics, though the hemorrhage be ever so violent; because, by thus increasing the extreme tension and dryness of the solids, we render the disease fatal, and the cause by which it is produced will probably acquire much greater strength. Besides, if the

(a) *Hoffman de fluxu hemorrhoidali nimio, tom. 2. p. 220.*

(b) *Ibidem.*

styptics be sufficiently powerful, entirely to prevent the opening of the vessels, the reflux of the blood would be the more dangerous; the oscillations of the vessels being always strongest in the irritated parts, the circulation soon becomes disordered, and at last intercepted: hence the blood is suddenly forced into the superior parts, particularly the brain, which, from its structure, is sooner affected than any other part of the body; hence proceeds obstinate apoplexies, madness, and every disease depending on the strangulation of this *viscus*.

Thus we see, how necessary it is to develop the real cause of the hæmorrhoidal flux, in order to apply proper remedies. The topical applications so much extolled, as specifics for stopping the hæmorrhage, and relieving the patient from the pains which are necessarily occasioned by the swelling of the hæmorrhoidal vessels, are far from being indifferent, since they may produce effects very contrary to our expectation.

To avoid this inconvenience, we reject all mysterious remedies of what nature soever they be, administering those only pro-

per for moderating the heat of the intestines, which is always inseparable from this disease in vaporous constitutions; by this means we are certain of abating the hemorrhage, if too violent, or of promoting it, if suppressed. The fatal effects of quackery are too well known to require any examples; we will therefore be content to record the effects of a contrary method.

A tradesman of this town, thirty-six years of age, of an atrabilarious constitution, had been, for a long while, troubled with an immoderate hemorrhoidal flux, for which he had tried several remedies. By enquiring into the remote cause which had produced this indisposition, there was some reason to suspect the venereal *virus*; he was treated accordingly with the greatest precaution, and the hemorrhage ceased. He was just preparing to leave his confinement, when, insulted by one of his domestics, he fell into a violent rage, which was attended with fatal consequences. The hemorrhage returned to such a degree, that I was astonished, and apprehensive of danger (a). His face and legs then swelled,

(a) This hemorrhage was more considerable than any that Montanus and Panarollos had ever observed, for it lasted more than a month, and the patient lost every day near a pound of blood.

attended with violent cholic. No astringents were administered, but the heat of the fluids, too much rarefied by mercury, was allayed by contrary remedies, and the hemorrhage was stopped by the assistance of the cold *semicupium*, several cooling clysters, strengthening, but at the same time, diluting food. The swellings abated by riding on horseback, and the patient recovered his health.

Mr. Vache, a lawyer, fifty years of age, of a sanguine and very atrabilarious constitution, hath, for a number of years, been troubled with a periodical hemorrhage, which returns regularly every month, and which is become so necessary to his health, that he is always ill whenever it ceases for any time.

The symptoms which indicate a *plethora*, and which requires a speedy evacuation, are generally a violent cholic attended with vomiting, with which he is more or less tormented, in proportion to the tension of the nervous membrane of the stomach and intestines, and according to the various and remote causes of the suppression.

Constant fomentation, refrigerent clysters, and a copious beverage of chicken-water,

water, or any other cooling ptisan, have constantly restored the hemorrhage, and produced a calm. These two cases evidently prove, that both the hemorrhage and its suppression were produced by the same cause, since both were entirely relieved by the same remedies.

## C H A P. XVIII,

*Hypochondriac Jaundice.*

**T**HOUGH this disease has never been yet mentioned by any author, it should nevertheless be considered as a symptom of the vaporous affection, which always deceives the physician; who, taking it for granted, that this jaundice is the disease itself, never thinks of investigating the real cause by which it is produced.

The disorder of the liver and of the gall-bladder, and the obstruction of the emunctory canals of this *viscus*, have been hitherto considered as the sole cause of the reflux of the bile into the mass of the fluids. Whenever the cure has been attempted, the intention of the physician has been to deobstruate, by purging the superfluous humours, and by attenuating those which produce the obstruction (a).

(a) It will not be entirely foreign to my subject, to mention in this place the virtues of white hore-hound, which has always been considered as efficacious in obstructions of the liver. I have been witness of its good effects, and I have myself prescribed it in such cases with success.

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This jaundice requires peculiar treatment, as the disorder of the liver proceeds only from the disease of the Solids, which being dry and cornuous, are alone sufficient to obstruct the secretion of the bile, and to produce the jaundice in question. For this reason we should be particularly attentive to relax the texture of the vessels, and not to brace them by irritating remedies. The following cases so well warrant our opinion on this subject, that we cannot suppose it will be rejected, or even called in question; on the contrary, the proofs of our theory are so clear, that they can never be contested.

Mr. Arnaud, rope-merchant, was attacked in the course of the year 1760, with a dysentary, which troubled him for many months. The most extolled, and at the same time, the most heating remedies were, for a long while, administered without effect. At length, the patient was relieved; but the jaundice succeeded, and the heart-burn, *borborygmi*, flatulence and spasmodic cholic, were soon united with the other symptoms. The patient became thin, emaciated, and hypochondriacal; which made me suspect, that the cornuosity  
of



of the hepatic tubes produced this new disease, as it seemed to me perfectly characteristic of the hypochondriac jaundice.

The prodigious quantity of purgatives, and stomatic electuaries, which the patient had taken, and the general disease of the body, convinced me, that the capillary vessels were totally dried up, and consequently their channels obliterated (a). It was therefore necessary to think of opening all these canals, to re-establish the functions of the liver, and to prevent the ravages of a disease which threatened the patient with a dropsy, and with certain death; for had the seeds of this disease been suffered to take root, they would in time have affected all the *viscera* of the lower abdomen.

I prescribed moistening and diluting remedies. Chicken-broth made with cooling herbs, and some frogs thighs, which the patient took every morning for twenty days, and which relieved the heart-burn, by restoring flexibility to the nerves of the stomach, and by throwing some little vehicle into the fluids, which were too gross

(a) In this manner, according to our opinion, all obstructions in the vaporous temperament are formed; that is to say, they are always secondary.

to penetrate freely through the secretory and excretory ducts of the glands and *viscera*. I afterwards prescribed a ptisan, tolerably diuretic, made with dog-grass and nitre, of which the patient drank plentifully at his meals, and at other times in the day. His urine became immediately less tinged and turbid, and the jaundice evidently diminished. Cooling clysters, and emollient fomentations, were substituted in the place of purgatives. Evacuations immediately followed; the *ductus cholidocus* afforded a free passage to the excretory vessels of the gall-bladder and liver, and the jaundice disappeared without the assistance of purgatives, or of any other remedy.

M<sup>me</sup> C\*\* an old woman of seventy, and hypochondriacal, had for some years been subject to vaporous paroxisms, which were always manifested by spasmodic cholics, followed by a *diarrhœa* and vomiting, and which frequently terminated in the jaundice. The effect of the remedies which she constantly used upon such occasions, incontestibly proved the cause which I suppose. Continual fomentations, frequent clysters, and the chicken-water, constantly removed the vaporous paroxism and its symptoms. Hence it seems

seems demonstrable, that if the patient would submit to the regimen, which I have more than once prescribed, in the interval of her paroxisms, she would entirely prevent a relapse.

Mr. Bassac, an inhabitant of Mouriés, consulted me in the year 1758, for an inveterate jaundice, by which he was attacked immediately after a quartan ague, and for which he had tried every febrifuge remedy. He was about forty years of age, of a dry and very atrabilarious constitution. His belly became tense and constipated; all which symptoms were declarative of the same cause. A physician of Avignon, whose reputation was hereditary, had already administered aperatives, purgatives, and the most powerful diuretics (a), which so far from removing the jaundice, had considerably increased the symptoms. But the chicken-broth, the mineral-water of *Yeuſet*, and the domestic bathing, carried off the disease.

(a) Though this method was downright quackery, we must not therefore conclude, that the physician who prescribed it had not sufficient judgment to be sensible of his mistake, for he has so much improved by the present practice, that he may be ranked among the partisans who have tacitly adapted this new method.

It

It is easy to comprehend, that the diminution of the diameter of the vessels of the liver, occasioned by their cornuosity, will produce that species of jaundice called hypochondriac, because it is peculiar to this constitution. It is also no difficult matter to conceive, how moistening and diluting remedies become deobstruents and purgatives in such cases.

## C H A P. XIX.

*Convulsive Cough.*

ALL the nervous and membraneous parts being exposed to vaporous spasms, the diaphragm and the breast, and also, by sympathy, the stomach and intestines, will not be exempt from that kind of contraction and agitation which is called convulsive motion. The cough necessarily follows as often as these parts are irritated by the sharp and alkaline *spiculæ* of their juices. But as the sensibility of the nerves will be always in proportion to their extraordinary tension, the impression of the parts irritating, will in this case be much greater, and the agitation more violent; hence proceeds that convulsive motion, which essentially constitutes the species of cough, which will be found described and characterised by the following symptoms.

In the month of October 1758, after violent fatigue, I was myself attacked with a convulsive cough, which for several days rendered me unfit for business. I was twice bled,

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and

and during three weeks was constantly drinking all kinds of pectoral ptisans; but to no purpose. I thought myself past relief, and ready to spit up my lungs, though the cough was always dry, and without expectoration.

Gloomy ideas took possession of my mind; want of sleep made me weary of myself; I grew apparently thin, and without being sensible of my situation, was hypochondriac. Life became insupportable, notwithstanding the sollicitude and advice of my friends, who ardently wished to see me recover. Flatulence, the tension of the hypochondres, and the prodigious quantity of urine, united with the preceding symptoms, convinced me that I was indeed hypochondriacal.

To relieve myself effectually, I began immediately by changing my regimen. I drank water in abundance, I may say, to excess; I took clysters and was relieved. Encouraged by the effects of a remedy, in which I had for a long time placed all my hopes, I determined seriously to set about relieving my brain, which still suffered more than the rest of my body. The country became insipid, and therefore I preferred a journey to every other pleasure. I took post, and in a few days

days travelled through the principal towns of the province, accompanied by a friend, with whom I stopped at Marfeilles, where I arrived, cured of my cough, by the effect of the carriage and cold water, which I continued to drink the whole time of my journey.

I was still sensible of some slight vaporous symptoms, which I constantly attacked with the same remedy; when I was called to Monosque to visit M<sup>lle</sup>. de St. Jœurs, above-mentioned, who having already experienced the efficacy of this new method, preferred my judgment to that of any other person. Having just experienced the good effects of a journey, I accepted the proposal with pleasure. I set out therefore for Monosque, observing the same method, and the same regimen which I had constantly followed: but how was I surpris'd, when two days after my arrival in this city, I was seized with an insurmountable loathing to all kinds of food, and more particularly to water. This symptom alarmed me with new fears, but a bilious *diarrhœa*, which immediately supervened, with all the appearance of a critical evacuation, encouraged me the more, as I soon perceived my appetite and strength returning.

We distinguish the hypochondriac cough from others of convulsive coughs, by the following characteristics. Frederick Hoffman has observed that flatulence, spasm of the intestines, and other hypochondriac symptoms generally attend this cough: *In tussi hypochondriaca junguntur flatulentia, spasmi intestinorum, & symptomata reliqua hypochondriaca* (a). And he supposes, with reason, that the true cause of this disease ought to be attributed to a superabundance of the gross, impure and serous humours, with which the stomach and intestines are drenched, which being agitated by the continual spasms of these parts, are sometimes forced back upon the lungs: *Et generatur ab humoribus crassis, impuris, serosis, vi spasmodicorum ac flatulentiarum abdominalium ad pectus & pulmones compulsis; & eò magis infestat, si ingens frigus, aut animi affectus, tanquam occasionales cause præcesserint* (b).

In conformity to the opinion of so great a practitioner, I suppose the presence of these humours to be the proximate cause of the cough, which plagued me for such a

(a) Hoffman, sect. 2. cap. 3. p. 112. tom. 2.

(b) Hoffman, sect. 2. cap. 3. p. 112. tom. 2.



length of time. The remote cause by which they were produced, perfectly supported my opinion; the extreme dissipation of the animal spirits, which I had exhausted on my journey, and an excessive application of mind, were quite sufficient to inspissate the humours. The bile becoming more dense, was obstructed in its circulation, and had by its detension infected the different juices with which it mixes; thence the obstruction of the intestinal glands, irritations, spasms of the intestines, and of all the sympathizing nervous and membranous parts; these symptoms certainly denote the vaporous affection, by which they are produced.

It was necessary to attack its source, which was in my stomach and bowels: the spasms were to be relaxed, the irritations of the several parts appeased, the acrid humour extirpated by moistening, and rendering them more fluid, in order to assist nature in relieving herself by the natural emunctaries.

To produce these effects, I know of nothing more powerfully specific than cold water, whose sedative virtue is always su-

perior to the various remedies so much extolled. I preferred this remedy with the more confidence, as I was before convinced of its efficacy by my own experience, and by the experience of many eminent physicians before my time. Hoffman is of the number; but I shall not, like him, write an extravagant panegyric on water (a), permit me only to publish its virtues, as I found it, in my own case, a most salutary remedy.

I might, after the example of my guide, have added to its efficacy, the mucilaginous, balsamic and emolient parts of other remedies, which must necessarily have increased its virtue. Chicken ptisan would have afforded the same vehicle, and the cooling mineral-waters administered by our author, mixed with milk, would together have composed a proper diluter for the thickness and acrimony of the fluids which occasioned my complaints.

I did not condemn this mixture, but my stomach rejected it, and therefore I substituted in its place exercise, which by assisting the distribution of the fluids, facilitated the expulsion of the extraneous humours.

(a) *Hoffm. de aq. med. univers.* tom. 4. p. 201.

The waters which I drank at Monosque, being entirely mineral, contributed to my perfect recovery, by the evacuation which it produced (a).

(a) Certe omnes facile credent vix unquam accuratiorrem morbi descriptionem haberi, quam si facta fuerit a pe-  
rito medico, qui hunc passus fuit, dum in agro corpore  
mens sana erat. Ideo magni æstimatur podagræ descriptio  
quam Sydenhamus dedit, coleræ historia, quam Trales con-  
scripsit, &c. Sic at Benedictus phtisi graveter laboravit, a  
seipsum curavit. Vide Van Swieten. com. in Boerhaave,  
tom. 4. p. 58:

## C H A P. XX.

*Vomiting, Hiccup, and acid Eructations.*

**T**O avoid repetition, so very fatiguing to an impartial reader, and which, at the same time, gives great advantage to such as read only to criticise, we shall present the different disorders of the stomach, proceeding from the same cause, in one point of view: the explication required, will by this means be more clear and intelligible.

Though the mechanism of digestion be known to every physician, it may not however be entirely useless to recollect, that solution, and not fermentation or trituration, is the real function of this *viscus*: from which results, a mild and balsamic chyle, capable of restoring the waste of the body, by repairing the daily expenditure of the juices, and thus maintaining that suppleness of the solids, so necessary to their several internal and external motions: Hence that harmony and reciprocation between the solids and the fluids, which constitute perfect health,

The

The natural and wholesome quality of the digestive juices, and of those of the aliment, will be the result of this *equilibrium*: But if either of the two be viciated, the digestion must necessarily be disordered, and the chyle altered.

Can a thick, dry, and acrimonious blood, (such as is peculiar to hypochondriac patients) produce wholesome juices? The impurity of the bile, the acrimony of the pancreatic juices, and also of the saliva and stomatic juices, the alkalescence of the one, and the acidity of the other, will doubtless produce a composition of the hottest nature, and a poignant, acrid and acrimonious juice, incapable of furnishing a mild and salutary chyle (a).

This acidity constantly irritating the stomach, must cause its contraction, and con-

(a) To prevent criticism, I must request the reader to observe, that I adopt this idea of fermentation in the digestive fluids in *statu morboſo* only. Physiology teaches us that the bile is a saponaceous fluid, neither acid nor alkaline, composed of a large proportion of oil and salt, and of spirituous particles; that the pancreatic juice is a limpid lymph, consisting of much water, a little salt and oil, neither acid nor alkaline: In short, that these two liquors are by no means incongruous, but unite without effervescence to form the bile.

sequently

frequently the expulsion of its contents. But the continual pressures of the *abdomen*, (in consequence of its tension) the embarrassment of the *duodenum*, the spasmodic tension of the circular fibres of the *pylorus*, forming so many obstacles to the natural passage of the chyle, the upper orifice must necessarily dilate, and emit a portion of the contents of the stomach. This accounts for the *cardialgia*, which is so much the more disagreeable, as it is generally attended with *nausea*, and leaves an acrimonious taste in the saliva.

This contraction and explosion (the necessary consequence of the irritation of the parts from whence it proceeds) generally imply a considerable heat, which rarefying the air contained in the minute cells of the aliments, and these cells being thence opened, and entirely destroyed, the air thus contained, must necessarily augment the volume of that which was before in the stomach and intestines. Hence the increased distension, which excites fresh contractions, and which constantly opposing the dilatation of the membranous canal, must necessarily compress, and finally expel

pel the air which it contained; whence the violent cholics, flatulencies, and acid eructations to which vaporous patients are exposed.

The same contraction in the stomach, becoming stronger in proportion to the irritation produced by the contained matter, will very soon occasion convulsive motion, which affecting the diaphragm, brings on the hiccup, and the convulsion being increased to a certain degree, by the violence of its cause, the muscles of the *abdomen* will contract: the convulsions becoming then general, a vomiting succeeds, by which means, not only the contents of the stomach and *duodenum*, but also every species of the liquid received into the stomach, will increase the irritation of its nerves, which in their present state are unable to support the least shock. This demonstrates the extreme cornuosity of the parts, and the violence of the cause of this disease.

It follows from the above theory, that a too great tension of the membranes of the stomach, and a too great effervescence of the digestive juices, *viz.* the saliva, the bile, the pancreatic juice, and that of the glands

glands of the stomach, produce in hypochondriac patients, acidity, flatulence, eructations, hiccup, and vomiting, according to the degree of these two causes, which acting reciprocally, produce the same effect. The tension of the membranes will be counteracted by moistening and diluting remedies, and the effervescence of the digestive juices in the stomach, by the most cooling method, which, by condensing the fluids, and stopping their fermentation, destroys their acrimony.

Cold water, in this case, will be more effectual than the most extolled absorbents; because it will correct the acidity, and remove its symptoms; and other moistners, such as mucilaginous, diluting, emolient remedies will allay the vomiting, and hiccup, for which all other medicines are ineffectual. The following cases prove the fact:

M<sup>me</sup> de P. of a dry and very atrabilious temperament, was sent for to Marseilles in 1759, to her son who was dangerously ill. The child's disorder was long, and his recovery very tedious, which so much impaired his mother's health, that she soon became hysterical. Frequent *vertigo*,



tigo, dizziness, and the suppression of the menses, were sufficient to denominate her disorder; but acid eructations ensued, which appeared to the physician at Marseilles, as a symptom foreign to the vapours. Purgatives, stomatics and absorbents, were consequently, but ineffectually administered. The child's health being at length restored, she was permitted to return to Arles, where she arrived in a very bad state. To obviate the *plethora*, of which the symptoms were not equivocal, she was bled in the foot; and to relieve her from the acidity with which she was so much tormented, I ordered her to drink plentifully of the water of the Rhone. This medicine was so immediately effectual, that in a few days, every sensation of acidity disappeared, and her hysterical complaints yielded to our usual method of treatment.

