

fretfulness; foul breath; great heat of skin; costiveness; hard dark-coloured or whitish stools, very fatid and offensive, and sometimes a scanty and putrid purging; along with these, convulsions appear and return at uncertain intervals; but the more frequent they are, and the longer they continue, the danger is