Mr. Germain, seventy years of age, and hypochondriacal, becoming blind, in consequence of two cataracts on his eyes, grew extremely dejected, and was tormented with constant acid eructations and hickuping. The situation of this poor gentleman was the more deplorable, as the great misfortune of having lost his sight, had rendered him

him indifferent to every other evil. In consequence of this neglect, his hiccup encreased; the eructations became insupportable, and the fever which followed, threatened the patient with an approaching inflammation, if not already begun, as the symptoms seemed evidently to indicate.

I was then sent for; but in order to persuade the patient, that he ought to submit to our endeavours to save his life, it was previously necessary to comfort him with the hope of restoring his sight. The extraction of the chrystaline humour was the only thing that could be done, and I assured him that such an operation was possible. This promise revived his hopes, and rendered him tractable. Chicken-ptifan, constant fomentations, and cooling clysters, removed his worst symptoms. He departed for Avignon, where the operation was performed with such astonishing success, that he now enjoys both his sight and health (a).

(a) Mr. Germain had this operation performed at Avignon, by Mr. Pamard, junr. This skilful surgeon has given us indisputable proofs of the safety of his method of extracting the cataract. The wonderful cures which he has performed in this city, have gained him universal esteem; for which reason, I think it my duty to give this public testimony of his abilities.

The

The tension of the nerves, and the rarefaction of the digestive fluids, were too great to think of curing the patient with cold water only. The mucilage of the chicken-ptifan seemed necessary to encrease the virtue of diluting remedies, and more effectually to obtund the *spiculæ* of the acid in the stomach. Emolient fomentations and cooling clysters acted as sedatives and absorbents; coral, chalk of Briançon, crabs eyes, not forgetting the *cachoe*, so much in use at present, and at the same time so powerful, would consequently have produced very bad effects, as their alkalescence would have excited the fermentation of the digestive fluids, and so far from destroying, would have increased their acrimony.

Dom. Barecut, a benedictine monk, of the convent of St. Maur, two and twenty years of age, of a dry and very atrabilarious constitution, had for two years been afflicted with constant vomiting, which returned every day after eating, attended with such considerable eructations, that this monk was obliged to quit the convent. Stomatics, purgatives, aperatives, and absorbents, were the only remedies administered. The disease became every day more obstinate, and

and the patient was abandoned to his unhappy fate.

After having carried this inconvenience into several convents, he took refuge in the abbey of Mont-majot. To this place I was called to attend him, and many others of his brethren, who were not less indisposed than himself.

It was not difficult to comprehend, by the account of his disorder, and of the regimen he had observed, that the cause of his vomiting proceeded from the spasmodic tension of the nervous membranes of the stomach, and in the acrimony of the stomatic juices. Constant watching and application of mind, and the irritating remedies which he had taken, contributed to prolong his disease. Moistners were then substituted in their place, with the greater assurances of success, as the former remedies had been prejudicial. Chicken-ptisan, which was his common beverage for two months, relieved the vomiting. The violent eructations nevertheless continued, and still tormented the patient; but the mineral-waters of *Yeuset*, and the domestic bath perfected his cure.

Mr.

Mr. \* G. \* town-clerk of this place, sixty years of age, and hypochondriacal, was attacked, at the same time, with the same disease; but the more dangerous, as what he threw off his stomach was black, foetid, and intolerably bitter, resembling, in every respect, the black bile, so well known and dreaded by the antients (a) and their followers. Constant application and anxiety of mind had given birth to this cruel disease, and grief added to every other cause, gave but little hopes of his recovery. The patient himself, from many recent and fatal examples, despaired of relief (b), which rendered his cure the more tedious.

Moistners only were administered, and with the more perseverance, as the disease had taken deep root. Chicken-ptisan and fomentations, without respite; nor were the domestic baths and frequent clysters neglected; and these remedies, if they did not immediately remove the disorder, at least retarded its progress.

Two whole years elapsed, without gain-

(a) Hippocrat. aph. 22. sect. 4.

(b) It is no more than a year since M. de Laval, arch-deacon of the metropolitan church of this city, died of the same disorder, after repeated emetics.

ing much ground, though the patient was very punctual in his regimen; but his domestic affairs, which daily added to the uneasiness of his mind, counteracted every remedy. It was therefore necessary that he should leave off business, quit the town, and seek, in dissipation and ease, the recovery of a shattered constitution.

This experiment was attended with salutary effects: The vomiting yielded to the above remedies, and daily exercise contributed to restore the patient to his perfect health.

Galen's method of treating these diseases, always surprised me, for he expressly says: *In universum igitur omnes qui ab humore melancholico proveniunt effectus, statim inter initia medicamentis eum humorem vacuantibus valide purgans, quominus augeantur prohibebis.* Galenus, de atra bile, p. 705.

That is to say, according to this author, common purgatives being insufficient, recourse must be had to more violent cathartics.

These diseases have therefore changed their nature since the time of this great oracle. Let us then change their name, lest we should be led into an error. This great atrabilarian seems himself to have been influenced

fluenced by the causticity of his bile in the choice of his remedies.

We are certain at present, that when it predominates in hypochondriacal patients, it is not the first cause, nor the only one to combat; on the contrary, 'tis no more than the effect.

The diminution of the diameter of the excretory vessels of the liver and other *viscera* of the *abdomen*, and their extreme dryness, render the secretion of the bile difficult; this fluid, already too gross, is necessarily obstructed in its passage, and being there detained, acquires that colour and acrimony requisite to form that atrabillious fluid so formidable in Galen's opinion, but at present so much despised by our modern physicians. It is sometimes forced back into the mass of fluids, where it causes great disorder, and at the same time produces considerable irritation, and thus engenders all the diseases imputed to it. But to remove all these disorders, ought we, by endeavouring to expel it suddenly from the mass of fluids, to irritate the cornuous solids, with which it is become in some measure united?

We can never expect by such means to subdue the acrimony of this fluid, which is sulphurous from its origin, saline by degrees, and acrimonious in its nature: the least attack will discompose it, and if we persist in the attempt, its effects are violent, and in all probability will become unsurmountable. How then is it to be remedied? The task is difficult, it is true, but not impossible. If it has always been the *opprobrium* of physicians, may we not consider it as the *chef-d'oeuvre* of our art.

It is therefore by mild remedies that we must obtund the *spiculi* of this fluid, and by thus diluting and softening, it becomes enveloped in the torrent, which in the end carries it off through the common emunctories. It may indeed resist for some time, but it must infallibly yield sooner or later, to our constant and various applications.

Practical physicians will, I think, be satisfied with my arguments and experience; but minute physiologists will doubtless expect experiments suited to their taste and comprehension. To satisfy and convince them at the same time, I shall propose one  
which



which may be performed even in their closet, if they will not take the trouble to come to a sick bed. Take some of this black bile, recently evacuated, either by vomiting or by stool; its smell is foetid, and its taste according to the patient's account, intolerably acerb. Mix it in a small quantity of water, and it quickly becomes green: encrease the vehicle, and it becomes yellow; encrease it still more, and it entirely loses its colour, smell and taste. But after this let it evaporate, and it will gradually resume its original colour, and what remains in the bottom, will be exactly the same that was before put into the vessel; the same colour, smell and acerbity.

Let us compare the effect of diluters with the nature of this fluid, and we shall easily comprehend by the effect produced by this vehicle in changing its colour, that we may in the end destroy its acrimony. Let us also observe, with regard to atrabilarious patients, that evacuations of this kind gradually change, and that their recovery is always preceded by the variations above-mentioned. Mr. G\*\* and many more whom I have seen in the same situation,

have furnished me with these examples; and several others who have suffered for want of timely assistance, have exemplified the same gradation.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XXI.

*Spasmodic Hemiplegia.*

**B**Y spasmodic *hemiplegia*, I understand that species of perfect or imperfect palsy, which results from the strangulation of the vessels of the brain, which strangulation is always produced by the spasmodic tension of the nerves.

The several disorders of the brain proceed from three different causes, which characterise three species of apoplexy. The first and second are called pituitous and sanguinary; a superabundance of blood, or more properly speaking, a *plethora* is the cause of the one, and the other proceeds from a superabundance of the lymphatic and serous fluids, by which the same effect is produced. But the third, which I call spasmodic apoplexy, proceeds merely from diseased nerves; I mean that extraordinary tension of the nervous filaments, which entirely preventing their relaxation, produces a palsy; this tension, by contracting the diameter of the vessels, encreases the volume of the fluids, and thus creates this

*plethora*, whence proceeds the strangulation and compression of the vessels, and interception of the animal spirits, of which apoplexy and a palsy are the consequence.

To conceive how it is possible for the strangulation in question, to be formed in tense and cornuated vessels, we should recollect, first, that the brain is a soft and flexible substance, whose fibres are constantly drenched by that serosity which is there secreted; secondly, that the number of sanguinary vessels with which its surface is covered, is very considerable; and besides that, the brain abounds with different sinuses, which abate the velocity of the circulation; and thirdly, that it is continually exposed to the different compression of the *meninges*, which, in a state of cornuosity, compress it with more or less violence, and impede the motion of the fluids; all which being so many obstacles to the circulation of the blood in the brain, occasion the strangulation in question.

From this disposition of the brain, it follows, that whenever the blood is carried thither with too great impetuosity, it must necessarily produce in its different *sinuses*, and in the veins and arteries, extreme dilatation,

latation, which must gradually increase their diameters, and in the end, from varicose tumours, which by impeding the circulation of the blood and spirits, cause apoplexy, epilepsy, palsy, and every other disease possible for such compression to produce.

From this heat and impetuosity of the blood, proceed irregular motions and spasms, which frequently begin in the membranes of the stomach, and of the intestines of hypochondriac patients, according to the delicacy and extreme sensibility of their fibres, their tension and cornuosity. In short, the nerves of the stomach being constantly agitated, and disturbed by the acrimony of the stomachic and digestive juices therein secreted; those of the kidneys, the spleen, liver, and the mesenteric *plexus*, will be affected in their turn, and will contract the vessels. The contraction of the arterial extremities will stop the blood in every part: the fluids will then rush in greater abundance to the head, and produce the effects above-mentioned. The intestines are in like manner affected; for if the arterial contractions be so great, that the blood cannot circulate freely through the arteries, the  
strangu-

frangulation will produce such agitation in the nerves, that the whole system becomes convulsed. These different convulsive motions may in time produce the palsy in question; in like manner, as it may also be produced by the apoplexy.

This species of palsy, proceeding from a cause peculiar to itself, must necessarily produce particular symptoms. The spasmodic tension of the nerves is always evident in the stiffness of the paralytic limbs, in their irritability, and also in their atrophy, and convulsive motion. The pulse will be always small and frequent, very unlike that plentitude which denotes a real *plethora*, and relaxation of the arterial coats, by which the two other species of apoplexy are characterised.

The cure will therefore differ from those which are indistinctly administered for all kinds of apoplexy: repeated and frequent bleedings, cordials, strong stimulants, emetics and purgatives, will be very improper; as the violent irritations produced by these remedies, will infallibly encrease instead of destroying the disease, which is demonstrated by the following case.

Mr. Ornan, surgeon of this town, thirty-five years of age, of a sanguine and robust  
con-

constitution, was attacked in the month of May 1761, with a putrid and inflammatory fever, of which he was cured by the assistance of ten bleedings, an emetic, and some slight purgatives. Fatigued by want of sleep for three or four days, when recovering, he was suddenly seized with an imperfect *hemiplegia* of the right side. His arm and leg was immediately benumbed, his eye distorted, and his mouth convulsed.

The patient alarmed by the symptoms of a real *hemiplegia*, called all his art to his assistance, and was already prepared to bleed himself, if I had not come time enough to prevent it. The symptoms which had preceded the disease, and the effect of my remedies immediately gave me the diagnostic signs of the patient's disorder. The spasms, and extreme tension of the nerves, confirmed this evidence: it was therefore necessary, as soon as possible, to relax the parts which seemed to be affected. The warm bath was preferred to every other remedy, though the patient's weakness appeared to some as a contra-indication. Its efficacy however was unquestionable, as in a few  
days

days it removed all the above symptoms (a).

Frequent bleedings during the inflammatory fever, and the evacuations produced by the different purgatives which I had prescribed, should be considered as the remote causes of the patient's *hæmiplegia*. It was consequently necessary to have recourse to remedies capable of restoring to the blood and other fluids the vehicle which they had lost; and to the nerves, that suppleness and elasticity of which they had been deprived, by the several irritations they had suffered. This was beyond contradiction, the only method to save the patient; and however strange it may appear to some, it is nevertheless certain, being supported on the principles of a sound theory, and on the most fortunate experiments which were made by several physicians of this province in concert with me.

I would now ask, if the bleeding commonly prescribed in such a case, from a notion of attacking the strangulation of the brain, and the purgatives always administered under such variety of forms, could be of any use to the patient? The oppo-

(a) You will find in Forestus, a number of palsies, proceeding from heat and dryness, cured in the same manner.



site effects so immediately produced by the warm bath, incontestibly prove that the nerves, if again irritated by the action of these different remedies, would have suffered still greater contractions; the circulation of the spirits would have been immediately intercepted, and the convulsive motions which would have supervened, must have infallibly destroyed the patient. The following case will verify this prognostic.

M. le Marquis de Castillon, about eight and thirty years of age, had for a long time complained of a pain in his head, for which he desired my advice. I was too well acquainted with his constitution and manner of life, to be in any doubt concerning the cause of his disease.

I prescribed accordingly a suitable regimen and chicken-broth. His head-ach was for a time relieved, and he fancied himself entirely cured. The documents of a physician generally make no longer impression than during the time of illness; but if they be ever recollected in health, they are only transient reflections. The patient forgetting my advice, preferred his own regimen to my prescriptions: the pain soon returned; it gradually became  
insup-

insupportable, and at last terminated in a vaporous fainting, which rendered his life precarious. This fainting was followed by a *hæmiplegia* of the right side. The arm, the leg, and the thigh, became stiff, and entirely paralytic; the eye and ear were totally deprived of their functions: in short, every thing indicated the perfect cornuosity of the nervous system, and it was necessary to assist the patient, as immediately as possible.

A physician of great reputation, Mr. Fizes, who was consulted with me, was equally satisfied as to this disease of the nerves, and density of the fluids. With regard to these two indications, we had recourse to moistening and attenuating remedies. Chicken and turtle-broth, whey, and the acid mineral-waters, were first prescribed. Aperitives, purgatives, and antispasmodics, were next administered. Far from authorising such a method, I could not help prognosticating the event. Their confidence in me was unquestionable; but they were obliged to be implicitly directed by so eminent a physician as Doctor Fizes.

After the patient had taken twenty doses  
of

of turtle broth, he was ordered by this physician an electuary, composed of the conserve of elicampane, *kinorrodon*, *poudre de guttete*, *millipedes*, cinnamon, *Cascarilla*, wild valerian, and syrup of chicory, mixed with rhubarb. His friends had formed such great expectation from a remedy, which was to produce so many different effects at the same time, that I durst not venture to make objections. I even thought that I had gained a great point, in persuading the apothecary, unknown to them, to reduce the dose to about half the quantity. Two hours after he had taken this remedy, he was seized with a fainting similar to the first, attended with convulsive spasms of the limbs, by which they were convinced of their error. His belly was swelled, tense, and irritated by violent cholic, and frightful borborygmi, which I found it necessary to appease, with plentiful draughts of chicken-water, and several cold clysters.

This unexpected accident, though foretold, so terrified the patient and his family, that they now left him to my care. A hundred and six tepid bathings, as many doses of chicken-broth, and several clysters  
of

of common water just warmed, but more frequently cold, restored suppleness to the limbs, which, by riding either on horseback or in a carriage, recovered their wanted liberty and motion, and the patient soon regained his former health, to the great astonishment of many people, who, because he had blindly submitted to new experiments, looked upon him as a lost man.

Of all the authors who have written on the diseases of the nervous system, Frederick Hoffman is the only one that I know of, who mentions the spasmodic apoplexy, and the same species of palsy, by which it is generally succeeded (a). After the most accurate description, he tells us, that none but hysterical women and hypochondriacal men, are subject to this kind of apoplexy; he tells us also, that the natural tension of their nerves, and dryness of their intestines, prevent the free circulation of the blood in the *viscera* of the *abdomen*, and in the inferior parts of the body. The brain, for this reason, becomes overcharged: hence proceeds sanguinary strangulations, and irregular compressions in this *viscus*, which produces all the symptoms of spasmodic

(a) Hoff. de nerv. resol. cap. 1. p. 192, tom. 2.

apoplexy, of which we have just given two examples.

The distinction of the spasmodic apoplexy, from the two other species called serous and sanguinary, is also due to the same author. Though this last, in a great measure, participates of the one in question, spasm is nevertheless very frequently the real cause. The stiffness of the paralytic limbs, and their involuntary motion, are proofs sufficiently convincing. Repeated bleedings, blisters, emetics, &c. according to the same author, produce fatal effects. (M. le Marquis de Castillon was a melancholy instance of this) While on the contrary, domestic bathing, *pediluvium*, and other remedies of the same nature, by attacking the rigidity of the nerves, produce salutary effects, in facilitating the distribution of the fluids, by restoring the vessels to their usual diameter and flexibility.

My testimony might be suspected, were it not supported by the above-mentioned author (a). I may also add, that I have seen a number of paralytic patients, in whom these violent remedies had produced this disorder. How many have sunk under this cruel practice! The good of the public warrants inge-

(a) Hoffman consult. & respons. cent. I. sect. I. casus 19.

nioufness, and therefore prompted by the zeal with which I am animated, I will speak the truth. I have more than once beheld the fatal effects of the *Balaruc* waters, where paralytic patients of the neighbouring provinces are generally sent without distinction. One in particular, who was attacked with the palsy in question, was, the very first day that he purged with these waters, seized with a violent fever, *delirium*, and convulsive motions in the paralytic limbs, to the great astonishment of the physician by whom he was advised. Two bleedings, and a plentiful-beveridge of chicken-water, rescued the patient from the danger to which he had been improperly exposed.

These saline mineral-waters act in this case with too much impetuosity (a). M. le Roy, professor of medicine in the university of Montpellier, who has written with equal elegance and precision, on the nature of mineral-waters, has not neglected to caution his readers against the effect of the Balaruc waters, thus: *ad hoc autem auxilii genus non facile venias cum homine qui aut podagra fit, aut lue laboret venerea, aut epileptie obnoxius,*

(a) All mineral-waters whatever act in the same manner.

*aut passione laboret hypochondriaca, aut hysterica (a).*

But we readily agree with him, that the waters succeed perfectly well, whether the disease proceeds from the relaxation of the solids, and from the thickness and viscosity of the fluids. Their miraculous effects witness so much in their favour, that it were ridiculous to contest their merit and virtue.

We will, if you please, go still farther, and acknowledge that they may be very salutary in many other respects, where the rigidity happens to be complicated with other disorders; but this is always understood of external application. We cannot be too cautious in advising their use externally. I am of the same opinion, with regard to mineral, saline, or sulphurous waters, which, though contra-indicated, have more than once operated with surprising effect, under the direction of skilful physicians.

(a) Caroli le Roy, de aqu. min. natura, & usu, prop. 160.

## C H A P. XXII.

*Cornuosity of the Extremities.*

THE effects of this cornuosity will be most sensibly perceived in the remoter parts of the body, particularly the extremities. The extremities of the vessels, and the smallness of their diameter promoting its formation. By impeding the circulation of the fluids, the lymphatics become immediately obliterated, and nutrition intercepted; thus the solids become gradually more dry, and cornuous to such a degree, that the muscles, the nerves, and the tendons, by which the extremities of the body are terminated, contract with pain, and produce a mutual replication of the limbs and body. The extreme effect of this cornuosity of the solids, of which I shall give many examples, incontestibly prove its existence in every symptom of vaporous disorders.

Dom. Lamèe, a benedictine monk, of the monastery of *Mont-major*, twenty-three years of age, of a warm constitution, had been for two years afflicted with sharp pains in his thighs, legs, and reins, attended with univer-  
sal



sal rigidity. His great application to study, but more particularly to music, had produced the remote cause of his indisposition. The extreme dissipation of the animal spirits, had insensibly impoverished the mass of the fluids, and the frequent irritations of the nervous system, at length produced this cornuosity.

The bath acted immediately with such success, that in the space of a month the patient was relieved from his pains, and walked as upright as if he had never been afflicted with this disease. He resumed his applications and relapsed: he had recourse to the same remedies, which always operated with the same power, I persuaded him to relinquish, for a time, his music and studies. This was a mortifying deprivation to a musical enthusiast, and therefore obtained with some difficulty: he enjoyed better health however, till the extreme heat of the dog-days, which were this year hotter than usual, when he again relapsed: he returned to the bath for the third time, drank chicken-water and distilled whey, which completed his cure.

May I be permitted to join with this case another of the same kind, which was not properly my own, being only a witness of it, in the first years that I practised physic under my father.

M. \*\* B\*\*, a counsellor, about fifty-five years of age, of a bilious, sanguine, and very atrabilarious constitution, in the extreme heat of summer, was attacked with a *cholera morbus*. The disease was so perfectly indicated by vomiting, cramps, and *diarrhœa*, that it was impossible to be mistaken. Lemonade prevented its progress; but the fever succeeding these various agitations; dry tongue, red urine, burning heat, and *delirium*, denoted an extraordinary effervescence in the fluids. Repeated bleedings, emulsions, cooling clysters, fomentations, and chicken-water, removed the inflammation which threatened the patient, and thus terminated a dangerous disease, that might have proved fatal, had we been either mistaken or timid in our practice.

The fever being at length removed, the symptoms disappeared; but an universal cornuosity of the extremities succeeded. The alkalescence of the fluids was so extreme, that the moistening remedies, however prudently administered, could not prevent what followed. His arms, legs, fingers, hands and feet, were stiff and motionless; the *epidermis* or scarf-skin, peeled off, and the *cutis*, or real skin, became totally dry. Domestic bathing, and other moistening remedies, which the patient  
took

took for a whole year, restored him at last to the use of his limbs and health.

The effects of this cornuosity, furnishes daily examples of that dryness of the solids, which we have supposed to be the proximate cause of vaporous affections. I know several vaporous patients in whom this disease is so manifest, that the *epidermis* is detached from several parts of the body, and the nails and hair fall off. Others whose muscular fibres divide, so as to form deep chinks in the fingers and toes. What can our adversaries reply to this? Will they call it the effect of the irregular flow of the animal spirits? Is it not rather produced by vitiated solids? Can the disorders of the *uterus*, and the obstruction of all the *viscera* of the *abdomen*, whether general or particular, produce these symptoms? Must we not rather acknowledge, that these supposed causes are themselves the effects of diseased solids.

Let it not be objected, that many people, to all appearance, healthy and fat, whose solids seem to be no more affected than the fluids, are nevertheless subject to the vapours. The spasmodic tension of the nervous system, its rigidity and cornuosity, are not incompatible with this constitution; which being

liable to the same infirmities, should be treated in the same manner. The natural tension of the nerves will immediately become spasmodic and convulsed, by the application of irritating remedies, however sparingly administered. Such patients suffer, with this disadvantage, that they dare not complain, and this appearance of health is the more intolerable, as it subjects them to the reproach even of those from whom they expect assistance.

## C H A P. XXIII.

## C O M P L I C A T I O N S.

*Putrid Fever.*

THE complication of this disease with the vapours, has always been a snare to *pharmacutic* physicians. The putrid matter with which the *primæ viæ* are then overcharged; the turgescence of these extraneous leaven, by which the mass of the blood and fluids is inundated, requires the speedy assistance of pharmacy. I am therefore of opinion, with the boldest practitioner, that when the putrid matter abounds, it should be speedily evacuated; I will even go further, and agree with them also, that the most active remedies should be administered, not only to disturb the putrid matter, but to expel it with force and efficacy. It must therefore be acknowledged, that, in this case, cathartics, emetics, and every species of vermifuges, are the only specifics; and that the frequent successful termination of this disease, may be always attributed

attributed to the evacuations produced by these remedies.

This method, so generally known and approved, is doubtless supported on the most fortunate experiments; but is it therefore liable to no exception? and is it always necessary to purge, merely because the fever is putrid, and the matter too abundant? or rather, if it be necessary to evacuate, must we never administer any other remedies than those which attack this febrile matter, by acting only on the diseases of the fluids, without ever attending to those of the solids, which equally require our assistance.

The vaporous constitution, by adding to the first disease, a second cause more formidable, perplexes us in the administration of our remedies, by constantly preventing the efficacy of those which are indicated. This cause exists in the rigidity of the solids, and in their sensibility, which is so extreme, that the least shock of the active particles of the mildest purgatives, immediately excites spasm and convulsive motion, and this, so far from promoting their action, prevents the evacuation of the putrid  
matter,

matter, and thereby encreases its effervescence.

To remedy this complication, moistners are the only means capable of correcting the rigidity of the solids, and the irritations necessary produced by the operation of the cathartics. They should therefore be applied during the whole time of the disease, as it is from their effect only that the depuration of the fluids can be obtained.

The period of these kind of fevers being more or less fatal, according to the ignorance of the person employed, sometimes in towns, but more frequently in the country, where physicians are always sent for when it is too late, clearly demonstrates, that this complication is in this climate no less common than little understood; it were therefore to be wished, for the sake of those who live in the country, a part of the human species, so useful to the state in every province, and particularly to this town, on account of its extensive territories, that the surgeons and apothecaries would, at least attend to our constant lectures on this subject. We cannot help wishing that they were a little more moderate in administering purgatives, and a little more cautious  
with

with regard to the various heating draughts, which are indiscriminately prescribed, in order to promote perspiration, which is always symptomatic and pernicious, because the fluids are thereby rendered more dense, the febrile matter less fluid, and consequently less capable of expulsion, by the efforts of nature; hence proceed sanguinary obstructions in the *viscera*, and inflammations still more fatal, in consequence of the improper treatment to which so many are sacrificed.

To warn them therefore to be less cruel, and to instruct them in a matter of so much importance (a), we think it our duty to publish our method of treating this complication of diseases, which consists in the

(a) This advice is meant only for country surgeons, and for those who officiously intrude themselves as physicians in the towns where they live. There are numberless instances in this kingdom, of surgeons encroaching so absolutely, that they commit with impunity the greatest murders, even under the eyes of those established by the sovereign, to watch over the preservation of his subjects. This abuse is so excessive, that the most powerful remedies, which ought never, but in cases of extremity, to be administered by the surgeon, become so familiar, that very shortly we shall scarce find a man who does not bear the marks of such treatment: cauterising, cutting, and burning, are remedies for every evil.



joint application of moistening and relaxing remedies. The patient should be bled according to the degree of fever and inflammation, if the putrid fever be of the inflammatory kind. On the contrary, if the putridity predominates, we should be expeditious in purging the *primæ viæ*; for this purpose we prefer tartar emetic, as being most certain in its operation (a). Chicken-tifan should be the patient's common beverage; cooling clysters, emulsions, and fomentations, would assist the effects. Cooling-tifan, acidulated with nitre, spirit of vitriol, or lemon juice, should be also administered. During this regimen, may be used, without apprehension, vermifuges, and the different purgatives required to expel the putrid matter, and to mitigate the fever.

(a) We do not prefer tartar emetic to all other purgatives, on account of its activity; but because it is at the same time less inflammatory, and operates only on the membranes of the stomach; because it does not penetrate into the blood, neither does it leave any impression of irritability on the coats of the vessels. Antimonial wine produces contrary effects; ipecacuana, and purgatives of every kind, operating by their resinous particles, exasperate the vessels to a much greater degree. We therefore absolutely reject these remedies in the first stage of the disorder.

Thus

Thus we shall assist nature in throwing off her burthen; but if, notwithstanding our endeavours, we cannot prevent the cornuosity of the solids, occasioned by the copious evacuations which we are obliged to procure, a regimen suitable to our plan, will soon correct this inconveniency. The following case will exemplify this complication.

M<sup>lle</sup>. de St. Esprit, a nun, thirty-five years old, was attacked in the month of December 1759, with a putrid and inflammatory fever. She was several times bled in the arm and foot, took an emetic, and was afterward purged twice at intervals, by which a great quantity of worms and putrid matter were discharged.

The fourteenth day of the disease, the fever was considerably abated, and the tempest entirely appeased, when a *delirium* appeared, attended with a general trembling, and universal rigidity. The jaw was so completely locked, that it was impossible for the patient to take any nourishment. All these different symptoms were sufficiently characteristic of the complicated hysterical affection; but the preceding symptoms rendered this opinion very doubtful.

I ordered nevertheless, that my patient,  
though

though half dead, should be plunged into water. The first and second bathing produced but little alteration, which I must confess, surpris'd me very much; but the third, which was continued for a longer time, revived my hopes, and acted with such efficacy, that the fever and *delirium* vanished, the body grew less rigid, and the patient was able to take some nourishment. These satisfactory effects were a sufficient proof of the efficacy of our method, the patient being thereby perfectly restored.

Convulsions succeeding acute diseases have always been considered as mortal: so we are told by Hippocrates and Duretus. The first says: *In febris acutis convulsiones, & circa viscera dolores fortes, malum* (a) and the second adds: *Convulsio febris superveniens omnino funesta, perraro autem puerulis; qui vero septem annis proveciores sunt, convulsione non tentantur in febre; sin autem desperati* (b). Succeeding physicians are by their own experience, convinced of the truth of these predictions.

Prepossessed with the same notion, I had already condemned my patient, who would

(a) *Hippoc. aphor. lxxvii. sect. iv.*

(b) *Duretus, in coac. Hip. cap. 14. p. 226.*

have infallibly suffered, had I not feared, that in abandoning her to her unhappy fate, I should have been guilty of murder. Solicitous therefore to discover, in the resources of art, the means of saving her life, I reconsidered her disease, studied the causes by which it was produced, and was determined by the symptoms which I discovered.

Her disorder was preceded by great application of mind, and followed by large evacuations. These afforded some foundation for hope; but the idea of a *metastasis* of morbid matter to the brain, the probability of worms, or perhaps a total want of blood and spirits, continually thwarted my hopes. Whilst thus embarrassed, accusing myself of insufficiency, I was at last determined. A sudden and copious discharge of urine confirmed my opinion, and I no longer doubted that the patient's disease was complicated with the hysterical affection. (a) I ordered

(a) A copious discharge of urine is, according to Sydenham, one of the most certain signs of the hysterical affection: *Illud maxime proprium est, atque ab eo inseparabile, quod scilicet agre urinam reddant plane limpidam, ad instar aquæ è rupibus scaturientis; idque satis copiose. Quod quidem ego sigillatim percontando, in omnibus fere didici signum esse pathognomicum eorum affectuum, quos in feminis hystericos,*

dered her into the warm bath, and with an assurance which might have been termed rashness, foretold its success.

The joy of her attendants animated them with strength and me with courage. They hastened to prepare the remedy with alacrity. The account of its virtues every moment increased their faith, and indeed they soon beheld it perform wonders.

We do not prescribe this remedy for complicated putrid fevers only; intermitting fevers require the same treatment, as the same rigidity of the solids, constantly prevents the effects of the evacuating and febrifuge remedies, which it may be necessary to prescribe. I could relate many examples of the most obstinate fevers, degenerating at last into chronic diseases, by the abuse of the purging and different febrifuge medicines united with the bark (b).

*in moribus hypochondriacos appellandos censemus. Vide Sydenham in epist. ad Gulielm. Cole. med. D. tom. I. p. 230.*

(a) This assertion, though very different from the opinion of our first masters, nevertheless deserves the attention of every physician. I have myself, on the authority of several authors, committed the very fault I have here mentioned: this might perhaps subject me to the reproach of having either despised or misunderstood them, and therefore

Q

I shall

An epidemical disease which raged at Arles in 1761, and in many other towns of the same province, has taught physicians to administer these medicines with moderation; many fatal examples have at last convinced us, that they should be associated with moistening and diluting remedies. In this manner we fix the fever, by thus tempering the orgasme of the fluids, and at the same time, we open the emunctaries for the febrile matter to escape. The two following examples will elucidate this doctrine.

Mr. Pellissery, a Neapolitan, commander of a king's vessel, about forty years of age, of a bilious, sanguine, and very atrabilarious constitution, was attacked with a tertian ague, which in 1761 raged in this place. He was bled, purged, and then took several doses of the bark, with success. Some time after he

I shall refer the reader to the works of some of these authors. Sydenham, in *epistol. ad Gulielm. Cole*, p. 115. Mead. *monet & precept. med. de malo hypochond.* Linnæus, *mat. med. des vegetaux.* no. xvii. Fracassini, *de affect. hyp. & hyp.* page 363; Morton, *phthisiologia*, page 93; Pitcairn, page 161; Fuller, page 73; Malpighi, *consult. med.* no. xxix. p. 39. Lancisci, *consult. med.* no. xi. page 17; and many others, who have mentioned the virtues of the bark in hysterical and hypochondriacal affections, without warning us of its bad effects, whenever the extreme tension of the nerves prevails over the humoral cause.

relapsed,

relapsed, and had recourse to the same remedies, which a second time fixed the fever.

He once more relapsed, and then changing his method, he took an emetic, which operated very well, but without removing the fever: he then returned to the febrifuge remedies, which he took in decoction and in substance. The ague immediately became irregular; it was sometimes continued, and sometimes intermitting; sometimes tertian, double tertian, and at last terminated in a confirmed quartan.

Flatulence, *borborygmi*, and the piles succeeded, and greatly tormented the patient. I ordered him chicken-ptifan, which had no effect; because he was at the same time tortured with convulsive pains in the intestines. In this situation, I knew of nothing so likely to relieve him as the tepid bath. He tried it accordingly that very day, and found himself better. It was continued, and without the assistance of any other remedy, removed the pains and the ague.

Mr. Thevenon, steward of the hospital *de la Charitè*, of the same age and constitution with this Neapolitan, was attacked by this epidemic ague. Purgings and febrifuge remedies brought on considerable vaporous symp-

toms, without determining the fever. He was also cured by the tepid bath. I could mention several other instances in support of this complication, where the sensibility of the solids was so extreme, as constantly to reject the febrifuge medicines, in whatsoever vehicle administered. The mere relaxation of the solids, which was the immediate effect of moistening remedies, restored to the fibres that elasticity so necessary towards the coction and expulsion of the febrile matter.



## C H A P. XXIV.

*Venereal Complications.*

OF the various methods of treating the venereal disease, we shall, with reason, adopt that which was published by Mr. Haguénot, in a memoir which this celebrated professor read in 1753, in the Royal Academy of Sciences at Montpellier. This memoir was afterwards printed in the year 1754, with the approbation of this illustrious academy. The arguments contained in this work, are so conformable to my ideas with regard to this complication, that I think it incumbent on me to present it to the public a second time, in order to support my system, and to render it more worthy the attention of practical physicians. The following is an abridgement of the contents of this memoir.

It is universally known, says he, that mercury is not only a powerful remedy, but the only specific for curing venereal complaints. Physicians unanimously agree, that rubbing the body with mercurial oint-

ment, is the best, the safest, and the most effectual method of application. However useful the chymical preparation of this mineral may be, in certain cases, and the different ptisans in which they have discovered a method of suspending it, notwithstanding its excessive weight, it has been nevertheless either abandoned to quacks, or considered as insufficient to perform a radical cure; because some chymists have invented violent remedies, such as precipitates; and because others, by uniting it with drugs of a different nature, have increased its bulk, and thereby prevented it from penetrating and destroying the venereal *virus* in the minuter vessels.

This method of friction, which physicians boast of having so long possessed, hath in the present age been greatly improved. The celebrated Mr. Barbairac, doctor of physic of the faculty of Montpellier, whose name will be handed down to the latest posterity, was the first who practised this method. He could not with patience bear, that a remedy which he considered as justly deserving of the title of an infallible specific, should destroy such a number of patients, by the violent disasters which it almost  
constantly

constantly occasioned. It was easy to comprehend that these disasters proceeded from the universal friction then practised: he supposed that to restrain the impetuosity of the mercury, partial friction should be substituted in its room.

This method, observed by all the adherents of this famous practitioner, was afterwards farther corrected and improved by a longer preparation, by slighter friction, by longer intervals between each: and to render the action of the mercury less violent, the patients were confined to milk diet, and diluting ptisans during the whole course of friction. We are indebted to Mr. Chicoyneaux, first physician to the king, for this method of treatment, which he maintained in a *thesis* published in 1718, in which he proves by solid arguments, and very circumstantial observations, that the principal thing to be attended to in the cure of this disease, is to avoid salivation; this kind of evacuation being more dangerous than useful, and that our endeavour should be to extinguish rather than evacuate the *venereal virus*. Nothing does greater credit to this method and its author, than that the most skilful and experienced, who were at first

his opponents, were at last obliged to conform to the practice of this great physician, and to become his advocates.

Though this method is at present generally received, and a second time published by M. Guifard (a), physician at Montpellier, though it is preferable to all the preceding methods, and is attended with extraordinary advantages, it is nevertheless liable to many inconveniences, principally arising from the nature, and even the action of the mercury, which are generally inevitable.

It is universally allowed, that the integral parts of this medicine are extremely ponderous; that the solids are greatly agitated, and the fluids broken down by their weight; hence it is considered as a resolvent, capable of producing considerable alteration in the machine. The universal heat, elevation of the pulse, and the other effects produced by this remedy, are undeniable proofs of its power.

To the violence of mercury we are taught to attribute all the accidents generally produced by friction, without mentioning the bad effects formerly occasioned by general

(a) *Vide*, la dissert. pratiq. on venereal diseases, by M. Guifard.

friction when improperly administered, and yet, notwithstanding our present precaution, we cannot sometimes prevent melancholy and even fatal accidents. For example, though ever so cautious in the use of the friction, whether with regard to the quantity of the ointment, or to the intervals between each rubbing, it frequently happens that the patient salivates, and is afflicted with want of rest, head-achs, heart-burn, ulcers in the mouth, *nausea*, vomiting, dysentary, feebleness, fainting, and other complaints; which, though less violent than formerly, are often attended with bad consequences, especially if the patient has weak lungs or a bad constitution.

I have seen some people, says our author, who though treated according to the rules of the medical art, become paralytic, and entirely lose the use of their limbs, yet are unable to assign any other cause than the powerful effect of the mercury on the brain and nervous system, which could not possibly be prevented. In short, it is very evident, that patients disposed to salivate, cannot be cured by this method; because if after the first and second rubbing, the spitting becomes too great, they are obliged

to desist, and cannot then supply the blood with a sufficient quantity of mercury, to destroy the venom of the disease.

Thus convinced of the necessity of friction, but at the same time not satisfied with the mode of application, our author endeavoured to find a method of restraining the violence of the mercury. He wisely imagined that the warm bath generally prescribed, as preparatory to rubbing, was the best means of producing this effect. He was determined in his opinion by the following reasons.

First, During the course of rubbing, it was proposed to dilute the blood internally by a copious beverage of aqueous liquor, cooling ptisans, and diuretics, not only to procure evacuation by urine, but, at the same time, to abate the too great commotion excited by the mercury, and to prevent the solids from being too dry. Now, the bath possesses all these qualities; it supplies the body with a quantity of the particles of water by which the fluids are moistened, the solids relaxed, and the urine increased.

Secondly, It follows, that the bath, by diminishing the power of the mercury, and thereby preventing its bad effects, enables

us to encrease the quantity of the mercurial ointment, and to continue it for a longer time without apprehension.

Thirdly, The bath softens the skin, opens the pores, and consequently facilitates the reception of the mercurial particles. Patients treated according to the common method, are first bled, then purged, and the next day bathed, by way of preparation; the bathing is twice or three times repeated immediately before the friction, to prevent the dryness of the skin, occasioned by the bleeding and purging. Now, the bath continued without intermission, would preserve that softness of the skin so necessary for the admission of the particles of the quick-silver. It has also another advantage; it wonderfully expedites the power of the mercury, by facilitating its reception into the blood; a principal consideration in the application of this mineral.

Fourthly, Sweating, and insensible perspiration is, of all others, the most comfortable evacuation to venereal patients; because it is the most considerable of all the natural evacuations of the human body, and may be considered as an universal drain, by which the *virus*, already disturbed by the mercury,

mercury, is thrown off. Now, this perspiration is greatly promoted by the bath (a), which by rendering the skin moist, disposes it to receive a greater quantity of fluid.

Fifthly, Perspiration being facilitated, and more copious by means of the bath, the fluids are less disposed to run off by the other emunctories; consequently salivation is prevented, which is one of the greatest obstacles in the cure of venereal complaints, and subject to the above-mentioned inconveniencies, and which frequently obliges us to have recourse to the domestic bath to stop its progress. Our author has constantly observed, that it acts more immediately, and with greater power than either bleeding or cathartics, so generally and

(a) *Abalneo aquæ tepidæ perspiratio unius horæ ad sesquilibram assurgit, nec subsequentium horarum perspiratio a præcedente evacuatione inhibetur. Apho. 25. med. static. Britan. Keil. Cet auteur ajoute, apho. 21. Calore, motu & exercitio uncia duæ vel tres interdum quatuor perspiratione spatii unius horæ expeluntur. Et apho. 22. Quanto major est perspiratio motu aut exercitio elicitæ, tanto minor est per subsequentes horas corpore quiescente.*

Whence it evidently follows, that nothing so perfectly promotes perspiration as the bath, because it can be continued longer than dry heat or exercise.

imprudently



imprudently administered upon such occasions; with this advantage, that after thus stopping the salivation, there is still an opportunity of continuing the mercurial friction, supposing it to have been hitherto insufficient.

All these arguments in favour of the bath during the time of friction, induced our author to think that he run no risk in trying the experiment. His first essay was on an artist of Montpellier, in the year 1719, in whom the disease was perfectly characterised; and he had the satisfaction to perceive that the symptoms gradually disappeared. He continued his experiments, and assures us, that in a few years he had cured more than thirty patients. He also adds, that in a variety of venereal cases, the most obstinate symptoms were removed by this method, which generally consisted in the alternate and continued use of the bath and friction.

This method of treatment will always most certainly succeed, whenever the fibres of the patients are rigid, dry, and cornu-ated; and that their blood being thick and acrimonious, requires remedies calculated to alter its nature. But in such constitutions,

tions, mercury is always dangerous, as it shatters the fibres, rarefies to too great a degree, the moliculæ of the blood, distends the coats of the vessels, produces suffocation and inflammation, which are frequently fatal.

We find in the method above-mentioned, the most prudent precaution to prevent these fatal effects; for, by the continual use of the bath, we constantly oppose the action of a remedy, always inimical to the solids, but at the same time necessary to destroy the *virus*. If Mr. Haguénot's observations evidently prove its efficacy, the cases which I have since met with, sufficiently justify the method of cure proposed to us by this great physician.

A girl of the town, about five and twenty years of age, of an adult constitution, and subject to the vapours, having very early in life indulged herself in excessive debauchery, soon acquired the venereal disease. The symptoms of her disorder were not equivocal; she applied to a surgeon, who took her unto his own house, and treated her in his own way. She was once or twice bled, as often purged, and a few warm, not to say boiling hot, domestic bathings, constituted the whole of her preparation, which was  
evidently

evidently somewhat precipitate. He proceeded with the same celerity to the mercurial unction, in order to get rid as soon as possible of a troublesome patient who lived at his expence.

The hysterical symptoms daily encreased, and a most copious salivation succeeded the fourth friction, which finished the course. She came to him a second time, in the following year; she was treated in the same manner, and with the same success. It was expected that at the third time the disease would be less stubborn; and having consulted physicians and surgeons, all equally experienced, a more moderate treatment was commenced; but it was in vain to persist in extending the friction to the extremities: they were obliged to desist in the middle of their process, and had they delayed in administering the bath, the patient must have sunk under the effects of this remedy. The storm blown over, they assured the girl that she was radically cured, and therefore, with the approbation of the faculty, she married.

Nevertheless, a discharge, which she had had for three years, still continuing, but  
without

without suspicion, supposing it to be the *fluor albus*, discovered the mystery on the sixth day of her marriage. Her husband was infected with a virulent *gonorrhœa*, which ended in a confirmed *lues*. I was called to his assistance. The young man being of a very gentle disposition, submitted without murmuring. He was treated merely in the common method, and in the space of two months was cured.

His wife required a very different treatment: her disease was inveterate, and her constitution the more averse to the action of the mercury, from having already three times baffled its attack. She must have undergone the same fate, for the fourth time, had I repeated her former treatment.

The most tedious and prudent preparation having been hitherto insufficient, I applied the method above prescribed. The patient began by thirty domestic bathings, remaining in the bath four hours each day, and took as many messes of chicken-broth: the friction was administered without discontinuing the bath, which was regularly applied during the intervals of every two days, when the friction was omitted. In this manner,  
twelve,

twelve ounces of mercurial ointment were applied (a), without affecting the mouth. The process was tedious: but the patient was radically cured, according to her husband's attestation.

From this example, and many others, it is evident, that the only method of curing venereal complaints, in adult and corrupted temperaments, which are therefore too sensible of the effects of mercury, is to curb its action by tepid bathing. There is no other method of restraining its impetuosity, but by obliging it to remain in the blood a sufficient time, to destroy and expel the venereal concretions. The dangerous effects produced by this remedy when solely and imprudently administered, is a still greater demonstration of the necessity of the bath.

Mr. Savi, a ship-caulker by trade, about forty-five years of age, of an adult and atrabilarious constitution, took it into his head that he had the venereal disorder: he was anointed merely to humour him, which

(a) We perceive by this treatment, that twelve ounces of mercurial ointment may be applied without any danger, and even more, according to the case, which is double the common dose.

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encreased his natural dryness. Constantly tormented with these chimeras, and persuading himself that he was not cured, he determined to try the ptisan of Aix, and went to that city to consult the inventor of this pretended specific. In the year 1760, he began with this remedy, consisting of a sudorific ptisan, and of mercurial and cathartic pills, which so prodigiously heated him, that he was obliged to have recourse to the most cooling remedies, to repair the injury he had suffered.

In May 1761, he again returned to the same remedy. The solids, being again irritated by its effect, were so violently contracted, that a fever ensued. His intestines became spasmodic, his stomach also revolted, and produced the most violent symptoms of a *chorera morbus*. Cramps, faintings, and the copious evacuations both by vomiting and stool, shattered his constitution to such a degree, that there was but little hopes of his recovery. Chicken-water relaxed the spasm; and the bath, to which he had recourse as soon as the evacuations ceased, finally calmed this tempest.

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After this second experiment, in which the patient had run such great risks, would not one have imagined that he had for ever done with this remedy? To the lesson which he had just received, were added the most persuasive reasons in order to compose his mind concerning a disease with which it was constantly occupied. They even wrote to the physician at Aix, intreating him not to supply this fanatic with his medicine. But all this precaution availed nothing, the patient knew how to procure the remedy, which he took secretly a third time, and again experienced the same complaints.

We may conclude from the above recital, how favourable our method would have been to this patient; for the bath in curing the hypochondriac disease, would most certainly have removed the venereal madness, which was merely symptomatic.

The complicated *gonorrhœa* requires the same treatment, as the most proper remedies will act upon fibres of the same constitution. Cooling ptisans, and diuretics will at the same time, deturge the prostate glands, and expel the venereal virus therein generated. But purgatives and hot diu-

diuretics are always dangerous, and so far from encouraging the expulsion, will produce a reflux. For this reason we consider mercurial pills as no better than a quack medicine, or rather a real poison, and therefore ought to be rejected by every rational physician (a). The sensible observations of Mr. Goulard (b), in his authentic publication concerning the use of friction, and of the bath, will instruct surgeons in the method they ought to pursue.

We will no longer dwell on this article, being already prevented by Mr. Goulard: we will only add, that if this method of treating the gonorrhœa appeared to so great a surgeon to be the most salutary, it was because he practised physic in a climate where phlegmatic constitutions are very rare, and where, on the contrary, hot and dry temperaments are very common.

I might, in this place, relate enumerable examples of the fatal effects of mercurial

(a) I am of the same opinion with regard to Vanswieten's corrosive sublimate, and Kiefer's sugar-plumbs, both having to our knowledge, produced very bad effects in the treatment of venereal complaints.

(b) Remarks and Practical Observations on Venereal Diseases, by M. Goulard.



pills, were I not thoroughly persuaded, that the same observation has been made by every physician. I shall therefore content myself with warning those only who are ignorant of any other remedy, carefully to examine their operation; they will then be sensible, that we do not impute to them so many bad effects without reason.

C H A P. XXV.

*Scrophulous Complication.*

THE morbid thickness of the lymph, which constitutes the scrophulous *virus*, is not incongruous with the disease of the nervous system, as there are many instances of scrophulous patients being vaporous; that is to say, the primitive disease becomes for a time complicated with the vapours, which I shall call secondary; because it is almost constantly the effect of the too acrid remedies administered for the scrophulous *virus*; which medicines, though always insufficient to destroy it, are yet active enough to produce the vaporous complication, and sometimes even to the greatest degree.

To remedy, as well as to prevent, this complication, we should in our treatment of the primitive disorder, carefully avoid all drastic purges, such as black hellibore, joined with calomel (a), and such like. Very powerful sudorifics should be also prohibited, and the mildest alteratives, associated with

(a) Vide *l'Abrege de la med. prat.*, by John Allen, tom. iv. p. 475.

aqueous and moistening remedies substituted in their place. Under this regimen, we shall most effectually attack the diseases of the lymph, because by thus submitting the nervous system to the impressions of the scrophulous *virus*, we prevent the interior ravages which it must infallibly have produced.

That these disorders are seldom cured, may be attributed to the want of a specific. M. Stork's fortunate experiments (a) on hemlock, flatter us with some future expectations. May we not hope, that a physician so skilful, and who so well understands the management of this poison, will in time acquaint us with all its virtues; since we are already obliged to acknowledge, that without being heating, it is one of the most active and penetrating resolvents; that it operates with success, in all cases where it is necessary to resolve, divide, and restore freedom to the circulation. It removes obstruction, dissolves schirrous tumours, and cures cancers; at the same time correcting the acrimony of the blood, in defluxions, the itch, scald-head, and the most obstinate cutaneous complaints.

(a) *Antonii Stork, sacræ Cæsar Reg. Apost. Majest. Concilii Aulici Archiat, &c. Supplem. necess. de cicuta.*

Such wonderful effects, attested by the repeated experiments of M. Stork, and of several succeeding physicians and surgeons (b), whose humanity rendered them desirous of profiting by so useful a discovery, seem to assure us, that we shall in the end find, in the various preparations of this plant, an antidote to the scrophulous *virus*: but supposing that the zealous partisans of this new remedy, animated by their antagonists, have discovered all the properties of hemlock, — it is necessary to warn both the one and the other of its insufficiency, in cases where the *virus* is complicated with any other disease; for then it requires a treatment analogous to the secondary complaint,

(b) M. Lallemand, physician at Eperney. *Jour. de med. mois de May*, 1760, p. 511.

M. Martin, physician at Aumale. *Journ. de med. du mois de Fevre*, 1761, p. 121.

M. Deamilleville, physician at Lisle. *Jour. de med. du mois d'Avril*, 1761, p. 322.

M. Pellet, physician at Millau en Rouergue. *Jour. de med. mois*.

M. Finantveu, surgeon-major of the hospital of Briancon. *Journ. de med. mois de Decembre*, 1761, p. 522.

M. Agasson, *medicina Lestoure*. *Journ. de med. du mois de Fevrier*, 1763, p. 127.

M. Bieshaar, surgeon at Bergen-op zoom. *Journ. de med. du mois de May*, 1763, p. 455.

M. Stork

M. Stork has himself obviated this objection, in advising, like a wise physician, other remedies applicable to various particular affections; amongst the rest he is of opinion, that spasmodic affections should be treated with narcotics and other common remedies. I have great respect for the decisions of this eminent physician, concerning the efficacy of his remedy; but I must be allowed to reject the antispasmodics, administered by him in the case of this complication. This modification ought not to appear to him inconsiderate, since it will serve only to enhance the value of the *cicuta* by increasing its virtues.

The contradictory effects of these pretended antispasmodic remedies, are too manifest for us not to perceive, that by irritating the nervous system to a still greater degree, they counteract all specifics, by refusing them admission into the minuter vessels, where the matter, on which the specific remedy should act, is precisely contained. It is therefore only by relaxing the texture of these vessels, that we facilitate the action of the resolvents, which should be administered to destroy the *virus*. After the example of M. Stork, and  
of

every practising physician, my arguments are supported on my own experience.

A benedictine monk, named Audibert, aged forty, of a bilious, sanguine, and very atrabilarious constitution, shewed me a tumour in his left breast, which he had had for several months. This tumour was the size of a pullet's egg, hard, indolent, and of an oval figure, which denoted it to be of a scrophulous nature, and no less dangerous than difficult to cure. As I had never yet tried the *cicuta*, this appeared a proper case for its administration. We spent the day in making an extract of the hemlock, according to the directions of its inventor. The patient submitted the more willingly, for being apprehensive of the consequences of his disorder. He suffered so much anxiety of mind, lest his tumours should sooner or later become cancerous, that his health was thereby impaired. He became hypochondriacal, and was at last attacked by a violent vomiting. To remedy this complication, the hemlock was discontinued. Chicken-water, clysters, and fomentations were substituted with immediate success; after this, I returned to the hemlock, assisting its effect by a copious beverage of distilled whey. These two remedies

medies operated so effectually, that in the space of three months he was effectually cured of all his complaints.

If this vaporous affection had been treated with the common antispasmodics, I presume it is very evident, that so far from curing, we should have irritated the disease; may we not presume, that the operation of our specific would have been retarded, or rather stifled, as the spasm of the stomach, of the blood-vessels and lymphatics would infallibly have prevented the distribution of the remedy, its division and operation. It was therefore necessary to relax the spasms, and to supple the capillary vessels. In this manner I removed the tumour, by assisting the efficacy of the *cicuta*, with the effect of another specific still more powerful than that of M. Stork.

Notwithstanding the innumerable attestations in favour of the new method of treating nervous diseases, as well as concerning the *cicuta*, what contradictions have they not already experienced? I would willingly vindicate these new discoveries against their most cruel adversaries, if I had not been prevented by M. Stork's (a) apologist; for this reason,

(a) M. Vendermond, in his *Journal* for January 1762, p. 4.

we are content to answer with him, “ that  
“ all new remedies have at all times met  
“ with obstacles and opposition from those,  
“ who piqueing themselves on their incredu-  
“ lity, resolve to disbelieve every thing but  
“ what they learnt from their fathers. To  
“ believe, or to reject, every thing, is (he  
“ adds,) equally absurd, and can proceed  
“ only from want of examination. The  
“ least shadow is, to the credulous, a reality ;  
“ the slightest mist, on the contrary, is total  
“ darkness to those who doubt of every thing.  
“ Blind credulity is the lot of the ignorant  
“ and foolish : obstinate incredulity is the  
“ fruit of false reasoning, and of a superci-  
“ lious jealousy. Rational and systematical  
“ doubt is the inheritance of wisdom. In  
“ all human knowledge, consequently in  
“ the science of physic, the observer  
“ will demonstrate what he can, believe  
“ that which is demonstrated to him,  
“ without rejecting every thing which  
“ opposes or disconcerts his particular opi-  
“ nions ; but will suspend his judgment  
“ in all things that are possible, of which  
“ he knows neither the effects nor pro-  
“ perties.”

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From these wise reflections we have some prospect of success, as they carry persuasion along with them; and hence we flatter ourselves, that after such frequent decisions of experience, truth will at last prevail.

## C H A P. XXVI.

*Complicated Scurvy.*

THE first cafes above related, exhibit the hysterical affection degenerated into a real scurvy, by the effect of a treatment which favoured the cause of the primitive disorder; that is to say, by constantly irritating the nervous system, already too tense and spasmodic, and by volatilising the mass of fluids, already too much rarefied by heating and irritating remedies, the blood was deprived of its balsamic particles, the serum escaped by the emunctories to which it was attracted, and the salt, not being sufficiently dissolved, consequently became more gross, and produced the scorbutic *diathesis*, which was complicated with the hysterical affection, and which therefore required the same treatment, being produced by the same cause.

Nothing more evidently proves the melancholy effects of common practice, than the fatal termination of M Majot's disease. I shall doubtless be excused the recollection

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tion in this place, because it may rouse the attention of physicians to distinguish this species of scorbutic affection; which is the more necessary, as on this distinction the cure depends. For our more entire conviction on a point of so much consequence to the lives of so many victims, let us discuss the question, and prove by facts.

M. Pamard, a surgeon of great reputation, universally known for his talents in every town of this province, of a thin and dry constitution, was attacked with a scorbutic affection, which he had had for three years, and for which he had tried various remedies without finding any relief. Being called into our neighbourhood to perform an operation, he came to consult with me; he informed me of the remote cause to which his disease might be attributed. A close and unavoidable attendance in the hospitals of Paris, constant late hours, application of mind, and an immoderate abuse of *liqueurs* and coffee, in which he had always indulged, were, he supposed, the principal cause of his present complaint.

The symptoms were not equivocal; his gums bled, the palate and throat were excoriated and ulcerated, the tonsils were so  
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prodigiously inflamed, that he swallowed with great pain and difficulty; the saliva was so acrid, as to produce *apthæ*, with considerable inflammation.

The fever intermitted, and was attended with pains in all his joints. In such a situation he ventured to take this journey, for the relief of three miserable patients who ardently desired his assistance.

From this account, it was not difficult to characterise his disorder. The dissolution of his blood, and his *muriatic* constitution made it evident, even at the first glance: the atrophy of his body denoted a dryness of the solids, which his manner of living had occasioned. It was therefore necessary to restore to the blood and other fluids their serosity, and the moisture requisite for uniting their particles, by dissolving the salts with which they were overloaded. It was at the same time necessary to supple the solids, to render them less sensible to the sharp and corrosive particles of the fluids, which in their circulation, considerably irritating the coats of the vessels, produced obstruction and inflammation.

Antiscorbutic remedies would infallibly have irritated the solids, as the patient had already unhappily experienced (a). It was therefore necessary to have recourse to other specifics of a different nature. Balsamics, milk-diet, moistners and diluters, perfectly answered every indication.

Our patient being soon sensible of his mistake, immediately quitted his regimen, for one more mild and salutary. Wine, *liqueurs* and coffee were immediately prohibited. His diet was so simple, that his *bouillon* was made of lamb, mutton, or pullet without salt. He adhered to this regimen for a whole year without being disgusted. Asses milk was his principal remedy. He afterwards took several *bouillons* of pullet, and used the domestic bath: by these means he recovered perfectly his former health.

We must not here omit an essential circumstance in the treatment of this disease, which evidently denoted a complicated cause, I mean the extreme dryness and sensibility of the nervous system which prevailed over the

(a) M. Raulin confessed, that with regard to scorbutic women, he had observed, that antiscorbutic remedies gave them no relief, when this disease was attended with hysterics. *Vide le traité des vapeurs*, p. 262.

scorbutic *diathesis*. Having observed for three months this strict regimen, and taken the asses milk, the patient flattered himself that he should quickly accomplish a radical cure, and indeed his recovery was not very doubtful, as all the scorbutic symptoms were totally removed. The fluids had consequently resumed their natural consistence and their balsamic vehicle; but the nervous system still retained its spasmodic tension. He should have continued the same course without intermission, or at most, should have desisted only for a while, and then have returned to the same remedies; but should never have substituted those of an opposite nature.

Our patient, though a skilful and experienced surgeon, was not however sufficiently acquainted with the cure of internal diseases; he therefore took, of his own accord, a slight purgative, supposing it indispensable, after having taken the asses milk for three months, and in order to prepare for the bath which I had prescribed. This purgative, consisting only of three ounces of manna, operated so well, that his stools were numerous and abundant, and irritated the *hemorrhoidal* vessels to such a degree, as to produce smart pain; a fever ensued the next day, and the  
scorbutic

scorbutic symptoms returned with the same violence as before (a). It was to no purpose to complain, he was obliged to resume his course; chicken-water removed the disorder, and the domestic bath completed his cure.

I could mention many more examples of the dangerous effects of purgatives: but in the treatment of spasmodic diseases whether simple or complicated, this error is so common, that we may be permitted without partiality to call it general. Does not the various prescriptions of the different physicians of reputation throughout this kingdom consist of emollient remedies, joined with purgatives of every kind (b)? The abuse is fatal. I wish I may succeed in my endeavours to overcome it. This can be done only by publishing the dangerous effects of remedies so opposite in their action, and therefore always contrary to the principal indications of

(a) If three ounces of manna in a scorbutic habit produced this effect, we may judge of the virtues of the anti-scorbutic wine of *M. Moret* (\*), and of his resolvent pills, so long considered as specifics for this disease, without attending to the complication.

(b) *Voyage le recueil des consultations de Montpellier*. 4 vols.

\* *Vide*, the fifth Edition of the Pharmacopœia of Paris 1753, in which is inserted, p. 23, *une manipulation de ce vin*, which is nearly the same of *M. Moret's* medicine.

the disease. I could name several eminent physicians who are perfectly acquainted with this abuse, and who so far from authorising it by their silence, take pains to expose it. Happy for those who, thus circumstanced, are not ashamed to submit to the decisions of a subaltern physician, and as unlucky for those who implicitly worship a divinity.

M. le Marquis de Castillon, whom I have already mentioned, was of this number. I am withheld both by prudence and respect from mentioning others; I desire only that my moderation may teach these extravagant prescribers to be more reasonable, so as not to oblige us to curtail their prescriptions of the irritating remedies they order, when there is nothing more required than to supple the solids: they would think it extraordinary for us to use relaxing medicines where tonics were required.

Many vaporous patients for this reason are pronounced incurable. Why should we be surpris'd at this? What can result from such a mixture of contradictory remedies, but opposite effects, continual vicissitudes, and in short, to the shame of our art, incurability? Shall we, after this, accuse the absurdity  
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of the disease and its caprice: we may, if we please, call it the opprobrium of physicians (a) the reproach is not just; we have nothing to accuse but our own insufficiency.

(a) *Non minus hysterica in fœminis, quam hypocondriaca in viris, passio medicorum flagellum est.* Mr. Fitzgerald thus expresses himself in his treatise on the diseases of women, in his chapter of the hysterical passion, tom. 1.

## C H A P. XXVII.

*Leucophlegmatia complicated.*

UNDER the title of *Leucophlegmatia*, we comprehend every species of dropfy to which the vaporous constitution is exposed; or, to speak more properly, we comprehend every part of the body where these *stases* and effusions of the different fluids can take place. The density of the blood, so well known to the great Boerhaave, and to all our modern pathologists, together with the contraction of the vessels, will produce this disorder, in consequence of the superabundance of the fluids and their stagnation.

In fact, blood of this constitution will constantly reject the fluid and serous particles, and not mixing with them, the circulation is of course disturbed. The serosity becomes then superfluous, and being repulsed by the rigidity and dryness of the solids, forms obstructions in the lymphatic vessels, forces through them, and lodges in  
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the cavities of the body, after having inundated the entire superficies. Thus becoming extraneous, it will form real dropsies, which every physician will be careful to distinguish, if he would avoid the errors of a practice hitherto not illustrated by theory. Purgatives will be always doubtful in their effects, not to say fatal. Powerful diuretics are also too impetuous, and far from opening a passage to the extravasated fluids, they will mix with them, and thereby increase their volume.

We should therefore be particularly attentive to keep a just medium between these two remedies. The most simple diuretics, sometimes associated with diluting and aqueous liquor, will answer every intention: they will operate on the density of the blood, will separate its globules, and open a passage for the return of the extravasated fluids. They will also relax the solids, and by deobstruating the minuter capillary vessels, facilitate the distribution of the fluids, and promote their evacuation. Those which are too gross to penetrate to the extremities of the excretory vessels, remain behind, and are reserved for

the operation of purgatives; we prefer the mildest and most simple, and also to prevent the irritation and mischief which they generally produce, we obtund their *spiculi* by diluting them in some proper vehicle.

This theory, however extraordinary it appears, and though so contradictory to that of most of our modern physicians, is nevertheless firmly established by the effect of remedies, so totally opposite to those which have been in all ages so much extolled. The practical cases hereafter related are better evidences in favour of this system, as they are well known to every physician of this province, and to every inhabitant of our climate.

Madlle \* C\*, thirty two years old, and subject to the vapours, was, in the violent heat of summer, attacked by a continued fever, which after fatiguing the patient for twenty days, was at last removed by the common methods. This was succeeded by a swelling of her legs and arms, which made such rapid progress, that, in a short time, it became universal: her legs and thighs were prodigiously inflated, her face became monstrous, and the impression of the finger immediately disappeared, (by  
which

which this species of *leucophlegmatia* is characterised, as it distinguishes it from that which principally proceeds from the viscosity of the fluids.) The strongest purgatives had produced no alteration in her situation, when my father and I were consulted.

The blood and other fluids were so much impoverished by the preceding fever, that the nerves and the extremities of the excretory vessels were become cornuous. This was confirmed to us by a slight spitting of blood and hysterical agitations. Purgatives and diuretics were consequently prohibited, but whey, supplying their place, perfectly answered our expectation. The urine, hitherto suppressed for want of moisture, soon began to flow, and this remedy alone, which the patient took for three months, entirely removed the swelling. Asses milk, by restoring to the blood its vehicle, and to the nerves the mucilage by which they are lubricated, completed her cure.

This rigidity of the solids, which is alone sufficient to obstruct the circulation of the fluids, and this density of the blood, refusing to mix with the lymphatic and serous juices, and thence producing their separation

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tion and stagnation on the surface of the body, will be more fully demonstrated by the following case.

A young man, an inhabitant of this town, of a thin, dry, and very atrabilarious constitution, was in the month of July 1761, attacked by an intermitting fever, which, for a long while, baffled the power of medicine, and at last terminated in a swelling of the extremities. The most powerful moistners and febrifuge remedies produced in their turn, whatever effects were attributed to them by the patient: the one he fancied prodigiously heating, and the other beyond description cooling; hence the fever became habitual.

A difficulty of making water was added to the other symptoms of this disease; it was attended with pain and irritation, according to the quantity of urine in the bladder. Old carnosities in the *wrethra*, and a constant discharge of mucus with the urine, were two invincible obstacles, which seemed to threaten a repulsion of urine into the mass of blood. This complicated disease joined to a hypochondriac *diathesis*, formed upon the whole a disorder

disorder, which was the more difficult to manage, on account of the patient's obstinate indocility.

In this perplexity he went to Montpellier. The physician to whom he applied, pronounced *the patient to be in great danger, having discovered that he had a hectic fever, cachectic blood, the stone, and the venereal disease.* The remedies which he prescribed were chicken and cray-fish broth, some slight apozems, diuretic, whey, and then asses milk, after the swellings had fallen: the whole assisted by some mild purgatives, with this restriction, that if they produced too violent irritation, the dose was to be diminished. A few days after the patient returned from Montpellier, cured of his swellings and fever; that is to say, the carriage alone produced this alteration. He then began with the remedies prescribed, which were assisted in their effect by the preceding journey. He lived in the country, travelled about, and by this means was entirely cured of his complaint.

If in this case the effect of exercise be evident, the same effect more evidently develops the real cause of the disease in question; for, by stimulating the indolent solids,

lids, and accelerating the motion of the fluids, it reanimated the circulation of those which were obstructed at the extremities of the body, and which occasioned the inflations above-mentioned. The fever with which they were attended, was, in some degree, owing to the reflux of a part of the extravasated fluids, and to the obstruction of the capillary vessels: this produced invincible obstacles in the circulation of the blood, excited greater and more frequent contractions in the heart and arteries, which necessarily occasioned this quick and feverish pulse. These symptoms proceeding from the same cause, yielded to a very powerful, though in such cases, not a very common remedy: I mean exercise on horseback or in a carriage. With reason therefore, we declaim against hot diuretics; we also condemn all cathartics, as being directly opposite in their operation to the remedies we recommend.

Though the rigidity of the solids, and the density of the blood may produce this vaporous complication, we have nevertheless great reason to suppose, that the extreme rarefaction of the air, contained in the mass of fluids, is an additional cause, and that



by its elasticity, it distends and forces the lymphatics, and thus mixes with the extravasated humours. Hence proceed a real *emphysema*, or rather complicated inflations, which we will call *emphysematic*. The pains which are inseparable from it, and the fever by which it is frequently accompanied, are evident proofs of this. Hence we are convinced of the existence of the different causes I have mentioned, and of the necessity of the remedies I prescribe.

If, after all, these extravasations be so considerable, that the cavities, (I mean the breast and *abdomen*) are inundated, a confirmed dropy is the consequence. Are we then to evacuate by the inferior emunctories? I confess, that in such cases it is requisite to evacuate, and consequently that we should have recourse to stimulating remedies, which acting on the coats of the intestines, attract a part of the superfluous *serum*, and thereby diminish the volume of that which is lodged in one of these cavities.

But in this extremity, ought we to neglect the dryness of the solids, which are sometimes even cornuated to such a degree,

as to excite continual contractions? This neglect were a manifest contradiction between the remote cause of the disease, and the effect of the only efficacious remedy. Where then can be the urgent necessity for a physician to prescribe a remedy so opposite to the curative indication? Is this owing to the insufficiency of the medical art, or to the ignorance of those by whom it is practised? The surgeon offers us his assistance. Why do we despise it? It is, I must confess, insufficient, not to say destructive. By this means we relieve the oppressed *viscera*, and remove the most dangerous symptoms. By thus prolonging the life of the patient, we leave nature at liberty to exert herself in the preservation of an individual, by assisting the operation of salutary remedies; we mean those which attack the first cause of the disease, and consequently prevent the ravages which it generally produces, as often as it is either misunderstood, or in the least neglected (a),

(a) We have seen M<sup>me</sup> Garcin of Lyons, become typhanic, by the effect of one hundred and thirty-three medicines, to which were opposed tepid baths, chicken-ptisan, whey, and other moistners with success: becoming afterwards dropical, she was cured by tapping.

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Such cures are, it is true, very rare; but these diseases would be less frequent if timely impeded in their progress, by proper remedies. In the commencement of the disease, when nature first begins to err, the physician is consulted in order to lead her back to the right path. Now it is very certain that the first symptoms of a disease are easily vanquished; but when many of these symptoms are accumulated, they are oftentimes invincible: *Principiis obsta*, says our oracle. The indolence of physicians was the same in all ages, he meant to rouse their attention. Why should we cease to respect the precept and its author?

Though the difficulty of curing any disease be always in proportion to the intensity of the symptoms by which it is characterised, this difficulty may nevertheless be overcome, if constantly attacked by salutary remedies; I mean remedies univocal in their operation, and always opposite to the cause by which the disease was produced. Thus, for example, the extravasation of the *serum*, which forms the *ascites*, and dropsy in the breast, becomes less difficult to cure, if we always keep in mind the cause by which it is produced. In these extravasations, the physician should particularly

cularly attend to the disease of the solids; he will always, by relaxing the vessels, find those effects which he vainly sought to procure by the evacuation of the redundant humours. The fortunate termination of an incipient dropfy of the breast will afford us more instruction than the most rational theory.

M. Begue, a counsellor, my particular friend and adviser, of a pensive disposition, and seventy years of age, was surpris'd by the sudden death of a relation, who, whilst they were walking together, was seiz'd with an apoplexy. As he had a great friendship for this relation, he was so extremely affected by his death, that he immediately became hypochondriacal. A continued inquietude had harrass'd his troubled mind and body for several days, when I oblig'd him to quit the town. We vainly attempted to divert his mind from this fatal stroke; he grew daily worse and worse; his respiration became difficult and embarrassed, threatening suffocation. I hasten'd to him with all possible expedition, and the same day, brought him from the country, apprehensive that I should see him strangl'd, without having it in my power to give him any assistance.

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The carriage in some degree alleviated these symptoms, as the jolting for some time calmed the hurry of his spirits; but this calm was of short duration, the suffocation returned with such additional violence, that we were obliged to bleed him, and to repeat the operation, but without effect. His feet soon began to swell, and made such considerable progress, that it threatened an approaching extravasation in his breast, which the puffing of his hands confirmed. The suffocation was then so violent, that it was impossible for the patient to lie in bed even for a moment; but it was still so much more violent at times, that we dreaded every instant to see him expire.

Such a situation required immediate and powerful assistance. The *paracentesis* was the only remedy that could operate with success, if the extravasation had been sufficiently characterised to indicate which of the two cavities of the breast was affected; but no sign appeared to authorise this operation. The patient was equally affected on whichever side he reclined either his head or his body, and could not breathe but with his head stooping forward, and supported on his arms. What was to be done in such an extremity?

Surgery being in this case entirely useless, it was necessary to have recourse to other assistance, to endeavour to calm the symptoms of a disease which appeared so difficult to overcome. Our indications were doubtless, to divert the humours which threatened the breast to the common emunctories. We preferred evacuation by urine, and expectoration. Clarified whey, sharpened with twenty millipedes bruised alive, was administered with some appearance of success, and to promote his natural expectoration, the juice of borage and agrimony, sweetened with syrup of ground-ivy was administered: an attenuating linctus was also prescribed to be taken *ad libitum*.

But a febrile tendency, dry skin, and burning heat, of which the patient constantly complained, convinced me that these remedies were still too powerful. The millipedes were omitted, and instead of the syrup of ground-ivy, was substituted the syrup *de nimphea*. The discharge of urine became more abundant, and the febrile heat more moderate. These remedies were continued with the addition of a ptisan, slightly diuretic, made of dog-grass and nitre. The dose was increased, as the patient's deglutition

tion grew every day better in proportion to the freedom of his respiration. The discharge of urine was still more abundant, and in about three weeks, the inflation and suffocation entirely disappeared. A *diarrhœa* succeeded, and this evacuation was also very copious. The asses milk, preceded by a slight *minorative*, completed his cure.

This method of treating dropsies will doubtless appear, at the first glance, not only insufficient, but also, in many cases, dangerous and destructive. As to its insufficiency, I dare affirm, that it never will be so, whenever the dropsy proceeds from the cause in question; for, if we are consulted time enough to remove the disease of the solids, we may be certain of overcoming the dropsy. This disease, in the present case, consists in the extreme tension of the nerves, and in the crisperure of the capillary vessels, which not affording a free passage to the *serum*, force it back into the circulation, from whence being repulsed, it is diffused into one of the cavities of the body. In the present case, this extreme tension of the nerves, however natural it might have been to the patient, was considerably encreased by the effect of a sudden fright, which in an in-

stant affecting the whole body, repelled the humours upon the interior parts. These humours thus repulsed from the capillary vessels and thrown back upon the breast, caused obstructions in the *pleura*, and in the vessels of the lungs; and would very soon have occasioned a local extravasation in one of the cavities of the breast, if it had not been immediately evacuated by the inferior emunctories.

*Cathartics* would most undoubtedly have irritated the vessels, and would thereby have increased the spasmodic tension. Warm diuretics would have acted in the same manner, (as we are assured by the effect of the millipedes only) it was therefore necessary to correct the orgasme of the fluids; by thus diminishing their rarefaction, and consequently their volume, we were confident that we should relax the coats of the capillary vessels, and consequently remove the first cause. The circulation by this means becoming more free, the separation of the humours was performed by the emunctories to which they were attracted: a copious beverage of whey, and a diuretic ptisan produced this effect. Thus the blood discharged its superfluous *serum*: the stagnated humours jointly returned  
into



into the circulation, by the elasticity of the vessels, and thus contributed to the patient's cure. That this practice may be ineffectual, and in some circumstances improper, I confess; but at the same time, there is no reason why it should not be adopted by such as are capable of distinguishing the cases proper for its administration.

## C H A P. XXVIII.

*Spasmodic complicated Tympanites.*

**H**YPOCRATES has affirmed, that obstinate pains in the *abdomen* are generally succeeded by a tympanites: *Quibus tormina & circa umbilicum dolores, & lumborum dolor, qui neque à medicamento neque aliás solvitur, in hydropem siccum firmatur* (a).

In effect, after intense pains and excessive spasms of the intestines and mesentery, these *viscera* acquire a hectic disposition, to which this great father of physic very rationally attributed the *tympanites*.

This disease, if not speedily cured, does not long exist alone; an *ascites* soon follows: *Dolor colicus*, says Lomius, *sæpe transit in hydropem*. The exhalant vessels of the *peritoneum* and of the *viscera*, continue to filter too much *serum* into the cavity of the *abdomen*, whilst the absorbents being always the first obstructed, because they are the first cornuated and obliterated, take up but a very small quantity: they lose their elasticity, and cannot without difficulty convey the lymph they absorb; hence this *ascites* which succeeds is incurable.

It

(a) Hip. Aphor. xi. sect. iv.

It is not therefore in the last stage of this disease that we should administer remedies, they would be then ineffectual; but at the beginning, when the pains of the *abdomen* announce a dangerous and very frequently, a mortal disease. These pains are produced by the violent irritations of the intestines, caused by the acrimony of the fluids. This acrimony acting on the vessels and on the nerves, which are too tense, produces these spasms, and this rarefaction of the contained air; and consequently this tension and inflation by which the spasmodic *tympanites* is characterised; I mean that which is originally produced by the cornuosity of the membranes and of the vessels, and which, on this account, is inseparable from a vaporous constitution.

To remedy this evil, our sole indication is, to relax the nervous system, to moderate the rarefaction of the fluids, and of the air contained in the intestinal canal, and sometimes in the cavity of the abdomen. By these means we may expect to remedy this cruel disease in the beginning, and by thus endeavouring to stop its progress, we are sometimes fortunate enough to destroy it radically. My practical observations on this subject, and those of

many illustrious physicians before my time, authorise this treatment.

M. le Chevalier de Faucon Beauchamp, brigadier of the king's forces, seventy years of age, of a very atrabilarious constitution, was attacked with sudden pains in the intestines and kidneys, which, in a little time, brought on an inflammation. The dryness of the mouth, and the flatulence accompanying this system, consequently characterised an incipient *tympanites*. A disease which began with so much violence, might have been attended with fatal consequences, if the remedies first prescribed had not immediately produced a calm. Chicken-water and emolient fomentation were administered with such instantaneous success, that there remained no apprehension of a return. The cure was completed by asses-milk.

By this account we may observe, that an incipient *tympanites* may be easily cured, when the real cause by which it was produced is attacked; on the contrary, when either neglected or irritated, it will for a long time resist the most applicable remedies. As for example.

M<sup>lle</sup>. Galoutaire, sixty years of age, and hypochondriac, was, in the year 1763, attacked

tacked with a quartan ague. She was cured by a quack-doctor, who gave her some hydragogue purgatives, and a great quantity of febrifuge pills. Some time afterwards, her belly grew tense, and considerably swelled, it became painful, and a confirmed *tympanites* ensued. Cold fomentations, chicken-ptisan, ice-water, whey, oily clysters, considerably mitigated the symptoms. A bilious *diarrhœa* ensued, attended with wind, and relieved the patient. The swelling abated, and the pain vanished. Two ounces of manna dissolved in a glass of whey, seemed to be indicated; but the intestines, still too irritable, could not bear it; the pains returned, and the belly became again inflated and tense. I had recourse immediately to our former remedies, which again gave relief; and the cure was completed by drinking asses-milk.

M. Combaluzier, has not in his treatise on flatulent diseases, omitted (a) this species of *tympanites*. This skilful author has so faithfully painted the disease, that nothing can be added to the picture he has drawn. He prescribes the same remedies which I administer. Attentive only to the spasms by which

(a) *Voyez le traite des maladies vent, par M. Combaluzier, tom. 2. p. 20.*

the intestines are affected, and the rarefaction of the air therein contained, he has recourse to domestic bathing, cooling clysters, cold water, fomentations, lemonade, whey, chicken-ptisan, asses-milk, and in short, to all the remedies capable of restraining the impetuosity of the humours, and at the same time, of moistening the solids. In like manner he treats and cures the flatulent cholics generally preceding, and always continuing to the end of this disease.

To give more weight to his system, he supports it on the authority of the most respectable authors of antiquity, from whom he took his practice. He relates, from Hypocrates (b), that a woman who was otherwise fat and in good health, was in consequence of a bolus, which she took to make her miscarry, seized with a violent cholic, swelling of the belly, and other symptoms. She fainted away so entirely five several times, that she appeared to be dead. Hypocrates had thirty pitchers of cold water thrown on her, and this remedy alone relieved the patient. She immediately parted with a great quantity of bile, and recovered her usual health. When in pain she parted with no bile.

He

(b) Hip. lib. V. de morb. pop. observ. 18.

He adds to the testimony of Hypocrates, that of *Zacutus Lusitanus*, who made his patients drink a great quantity of ice-water, and confined them to a cold regimen. He quotes many examples related by *Avicenna* and *Amatus*. He relates from John Colbatch, physician at London, the story of a *tympanitic* girl, who was cured by bathing in the sea, and he concludes with the case of a *tympanitic* woman, who was cured by the internal and external use of ice-water, from M. Raft, physician at Lyons. The circumstances attending this miraculous cure deserve to be related, as they not only publish the efficacy of one remedy, but also the pernicious effects of those, which in their operation are diametrically opposite.

The widow Triquet, after a lying-in having had very little discharge, was suddenly seized with a putrid fever, which was attended with *tympanitic* swelling, and with all the various symptoms which denote a spasmodic *tympanites*. Her disease was not of a nature to be cured, either by oleaginous or carminative remedies. M. Raft imagined, that in this case it was necessary to condense by cold, the air that was too much rarefied by heat. This he intended to effect, by the application

plication of ice-water; but he durst not venture the experiment without consulting another physician. This physician consented to the administration of this remedy, but, at the same time, advised, on account of the patient's weakness, some spirituous cordials; this was accordingly complied with. The patient parted with some wind, and by degrees the swelling of the belly was reduced. The administration of these two opposite remedies was still continued; but the belly became more inflated, and the patient suffered very violent pain. Dr. Raft very rationally attributed these bad effects to the cordials, and accordingly substituted plentiful draughts of ice-water. The patient drank it greedily, and with great pleasure; it was also externally applied: the swelling diminished, and at last totally disappeared (a).

Though this *tympanites* is sometimes produced by the relaxation of the fibres of the intestinal canal, we must allow that it seldom proceeds originally from this cause; it is almost always the effect of the extreme tension of the fibres, which, after violent distension, produces this general relaxation, and in this case the most applicable remedies prove inef-

(a) Voyez M. Combaluzier, tom. 2. p. 220.

fectual.



fectual. Why then such a profusion of carminatives and other heating medicines? The pain commonly preceding the tympanitic dropfy, and which always continues to the last, is no sign of weakness in the parts affected. M. Combaluzier has prevented this reproach. If he abounds in formulæ, and in remedies of every kind, it is doubtless that he may have the satisfaction of telling us: *Plura hic habes, ut pauca feligas* (a). A most authentic proof of his genius and discernment!

(a) Voyez le Preface du Traducteur, p. 50.

## C H A P. XXIX.

*Complicated Chlorosis.*

**T**HE green sickness, or *chlorosis*, a very common disease in Europe, has been always considered as a symptom of the suppression of the *menfes*, and may very easily be complicated with the hysterical disorder, as the cornuosity of the uterine vessels, as well sanguinary as lymphatic, is sufficient to suppress the menstrual discharge. All physicians will agree, that one of the causes of this suppression is a convulsed state of the nerves of the *uterus*: we therefore suppose that the *chlorosis* may proceed from the same cause, as this second disease is always the effect of the first, *viz.* suppression.

This cause once established, it will be very easy to deduce the symptoms: the reflux of the uterine lymph, and of the menstrual fluid, have already furnished Mr. Astruc with an infinity of examples and arguments, upon which he supports his system.

tem (a). But what is the proper treatment for this disease when complicated with the vapours? M. Astruc has only delineated the disease; we are therefore permitted to add our prescription.

To avoid mistakes in the distinction of this complication, we will characterise it by all the hysterical symptoms of whatever denomination, and however trifling; tension of the hypochondres; painful swelling of the stomach and *colon*; pains in the *uterus*, which denotes a state of tension and *phlogosis*, and which extend as far as the kidneys, the groin, and the thighs; vomiting, limpid urine, &c. All which symptoms assure us that this suppression and *chlorosis* proceed from the spasmodic tension of the nerves.

In this case we vainly attempt to deobstruate the uterine vessels, and those of the other *viscera* of the *abdomen*, which are only secondarily affected. The rigidity of the nerves which produced the first disease, will always prevent the operation of aperitive remedies; the *crispations* will encrease; the obstructions becoming thereby more compact, will grow more obstinate, and capable of

(a) *Voyez le traité des maladies des femmes, par M. Astruc.*  
producing

producing greater ravages, by forming the most unfurmountable obstacles in the circulation of the fluids.

This is a general error, encouraged by the ignorance of the vulgar, and favoured by the avarice of the artist. What innumerable boasted remedies, and under such variety of forms ! Electuaries, extracts, powders, elixirs, medicinal wines, and others of the same nature, are as powerful poisons in the hands of a quack, who administers them in diseases of which he knows not the cause, as they are salutary when properly applied.

Pharmaceutic remedies may be useful in those diseases where the embarrassment of the *viscera* is produced by any defect except the hysterical complication. In this case all is tension, crispation, spasm; and if from the complications of different diseases we find other vices to overcome, they should always be disregarded till we have vanquished the first cause.

For this reason, though the disease be at its utmost height, and however contradictory the symptoms may appear, as the swelling of the feet, bloated and pale countenance, want of appetite, &c. We affirm from experience, that these several symptoms deserve no attention

tention when combined with the hysterical affection, and that this, on the contrary, requires the most instantaneous relief. Diluters and moistners should therefore precede every other remedy; nor can we previously administer any other specific without danger of bad consequences. The purgatives and aperitives will then operate with so much the more efficacy, as the nerves and vessels becoming less sensible to the impressions of the active particles of these remedies, will contract with less difficulty, and without much exertion. By this means we are certain, that the evacuations are neither insufficient nor immoderate, as they are restrained by the action of the solids.

Is it necessary to give examples applicable to the practical ideas which I propose? Or shall I rather produce instances of the contrary? In either case, the art of medicine would not be found insufficient. Let it suffice, that I rouse the attention of physicians to distinguish these two complicated diseases.

## C H A P. XXX.

*Complicated Fluor Albus.*

**B**Y considering the *fluor albus* as a symptom of the hysterical affection, we suppose the proximate or immediate cause of this disease to be a disorder of the fluids which circulate in the *uterus*, and of the solids, of which the texture of this *viscus* is composed. The extreme acrimony of the lymph and of the *serum* necessarily produces embarrassment in their vessels, which being obstructed, swell and finally burst; hence the extravasation of the *serum*, afterwards of the lymph, and sometimes even of the red globules, according to the acrimony imbibed by the fluids, from the effect of the remote causes which have produced their disease.

Besides, the obliteration of a number of the minuter vessels of the *uterus*, is alone sufficient to produce great obstacles in the distribution of the fluids, and will create a *plethora* the more considerable, as the number

ber:

ber of the obliterated vessels will daily encrease; hence we may deduce two causes, which acting reciprocally, produce the same disease, equally requiring our attention, and which should be attacked with the same remedies.

The indications in this complication of diseases, are to correct the acrimony of the uterine lymph, and at the same time to open the obliterated capillary tubes, in order to restore the circulation in the uterus. Attenuating, moistening, balsamic and cooling remedies, will sufficiently answer our purpose; for by dissolving the salt with which the lymph is overcharged, they will also correct its acrimony, and will restore its balsamic quality, of which it was totally deprived. The vessels being less irritated, easily yield to the mild efforts of a more moderate circulation; hence the natural function of the diseased viscera will be restored.

By what I have just said, it is easy to conceive that aperitive, cathartic, and styptic remedies can be of no use in such cases; or to speak more properly, should we not rather acknowledge that they would be

pernicious? The one will crisp the vessels, and thus encrease the number of those which are obliterated or obstructed, and the other will divide the lymphatic fluids still more. Their tenuity and acrimony thus becoming daily greater, they will escape much more easily by the extremities of the vessels, and will corrode their texture: hence the discharge is rather promoted than suspended, the infallible consequence of which must be a total destruction of the blood and other fluids.

To remedy effectually the dangerous consequences of the medicines which are daily administered in this disease, we should prescribe a nourishing diet on account of the duration of the disorder, but such as will cool, moisten, and obtund the acrimony.

The patient should take only moderate exercise, and should live upon lamb, veal, and young pullets. She should at the same time take farinacious nourishment, such as rice, barley, or oat-meal gruel, pearl-barley, vermicelli and sago: she may sometimes add fish or snail-broth, in order to sweeten and more effectually incrassate the blood.

Her common drink should be, for some time, chicken-water, made with a chicken  
about



about the size of a quail, or a little rice or *althæa* root. Cooling clysters should be administered; but if these be insufficient to evacuate the crudities that may be lodged in the *primæ viæ*, they must be assisted by the following mild cathartic, composed of

Recent pulp of casia, compound syrup of chicory, of each one ounce, dissolved in eight ounces of common water, made into a draught.

The patient having been thus purged, the following broth must be taken during twenty days, or more if necessary, according to the degree of dryness and acrimony.

Take of *althæa*-root, *grande coufoude*, each half an ounce; of lettuce leaves and purslain, each half a handful; lintseed half a drachm: boil these *secundum artem*, together with a young pullet stuffed with the four greater cold seeds, so as to make broth.

Having finished this course of broth, abstain from cathartics; they are not only superfluous, but dangerous, and contrary

to our intention, as they counteract the mild effects of the emollient remedies. Milk should be immediately begun with, diluted with barley-water; or asses-milk, without the addition of any absorbent or stomachic electuary, which would produce effects contrary to the operations of the remedies indicated.

Injections of the decoction of mallows, barley-water, clarified whey, may also be advised, together with the domestic bath. Acidulous mineral waters are equally proper during the summer, to mitigate the rarefaction of the fluids, correct their acrimony, and to relax the crisped solids. These medicines should be varied, according to the case and season; and if necessary, clarified and distilled whey, broth made of frogs, &c. may be substituted. These different remedies thus varied, must be continued till the patient is radically cured.

By these means, two very considerable persons have been cured; one of whom was so much incommoded, that the *fluor albus*, which she had had for several years, had contracted such a degree of acrimony, that the adjacent parts were thereby ex-

coriated,

coriated. Were it proper, I could instance many others, who, from their manner of life, had been many years afflicted with this disease, owing to their obstinacy in not chusing to submit to a regimen which would deprive them of certain indulgencies; particularly of alkalescent drinks.

## C H A P. XXXI.

*Complicated immoderate Hemorrhage.*

UTERINE hemorrhages proceeding from an hysterical cause, deserve our particular attention, lest we administer improper remedies. The characteristics of this species of hemorrhage are, according to Hoffman; *Tensio & inflatio hypochondriorum circa lumbos, dolor gravativus & pressorius, quandoque cum sensu refrigerii junctus, extremarum partium refrigeratio, vasorum detumescencia, color faciei pallidus, pulsus citator, cum interiorum ardore, alvi strictura, urine parcius fluxus.* Hæc omnia autem satis abundeque testantur, non a causa solum passiva, id est nimia debilitate uteri, sed ab activa etiam, spasmodicis partium vasculorum & nervorum stricturis sanguinem ad uterum nimium urgentibus, hoc vitium proficisci. Unde etiam ratio repetenda, quod femine hypochondriacæ hystericæ, & quæ tenerioris sunt ad animi commotiones proclivioris nature, hoc molesto malo frequentius afficiantur (a).

(a) Hoffman, de uteri Hemorrhagia, sect. i. cap. 5. p. 225. tom. 2.

This species of hemorrhage proceeds neither from the relaxation of the uterine vessels, nor from the extreme fluidity of the blood. Such a constitution can never produce the symptoms related by the above-mentioned author. On the contrary, they certainly proceed from the spasm of the uterine vessels, and from the rarefaction of a too dry and acrimonious blood; therefore our remedies should be such as are capable of relaxing these vessels, whose state of contraction must necessarily increase the *plethora*; they will extend the diameter of the vessels, and at the same time, will mitigate the rarefaction of the fluids therein circulated; and by this double effect, the circulation becoming more moderate, the distribution of the blood in every part of the body will become more equal.

The remedies administered by this author, are adequate to his idea of the disease, and their effects are attested by the cases which he reports. He always prefers moistners, diluters, and coolers, to every other assistance, *viz.* *Quando nimis ebullientis sanguinis orgasmus fovet & auget hoc malum, ob motum intestinum partium sulphurearum concitatioem, diluentia, humectantia, refri-*

298 *Complicated immoderate Hemorrhage.*

*refrigerantia auxilia sunt efficacissima; atque inter hæc excellit quam maxime sola aqua frigida fontana, modo sit pura & subtilis, aut que melior adhuc, pluvialis probè conservata & putridinis expers, vel admixta nitri decenti quantitate alterata, vel cum spiritu vitrioli & sufficienti copia pota.*

He very rationally supposes, that by this treatment, simple as it really is, the extreme thickness of the fluid is attenuated, their acrimony softened, the heat abated, the tone of the fibres restored, and the disease in question more expeditiously and more effectually cured, than by the administration of the most vaunted specifics. *Etenim simplex hæc medicina, & diluendo spissos humores, & acres temperando, nimiumque æstum restringuendo, fibras quoque relaxatas fermando, plus certe præstat quam tantopere a medicis alia varii generis ad hoc malum laudata specifica, &c. (a)*

We should understand by the relaxation of the fibres, so contradictory to the spasm we mention, the fibres of the *uterus*, which after violent distension, are torn and relaxed by the impetuosity of the blood,

(a) *Ibidem*, p. 226.

On these fibres moistners will operate; and by rendering them supple, will restore them to their former elasticity. Tonics and astringents, though they seem to be indicated, will always render the extremities of the vessels more crisp, and will produce irritations the more dangerous, as they will ulcerate the parts affected. Thus we frequently see these kind of hemorrhages produce ulcers in the womb, which are caused not only by the quality of the blood, as by the pernicious effects of improper remedies.

After this exposition, in which we find a concise and clear explication of the natural mechanism, by which these menstrual irregularities are produced, it appears to us not very difficult to remedy this disease; for by correcting the orgasme of the fluids, and by relaxing the spasm of the *uterus*, we are very certain that we shall re-establish the natural functions of this *viscus*. This project, seemingly so vast, as it comprehends the greatest part of the diseases of the female sex, is the more particularly interesting to physicians, since it elucidates a matter which has been hitherto the subject of their fruitless enquiries.

To

To avoid contradiction, we reject all system; let us therefore only attend to Nature, who is always most eloquent when most oppressed. The rigidity of the springs, which compose the machine requires assistance; let us therefore be as expeditious as possible in relaxing these organs; by this means we shall open the obstructed canals, and thus by restoring the circulation of all the fluids, we re-establish the functions of the *viscus* affected.

M<sup>me</sup> \* F\*, forty years of age, of a hot and dry constitution, had been afflicted for two years with an immoderate flow of the menses. Her physician attributed this disorder to the approaching cessation of the discharge, and therefore prescribed no remedy. But the hysterical symptoms which ensued, the inflations of the intestines, and smart pains in her thighs and kidneys, required some relief. She was ordered some cooling broths, which a little calmed the disease, and afterward her physician thought it necessary to give a slight cathartic.

The irritation produced by this remedy, so greatly counteracted the physicians intentions, that the first symptoms of the disease returned



returned with additional violence. The hemorrhage became more abundant, the pains revived, and an universal *herpes* broke out. Chicken-water soon abated these symptoms; but the hemorrhage still continued. The tepid bath was thought necessary, and the patient used it for three months, at the end of which she was perfectly cured.

A surgeon's wife of this town, of the same age and constitution, had been for three years afflicted with the same complaint, and was also relieved by the same remedies. Restored to better health, she neglected her regimen: by taking two dishes of coffee after a repast, a fever ensued, and the hemorrhage returned.

These two cases perfectly characterise the cause which I have above assigned; but the effect of the contrary remedies which both the patients experienced, convinces us how dangerous it is to mistake.

The bath which seems at present to be the only certain specific for this formidable complaint, should not by its apparent contradiction, discourage the physician. The cautious never administer this remedy, but in the intervals of the *hemorrhage*, and by  
this

this means they gradually retard its return; whilst others, more resolute, though not rash, disregard every consideration, the sooner to accomplish their end. To conform nevertheless to the laws of Nature, it would be prudent to decline the bath for some days, during the time of menstruation.

We do not limit this remedy to the cure of immoderate *hemorrhages* only; those which immediately succeed natural labour, if too copious, require the same treatment, being produced by the same cause. This cause is common to all women subject to hysterics; for the natural tension of their fibres, increased by the different irritations of the nervous system at the time of labour, produce violent spasms and contractions, which operate unequally on the fluids, press them on all sides, and force them into those vessels where they find the least resistance.

The opening of the vessels of the *uterus*, occasioned by the extraction of the *placenta*, affords sufficient outlet for the fluids, which flow with a celerity equal to the force by which they are impelled. On the degree of  
organical

organical action, therefore, will depend this *hemorrhage*, which may be always most efficaciously relieved by attacking its cause, with its opposites. How is the practice of physic altered! and what a number of errors to correct! The fatal catastrophe of so many lying-in women, of this place, is a sufficient proof of the ignorance of mid-wives. Their poison is contained in their cordials. The rarefaction of the fluids, and the oscillation of the vessels, produced by these remedies, must, beyond contradiction, augment the symptoms; nevertheless the faintings, both before and after labour, seem to require powerful remedies, in order to accelerate a circulation apparently too slow and languid, but which on the contrary is entirely owing to oppression. What contrast! what extremity!

And shall we not be equally culpable, if we hesitate to divulge the mistake? We shall therefore be excused the recollection of a loss sustained by M. de \* S\*, captain of a king's ship, distinguished for his valour in the present war, who some years ago lost two beloved wives, each of whom died of an obstinate hemorrhage, which was promoted by the most active cordials.

These

These examples, no less authentic than recent, will convince us, that such remedies should never be administered, but in cases where the relaxation of the solids, and the density of the fluids require powerful stimulants to keep them in motion, to restore the relaxed oscillations, and to break down the fluids, whose languid circulation threaten extinction if not immediately assisted. In such circumstances, we acknowledge them to be real specifics; but, in contrary cases, they are as certain poisons; for by their operation, the solids, already too tense, are excited to violent contractions, which accelerating the motion of the fluids, will force them out of those emunctories which afford them the easiest exit.

The above-mentioned eminent author (a), prefers cold water to those remedies, and gives testimony of its efficacy by his frequent administration of it, in a climate much colder than ours, where the women are no less subject to hysterics, and even to a greater degree, especially those who indulge in the use of *liqueurs* and coffee. To the experience of this great physician the following cases may be added.

(a) Frederick Hoffman.

Mad. la Marquis de \*\*\*, of a lively and warm constitution, was safely brought to bed of a boy at Anduze, and was treated with cordials of such a heating nature that her health was considerably injured. Two years after, she became again pregnant, was brought to bed in the same town, and again treated in the same manner, which increased her complaints to such a degree that she became hysterical.

Being pregnant a third time, she lay in of a dead child at Arles. A very considerable hemorrhage ensued, attended with convulsions, which alarmed her family. I was sent for in the night, and found her attendants preparing to give her cordials; they would, notwithstanding my remonstrances, have given her all sorts of elixirs, had I not determined to stay by her the remainder of the night. I administered cold water only, of which she drank every instant, and in two hours she recovered from her fits. The hemorrhage became more moderate, and the patient grew better. I made her observe a cold regimen during the whole time of her lying-in. She afterwards took chicken-broth, distilled whey, and used the domestic bath,

by which she was perfectly restored to her former health.

A miller's wife, who had been five and forty days brought to bed, was nevertheless unable to rise, on account of the continuance of the hemorrhage. Convulsions ensued, and I was sent for. By enquiring into the remote cause which had occasioned this hemorrhage, I found that the patient whilst in labour, had been drenched with cordials, and that she had constantly taken rich soup by way of nourishment; hence her blood had imbibed a prodigious quantity of sulphurous and alkaline particles, and becoming to an extraordinary degree rarefied, produced this hemorrhage. I corrected her regimen: cold clysters and chicken-ptifan completed her cure.

It is therefore easy to comprehend the necessity of enquiring into the frequent mistakes in the management of lying-in women, in order to avoid them, and to administer more efficacious remedies. We shall find the treatment, both with regard to food and drink, equally reprehensible. Rich soups made with pullet, partridge and beef, hot diuretic ptifans, vulnary herbs, to which are so readily attributed the property

perty of forcing the menses; wine, orange-flower water, and all kinds of cordial elixirs, are of such an alkalescent nature, that they rarefy the fluids, irritate the solids, and thus producè the greatest part of those evils which are incident to child-birth.

In this species of uterine hemorrhage, we also comprehend those which produce miscarriage, and which are certainly of all others the most dangerous, as a rupture of a part of the *placenta*, sometimes occasions very considerable apertures, through which the blood escapes with the more rapidity, being impelled by the contraction of the vessels, and by a general compression in the circulation.

It is certain that the *hemorrhage* is frequently stopped, or at least its impetuosity suspended, by the expulsion of the *fœtus*. The uterus then contracts, and folding together, compresses and stops the orifices of the vessels. But if during this effect of nature, the *hemorrhage* continues, it may be attended with fatal consequences.

To prevent these consequences, we should be careful to calm the impetuosity of the fluids, by diminishing the pulsations of the heart: for by this means we suspend the

hemorrhage, and the relaxation of the solids thereby produced will facilitate the birth, as the vagina will be less rigid, and consequently the uterus more accessible to the efforts of the hand.

Cordials and the common anti-hysterical remedies are in this case improper; but emollient decoctions, diluting and cooling drinks, and sometimes the tepid bath, may be substituted in their place with success, especially when the pains are so violent as to excite spasms and convulsions (a). I will relate two examples.

An apothecary's wife, in the second month of her pregnancy, became subject to daily hysterical fits, which were treated with anti-hysterical remedies. She was seized

(a) The curative precepts of the commentator of Deventer, supports my opinion concerning this species of hemorrhage. He assigns three causes for convulsions, *viz.* a loss of blood, a plethora, and the pains occasioned by the extreme distension of the *uterus*. He adds, that it sometimes happens that the uterus is not sufficiently distended when the convulsion comes. In this case we can administer only common remedies. In case of convulsions proceeding from inanition, bleeding is improper; this characterises the second cause. Emollient decoctions may be administered with success in the third class. Dionis and Mauriceau are of the same opinion. *Voy. le commentateur de Deventer*, p. 198.

with



with convulsions, and a succeeding *hemorrhage* threatened a speedy miscarriage. The pain in her loins became almost insupportable; the *abdomen* grew tense and painful, and the patient was alternately troubled with *cardialgia*, *cholic* and *flatulence*.

Instead of the heating remedies which had been administered, I substituted the most cooling regimen. Cold clysters, emollient fomentations, and drinking plentifully, were yet insufficient to relieve the spasm, or the extreme tension of the nerves of the *uterus*; it was therefore necessary to try more specific remedies, and the patient was, during the hemorrhage, plunged into the bath. This was several times repeated, and I had the satisfaction to procure thereby such a considerable calm, that she was at last brought to-bed without much pain, and unattended with any extraordinary *hemorrhage*.

M. Hazon, *docteur regent* of the faculty of medicine at Paris, relates in one of the *Journ. de Med.* (a) That the wife of a plebeian, thirty years of age, of a sanguine and

(a) *Vide le Journ. de Med. Fev. 1756. p. 110.*

plethoric constitution, well made, and moderately fat, was attacked during the winter of the year 1755, with a most dreadful iliac passion, being at the same time five months gone with child.

M. Hazon was called to her assistance, several days after the disease was confirmed. Her complaints consisted of the most intolerable pains in the whole *abdomen*. She vomited her drinks almost as soon as she had taken them, and brought up bile, accompanied sometimes with excrementitious matter, moist, and of the same consistence, as is generally discharged by the common emunctary. Nothing passed downwards. Clysters came away just as they were given. Her pain was so violent as to produce convulsions. The pulse was full and very feverish. He examined if there was any rupture, and found all the parts in their natural state.

To retard the progress of so fatal a disease, he increased her bleedings: She was bled eight times in the arm, and twice in the foot. He ordered her to drink linseed tea, emulsions, oily and composing draughts, he also ordered her emollient anodine clysters, and fomentations of emollient herbs.

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He administered at the same time the *Vichy waters*; but all were ineffectual; the vomiting continued without intermission, her strength was greatly exhausted, and he began to be apprehensive for the patient's life.

In this melancholy situation, and having tried almost all the common remedies, he altered his plan, and prescribed the domestic bath. The two first bathings produced no alteration; the fourth was attended with better success; the woman was delivered of a dead child, and the discharges took their natural course. He thought for awhile that the vomiting had ceased; but he found himself mistaken, and was obliged to continue the same remedy, which operated surprisngly. She was put into the bath, which was made somewhat warmer than usual, the very day of her delivery. Before the patient was brought to-bed, she bathed twice a-day, an hour each time; but afterwards, only once a day, and remained but three quarters of an hour in the water. By persevering in this method, the lochia continued, her stools returned, the vomiting ceased, and the pains were entirely removed; after which the bath was discontinued:

tinued: he then purged the patient in order to carry off the remains of a fever, which might else retard her perfect recovery.

This practice, he says, may perhaps be deemed too bold, but the case was extreme; the little success of the remedies which he had before administered, and analogy, determined him to try this treatment.

It is some years, he adds, since I saw a lady, who having been attacked with an hysterical complaint, had tried every remedy, and was at last relieved by the domestic bath. She went into the water, even during the time of menstruation, and by this means facilitated the discharge. Whenever the bath was suspended, the hysterics returned with more violence.

The world will doubtless consider M. Hazon and me as too very rash practitioners, and I am confident will never adapt our method, because it is new, and subject to many inconveniences. To plunge a pregnant woman into the bath, *qui se blesse*, in order to facilitate the birth, were to take leave of your senses, and to subject yourself to the most severe censure. Nevertheless,

theless, whatever reasons may be advanced by those who oppose this system, they will find in my theory the most solid refutations, which are strengthened still more by the following cases.

How greatly will their surprize encrease, when they see that I administer this remedy, not only for miscarriages, but even at the time of the lochia, when the symptoms are so urgent as to require this assistance. The three following cases, addressed to the author of the *Journal*, which I shall here transcribe, will afford a vast field of reflection to the incredulous.

LETTER to the AUTHOR of the  
JOURNAL DE MÉDECINE.

SIR,

I was penetrated with the utmost gratitude on reading your journal of this month (a), at the beginning of which I found an extract from my essay on the vapours, which you were pleased to communicate to the public. Encouraged by your approbation, I shall very soon resume my pen, to finish a work

(a) *Journal de mois de Février, 1761, p. 195.*

which

which I had but just sketched. I have hitherto laboured by myself in this troublesome undertaking; other physicians are at last influenced by my example, and my method is attended with such success, that it is generally practised with satisfaction.

Amongst the many cases communicated to me, I know that you have received one, which in my opinion deserves to be inserted in your Journals; the subject is a Dutch captain in a state of phrensy, M. Debaux, physician at Marseilles, who has lately wrote in favour of inoculation, is the author,

M. Felix, physician at Mornas (a), wrote to me in the name of his brethren, a letter equally polite and satisfactory, informing me of a thousand wonders performed under his own eye. Since the publication of my essay, I have collected a number of very interesting cases, which I shall communicate to the public in due time; but I cannot at present restrain myself from informing you, that I very lately plunged three lying-in women into the water, one of whom is indebted to me for her life.

She is a Marseilles lady, married to M. Lacroix, a merchant of that town, who

(a) A little town of Comtat.

came hither on business of consequence. She is about three and twenty, and was subject to hysterics some years before her marriage. She was attended by a Marseilles surgeon, who always treated her in his own way. The fits were suspended by her pregnancy, and it was supposed that her lying-in would complete her cure. She really continued well till the twenty-second day after delivery, when the hysterical fits returned with increased violence; *delirium* ensued, and at the same time her jaw and tongue remained rigid and motionless, but the lochia received no check.

The bath was the only remedy that could give relief; but the lochial discharge which was violent, supported the obstinacy of her prejudiced attendants, and I found it impossible to administer this remedy. They consented however to the frequent application of cold clysters and continual fomentations. These remedies were insufficient, as the patient had not been able during the three days of their administration, to swallow a single drop of water: we were then permitted to have recourse to the tepid bath. The three first, in which the patient remained four hours at a time,

316 *Complicated immoderate Hemorrhage.*

a time, produced no effect; but the fourth removed the hysterical symptoms. She used the bath for a month successively, and the lochial discharge continued the whole time.

Mad. \*S\*, forty years of age, who had been hysterical by inheritance, and from the age of puberty was afflicted with severe pain, occasioned by an extraordinary swelling in the *hemorrhoidal* vessels, which toward the latter end of a lying-in produced convulsions. Topical applications were ineffectual. The lochia nevertheless continued, which made her friends, for a long while, dubious concerning the bath; it was however necessary to determine. The first bathing considerably alleviated the symptoms, and the fifth removed them entirely.

Some days following, Madam \*P\* after a painful labour, lay-in of a dead child. A fever ensued; and she was afflicted with sciatic pains, accompanied with excessive heat in her right thigh, which obliged her to apply for assistance. Chicken-water and cold clysters were insufficient; it was therefore necessary to administer the tepid bath, which after a very long course, removed the  
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real cause of the disease and all its consequences, without in the least disturbing the lochial discharge.

I have reason to conclude, from repeated experiments of this nature, that the tepid bath is the most powerful specific in all hysterical complaints.

## C H A P. XXXII.

*Complicated Suppression of the Lochia.*

IT is evident from the cases above recited, that both the suppression and immoderate flow of the menses, are effects of the same cause. From the same theory, and from the following practical experiments, it is equally demonstrable, that the several disorders of the *hemorrhoidal* flux, are the result of one cause. Why should not the suppression of the *lochia* proceed from the same disease by which the different kinds of hemorrhages are produced, whether immoderate or suppressed?

We have, in a preceding chapter, assigned the cause of *uterine hemorrhages* to a convulsed state of the nerves, and to the impetuous circulation of the different fluids in the *uterus*; and it has been also mentioned, that if the violent impetuosity of the blood should predominate over the disease of the solids, the *hemorrhage* will then be immoderate; but if, on the contrary, the rigidity of the solids be superior to this  
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constitution of the blood and other fluids, the *hemorrhage* will then be suppressed. We are the more confirmed in this theory, as the effect of the remedies which it indicates, corresponds with the curative precepts which it establishes; that is to say, that by relaxing the spasm of the *uterus*, we promote the *lochia*, and thereby remedy the different evils attending their irregularity.

The importance of the subject, and the difficulty of convincing those who are prejudiced, obliges me to multiply examples, for which reason I shall not hesitate in exposing the mistakes of our art, by publishing without partiality, the evidence of experience against common practice, in cases of this nature.

A woman of the town was privately brought to bed of a dead child. The constant anxiety, frights and apprehension incidental to her situation, followed by despair, were the causes of her difficult labour. A fever immediately ensued, and the *lochia* were suppressed. A physician was called in, and her confidants became so numerous, that her disease was no longer mystery.

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She was first bled in the *vena saphena*, notwithstanding which her fever encreased, and became every moment more violent. The same remedy was frequently repeated, which so far from producing a calm, brought on *delirium* and convulsions. The patient then became inaccessible; her two doctors were frightened, for having been frequently threatened by their frantic patient, they durst not approach her, and were therefore obliged to meet at the foot of the stairs.

In this place they consulted on the poor woman's case. We are told that they were not agreed as to the part in which she ought to be bled. The question was, whether bleeding in the foot was revulsive or derivative with regard to the uterus, and therefore, whether in this case salutary or prejudicial. A thousand cogent reasons strengthened each disputant in his own opinion; neither of them would recede, and she was bled both in the arm and foot, *usque ad mutationem coloris*. Her phrenzy was by this means calmed. But by an unexpected fatality, she died in a few days.

We have been told, that the most violent agitations of mind, frights and alarms had

had preceded this woman's delivery, and doubtless brought on her disorder. In short, the extreme dissipation of the animal spirits, the violent contraction of the heart and vessels agitated the mass of the fluids; the circulation was thereby disturbed and disordered: hence the *uterus* became violently affected, and the *fœtus* being unable to sustain the shock, was consequently expelled. This was attended with painful efforts, and very considerable discharge, by which the fibres became dry and rigid to such a degree, that from that moment they were deprived of their elasticity.

The disturbed circulation, and the obstruction of the capillary vessels, (the effect of cornuosity) brought on the fever. The spasmodic contraction of the vessels of the *uterus* occasioned the suppression of the lochia, and their reflux to the brain produced delirium and convulsions. What was to be done in this extremity? The only indication to be observed, were doubtless to appease the disturbed circulation of the blood and spirits, and to relax the spasms of the *uterus*. Moistening and relaxing remedies were alone capable of producing these effects; for by moderating the motion of the fluids, they

would have counteracted the dangerous effects of the plethora; and by relaxing the spasms of the *uterus*, would by thus preparing the proper emunctaries, have promoted the discharge of the lochia.

The melancholy effects of so many repeated bleedings will corroborate my opinion, for by diminishing the volume of blood, the circulation of the fluids was accelerated, and the contractions of the heart became more frequent: thus the spasms were increased, and the suppression produced (a). This theory deserves to be illustrated by the effects of a contrary practice.

A friend of the person just mentioned, was on the day that she was brought to bed, prodigiously alarmed, having taken it into her head that her case was similar to that of the deceased. Hysterics soon followed, and the

(a) The persons interested in the life of Mad. de \*\*\*, and those who have been informed of the circumstances attending the disease and death of this lady, will now discover the error. For is it not evident that the inflammation of the *uterus*, and the consequent suppression of the lochia, were the effects of spasm? If they had judged in this manner concerning this young lady, they would certainly have been more sparing of their bleedings; and the several pains of which she was sensible even to her last moment, would most infallibly have yielded to the tepid bath.

lochia

lochia disappeared: a fever ensued, accompanied with suffocation and delirium, which perfectly characterised the disease she so much dreaded. The curative indications were the same; but it was necessary to administer different remedies. An emulsion, for want of chicken-ptisan, continual emolient fomentations, and cooling clysters, soon mitigated the fever and delirium, and on the third day the lochia returned.

In the month of January 1763, I was called to *Macon*, by M. de Franchelin, president *au Presidial* of this town. His nerves were so extremely irritated by every species of pharmaceutic remedies, that he was unable to come to Arles for my advice (a). During my stay in this town, I was intreated by two charitable ladies to visit a poor lying-in woman. I went immediately and found her in bed, where she had been confined for more than a month by a fever, and a suppression of the lochia, since the sixth day after delivery. Her belly was distended, painful, and constipated; she was afflicted with such severe he-

(a) The inhabitants of *Macon* were the more surpris'd at M. de Franchelins' perfect recovery, as his disorder had been pronounced incurable before my arrival, and after my departure.

morrhoidal pains, that she had not slept a moment from the time of her being brought to-bed.

An apothecary of Macon, who attended this poor woman, attributed those various symptoms to the suppression of the lochia: he did every thing in his power to recall this evacuation; he administered the different vulneraries, diuretic and warm ptisans of every kind for a month; and the poor woman merely by the effect of these pretended specifics, would certainly have died of an inflammation in the abdomen, had not chance brought me to her assistance.

I immediately altered the method of treatment. The patient, by my order, got out of bed, though her fever continued. I made her drink plentifully of cooling ptisan, ordered her frequent clysters, and constant fomentations, which in a few days completed her cure.

Madam Chiris, at the age of twenty-five, was brought to-bed of two children, the eighth of December 1759. Her labour was extremely difficult and painful: she had many hysterical symptoms, and constant faintings, during which her attendants gave her



her all the spirituous elixirs they could procure. A fever was the consequence.

Her tongue and throat were dry; violent choleric and a suppression of the lochia supervened: a vomiting not unlike the iliac passion (a), suffocation, and delirium threatened immediate death, if the patient had not been expeditiously relieved.

The bath was the more indicated, since its wonderful effects in the case of M. Hazon's patient. The extreme tension of the intestinal canal, and the spasm of the *uterus*, required immediate moistners. The severity of the season was no obstacle to the efficacy of this remedy; but it confirmed the prejudice of those who were interested in the patient's life. They would not therefore consent to the bath, till every other remedy should be found insufficient. We were consequently obliged to submit, and to reconcile the cure of this disease, with the difficulties by which it is constantly opposed. Chicken-water, cold clysters, and emollient fomentations were preferred to the tepid bath. She drank abundantly, as eight pints of ptisan were scarce sufficient from night till morning. The fever was mitigated in twenty-four hours, the vo-

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(a) Vide the case related by M. Hazon.

miting and pains ceased the following day, and on the third day the lochia were restored.

After this account, it is natural to conclude, that the vomiting, the intestinal cholic, the spasm of the uterus, and the fever, were produced by the cordials, which by their acrid and caustic particles, irritated the nervous system, and disordered the whole machine. To remedy these evils, should we a second time have recourse to the same treatment, or rather be confined to the opening of the saphena?

What recourse! or more properly speaking, what weakness in the physicians! It is true, that by this means we diminish the volume of the rarefied blood which is confined in the vessels, their diameter being reduced by the cornuosity of their fibres; and thus we prevent in some degree their suffocation and inflammation.

But how are we to remedy the tension of the entire nervous system, and the spasm of the *uterus*, from whence these various symptoms proceed? Here physic hesitates and remains silent. It was doubtless reserved for the youngest and most resolute to break the charm; water alone will, on some future day, triumph over prejudice and error. Suppressed

fed lochia, immoderate discharge, obstructed menses, disordered brain, oppression, spasmodic intestines; in short, the restoration of the whole machine from a state of total ruin, will hereafter proclaim the miraculous power of our art. The cases which I have just related, will serve as a shield against the assaults of obstinate incredulity.

If after all there are yet physicians and patients who are obstinately determined to be deceived, I say with Pliny: *Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.*

Before I conclude, I cannot help asking my brethren of the faculty, Whether the theory on which my system is built, be not as easily comprehended from its simplicity, as that so ingeniously imagined by M. Astruc, in his treatise on the diseases of women? If they judge without prejudice, they will more readily agree with my opinion, as it does not entirely differ from M. Astruc's idea, that learned physician having also discovered the cornuosity of the nerves of the *uterus*, to be one of the causes of the suppression of the menses (a). There is nothing more required at present, than to acknowledge this cause to be one of the most frequent, and the only one

(a) Vide Astruc, *loco citato*, p. 106. tom. I. second edit.

to be attacked in hysterical affections. The practical cases by which this system is supported, are I hope sufficient to convince the faculty.

From these considerations it will probably be allowed, that this second part of M. Astruc's work (a), is by no means equal to the first; we have therefore a right to expect a series of contrary experiments, unless he rather chuses at once to adopt our opinions. We do not expect a formal recantation, being too sensible of our inferiority; but we are sanguine in our wishes to obtain M. Astruc's approbation, as the conquest of so respectable a member would infallibly influence the whole corps; and medicine would cease to blush at her insufficiency in this disease.

(a) *La pratique.*

## C H A P. XXXIII.

*Regimen.*

I SHOULD be guilty of omission, were I not to subjoin certain dietetic rules, for those who are subject to the vapours. Some would with reason complain of my insufficiency, and others would be authorised to persevere in their erroneous way of living.

To avoid therefore the reproach of some, and at the same time to instruct others, we shall display our dietetic rules, deducing them from the quality of the vaporous temperament. The undertaking would be too troublesome, were it necessary, with the ancients, minutely to discriminate the different temperaments, and to assign to each a particular regimen: they were perhaps above our capacity; we shall therefore confine ourselves, to that only which we denominate vaporous or melancholic; that is to say, dry, bilious, irritable, atrabiliaris, and sanguine.

To prove the existence of this constitution,

tion, let us describe it by its effects. The melancholic man, according to the ancients, is dry, thin, pale, brown, or black, very sensible of cold, or to the impression of exterior objects, digests ill, is subject to flatulence, and to the hemorrhoids, constipated, makes much urine, and discharges a great quantity of pituitous matter, from the emunctories natural to this humour. Such should be our ideas of the melancholic constitution.

Disorder and precipitance in the digestive organs, spissitude, bile, tension, and dryness of the solids, almost equal to rigidity, are the elements of the melancholic constitution: melancholic, because dejection and diffidence are generally united with the other symptoms.

The regimen appropriated to this constitution, should be regular. The great art consists in introducing into the blood a quantity of moisture, sufficient to divide the parts which are too contiguous, and after mixing with them intimately, to circulate with the general mass of fluids. All aliments difficult of digestion, and consequently

frequently capable of generating viscidities, should be avoided.

Unfermented farinaceous aliment, and dry pulse, are also prohibited; and such substances as are liable to putrefaction in the stomach and intestines are likewise dangerous, because some of their particles must abide in some part of the body.

The melancholic constitution is therefore almost entirely reduced to those aliments, whose texture is neither too loose nor too compact.

Well-fermented bread, plain meats, of the flesh of animals that feed on herbs, and young fowls, should constitute their chief nourishment; the seasoning should consist only of pot-herbs, which should be constantly used, their juices being saponaceous and light, from a chyle capable of augmenting without forcing the secretions; they serve as a vehicle to the water, in mixing it with the blood, and at the same time moderately stimulate the solids.

We should always be fearful of aromatics. By exciting the oscillation of the stomach, and increasing its action, we may injure the solids, and bring on the danger of  
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immeability, which the density of the blood will occasion in dry and inflexible vessels. Coffee and chocolate will produce this effect: their oily and inflammable substance will irritate the villous coat of the stomach, and inflame the mass of fluids. Hence we believe that they are pernicious to the vaporous constitution; therefore we prohibit their use, though with regret; as also every species of pastry, made dishes prepared with paste, eggs, oil, butter, milk, honey, and many other things of the same nature, which by fermenting in the stomach, produce flatulence, and disturb the digestion.

The choice of drink, in this constitution, equally requires our attention. Wine, instead of diluting and dissolving the aliment, hardens, and renders it more compact; it heats, dries, and contracts the stomach, and consequently destroys the appetite.

It is therefore necessary to interdict the use of wine, and to be still more strict in our prohibition of *liqueurs*, these agreeable poisons, whose foundation is spirit of wine. Liquors of this hot nature, by their causticity, crisp, contract, condense, and burn  
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the fluid and solid parts of the body, even more powerfully than wine.

Water is therefore the only rational beverage; it is water only which sufficiently and without emotion, dilutes our food, cleanses the stomach, excites appetite, according to Hippocrates, who calls it voracious; water preserves the fluidity of our humours, and by maintaining the flexibility and suppleness of the vessels, preserves health.

That water which is clear, light, pure, and without mixture, is esteemed the most wholesome. Rain-water being the most subtile, has also deserved the preference.

That which comes nearest to it in its nature and goodness, is river-water, taken from the middle of the current, and kept some time in a vessel, till depositing the extraneous particles, it becomes clear and limpid. It may then be preserved whole years, not to say ages. Such is the water we drink at Arles, with whose value our neighbours are not sufficiently acquainted, though so highly extolled by the celebrated James Spon, physician at Lyons (a).

(a) *Observ. rara circa aqu. Rhodani*, Jacob Spon, *Med. Lugd. Acta crud. an. 1675.*

Spring-water is the next in quality; but well-water should be entirely rejected. In these various waters, the vaporous patient will find a most certain remedy: he cannot take too large a quantity, Avicene says: *Tales jejuno ventriculo potæ stomachum abluunt, alvum subducunt, coli doloribus opitulantur* (a). Experience convinces us, that the only preservative against flatulent cholics, to which hysterical people are very subject, is a copious beverage of warm water, taken every morning fasting, and sometimes even after meals.

We will add to this elogium, that of Rondeletius, who assures us, that he has cured the gout by the use of cold water only: *Ego multoties aquæ frigidæ potu podagricos sanavi; quod facilius succedit in bibulosi* (b). Sylvaticus also vaunts of its success, and even prescribes it to all gouty patients (c). Martianus gives us a striking example: *Solo aquæ frigidæ potu Bernerius Cardinalis a podagra liberatus est* (d).

(a) Avicene, lib. I. sect. 2. cap. 16. p. 102.

(b) Rondeletius, p. 611.

(c) Sylvaticus, cap. 1. observ. 1.

(d) Martianus in Hypocr.

Ballonius tell us: *Miror cur in herpetibus, inflammationibus, in quibus humectandi et refrigerandi consilium est, non potius ad aquam accedamus* (e). Riverius assures us, that he has more frequently restored the menstrual flux by the use of cold water only, than by any other emmenagogue: *De mensibus vitiosis sive subsistentibus solius aquæ repetito usu, pristinum fluxum restitutum fuisse & hoc simplici remedio plus præstitutum fuisse quam allis emmenagogis* (f). Ridlinus assures us, that he has cured a number of atrabiliaris and mad patients by this remedy alone: He adds, *cujus usu chachectici & tabe confecti convalescunt* (g). But it were needless to have recourse to authorities, if we would consult reason and nature, which informs us, that water was designed by the Creator for the common drink of man, and of every animated being.

But however scrupulous the hysterical patient may be in the choice of his proper food, and salutary drink, he will not be much the better, if he does not also use

(e) Ballonius, lib. 1. epidem. p. 106.

(f) River, lib. 4. cap. 24.

(g) Redlinus, lin. med. an. 1637. lin. 25.

moderate exercise. He should continually recollect these words of Celsus; labour strengthens, and idleness enervates the body: *Otium corpus hebetat, labor firmat.* Exercise diverts and enlivens the mind by presenting a variety of objects, it moderately increases the spring of every fibre, renders their oscillations equal, duly divides and attenuates the fluids, and facilitates their motion; causes the nervous fluid to circulate uniformly to the several parts of the body, wonderfully assists the secretions and excretions, increases the appetite, renders all the parts more supple and disposed to perform with expedition their several functions. Thus it invigorates the body, gradually dissipates every cause of irregularity in the motion of the fluids and solids, restores their harmony, and so effectually dispels the vapours, according to the report of those who have constantly experienced its salutary effects, that it is superior to all other remedies, especially if assisted by the regimen prescribed.

Riding a horseback deserves the preference. It is performed without much fatigue, without exhausting the strength, and  
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according to Sydenham, without much waste of spirits. It equally and gently shakes every part of the body, and chiefly the *viscera* of the abdomen, which are in some degree suspended and floating; it helps digestion, consequently prevents obstruction, and removes those already formed, which in the end would be the source of a thousand complaints. We therefore most earnestly recommend this exercise, as without it all other remedies would be ineffectual, and in some cases even prejudicial.

Our dietetic rules extend even to the passions. The soul and the body are in such a manner united, that the affections of the one are reciprocally communicated to the other; this mutual intercourse is performed by the nervous fibres. The impressions of the body are, by means of the nerves, very soon transmitted to the seat of the soul. The soul in its turn, being sensibly affected, violently shakes the nervous fibres, and excites extraordinary and irregular emotions in the body, which become more frequent in vaporous constitutions, being promoted by the natural

tension and vibration of the nerves. Such people should therefore be particularly attentive to moderate their passions, and above all things should avoid anger, as it exceedingly distends the fibres, violently accelerates the circulation of the blood and spirits, and in short disorders the whole machine.

They should be prepared for, and guard against sudden fright, which by immediately affecting the nervous system, produces spasmodic contraction, by which the blood is repulsed upon the inward parts. They should likewise avoid all such application of mind, as will too violently agitate and dissipate the nervous fluid, impoverish the mass of humours, and thus promote the dryness of the blood and of the nervous system.

They should as carefully avoid vexation, which shakes the whole frame, banishes sleep, destroys the appetite, and in short, produces universal languor, by which the effects of the most powerful remedies are counteracted. They should fly from every cause of uneasiness and perplexity, envy, jealousy, &c. Their pleasures should consist

ſit in the company of their friends, they ſhould live ſometimes in the country, and ſometimes in town, and as often as poſſible, ſhould frequent concerts; ſhould never attend too long to the ſame object, but ſhould endeavour by a diverſity of purſuits, to cheer their ſpirits, and annihilate the idea of vapours.

## A N S W E R

To the OBJECTIONS of the AUTHOR of the  
*Journal des Savans.*

I N my journey to Lyons, last month, I was apprised that the *Journal des Savans*, of the month of October, 1761, had given an extract of my essay on vaporous affections, to which he had added critical reflections, which require an answer. An affected silence would be inexcuseable, and therefore, the day after my return to Arles, I was impatient to procure this Journal, and to send this supplement to my bookseller, in which I refute the journalift's objections.

After having given the *Prospectus* of my essay, he adds, in page 684, "*We shall make but a few reflections on this dissertation, in order to give the reader an idea of the labours of Mr. Pomme, whose zeal merits constant applause.*"

This compliment would not appear exaggerated, had the Journalist been content  
with



with merely proposing his objections.—In the first, he pretends “*That the immediate cause of vaporous affections, is not always the cause which I assign.*” Our author dares not, however, deny that this cause does not exist in some cases; *though seldom*, he adds, *in those related by Mr. Pomme*, and he affirms, that vaporous affections may proceed from another immediate cause, for which the bath should never be administered, and that there are some cases in which the bath would be prejudicial; that those on the contrary require stimulating remedies, exercise on horseback, dry and cold air, and other assistance, whose effects are diametrically opposite to those obtained by the bath.

The objection is in form. To oblige me to acknowledge several immediate causes of the vapours, were to destroy my system, which acknowledges but one; and to confirm this opinion, by producing patients cured by stimulating remedies, were to render the objection unanswerable, and would be a solemn disavowal of my system.

Let my adversary produce cases in opposition to mine, of patients cured by stimulating remedies, and I will immediately

confess my error. But how will he reconcile the tension of the nerves, which he has been obliged to acknowledge as an immediate cause, with the relaxation which he would persuade me to adopt? Can this disease admit of contradictory symptoms, or more properly speaking, does there appear any one symptom which denotes the relaxation of the solids? To discuss the question myself, were to distrust the abilities of an adversary, whom I infinitely respect. I will only add, that under the title of opposite cases, I do not admit those slight vaporous symptoms, which are only suspended by the effect of hot medicines, but which afterwards appear with more vigour and obstinacy. Let him produce an hysterical or hypochondriac patient, as radically cured, by tonics and stimulants, as those I have related.

I take my adversary to be a physician, consequently a man of honour. If, nevertheless, he requires certificates of the cases which I have produced, and which he may think extraordinary, I will procure him attestations from the patients themselves, from my brethren of the faculty, and also the public testimony of my fellow citizens.

We

We will pass to the second objection; in this we find manifest contradictions of his own opinion. I have said, that patients, in the last degree of cornuosity, will swim in the bath, and have attributed this effect to the internal heat of the body, according to the supposed degree of cornuosity; this heat, by extremely rarefying the air contained in the fluids, renders the body less ponderous. What proves it, is, that when the relaxation is produced by the bath and other moisteners, the body sinks to the bottom.

Our Journalist, on the contrary, supposes, according to the rules of hydrostatics, that a cornuated body having less surface, should sink to the bottom; but that being relaxed by the bath, it should swim. From whence I conclude, that my patients were wrong in not observing the hydrostatic rules.

Our Journalist further affirms, *that there was in the Hotel Dieu of Paris, a girl, who did not sink in the bath; but that this effect was attributed to her continual motion, which was supposed, with some degree of probability, to be equivalent to the action of swimming.* To profit by this hint, it were easy to make my patients swim in the bath; but unfortunately she who was the subject of the first case, and also

also the subject of the fourth case, were each of them as stiff as a bar of iron. To come still nearer the fact, there was some days ago, a patient at Arles, who swam (a) without

(a) Lazarus Vidal, a native of the village of Baume, in the principality of Orange, eighteen years of age, of a thin and dry constitution, was brought to the hospital, the 9th of July 1765, by some countrymen, who found him stretched under a tree, so intirely deprived of sense or motion, that they supposed him dead. I found the patient at the hospital, when I attended. His pulse was very slow and concentrated; his jaw so rigid and motionless, that it was impossible to make him swallow, even a single drop of water. This determined me to apply blisters. The next day the 10th, produced no alteration; nor the 11th. Cupping glasses were applied, and irritating clysters were administered, they were repeated the 13th, but without any effect, and the 14th a fever ensued.

A case so desperate, authorised every experiment. Upon the application of ice on the top of his head, the patient opened his eyes and his jaw. The next day, the 15th he was plunged into the cold bath at eight o'clock in the morning, and, at the same time, ice was again applied to the crown of his head. His vociferation was violent on his first immersion, but in about a quarter of an hour, he began to eat and drink, and recovered his senses; nevertheless some moments after he relapsed. The bath was repeated the same day, and operated with success. The 16th he remained in the cold bath twelve hours; the patient had no lethargic fit, till the next day the 17th at seven o'clock in the morning: but the bath, and the application of ice, soon roused him. The 18th his cure was perfectly compleated.

moving

moving his limbs, and who remained in the bath twelve hours a day, having on his head a bladder full of ice, which was frequently renewed. This patient whom I rescued from the arms of death, remained also twelve hours in the water motionless, yet swam at the top; but our Journalist supposes this impossible, *except for a few seconds only*. How shall we reconcile our philosophical ideas with experience? The task is difficult, if we consider the solids only: in every other point of view, that is to say, with regard to the fluids and the air, it will be found most easy. Philosophers will not perhaps be satisfied with this explanation; it is not however like that of my adversary, contradicted by experience.

The third reflection regards the crackling noises, which I have attributed, in my patients, to the violent and sensible impulse of the blood in cornuated canals. The journalists dwells not long on this subject: Neither will I; but I shall doubtless be permitted to add, that such noise is frequently heard in hysterical patients in the articulation of their limbs; and this, in my opinion, proceeds from a defect

defect of the *synovia*, and from the dryness of the secretory vessels.

As to the fourth reflection, we will not pass it by unnoticed. *Sydenham*, says our adversary, *has been of great service to our author for his description of vaporous and hypochondriacal affections.* To this I answer, that my description of the disease, is the only part of my work, which resembles any other on the same subject. As to the cases, they are doubtless my own: in what respect therefore am I a plagiarist?

I affirm then, that the definition is new. Who can disprove it? The cause is also new, since it has given our Journalist offence. The cure is adapted to the cause; it is therefore also new, (though authorized by the most respectable antiquity). The reproach will consequently fall on my description of the symptoms. I very readily confess that the symptoms which I have described, are the same, under which this disease generally appears, and which may be found in all authors who have wrote on vaporous subjects; but I prefer the description given us by a modern author, to  
that

that of Sydenham. This author I have delineated in my treatise: I call him celebrated. Let our adversary find him out; he will demonstrate his erudition by confessing his mistake.

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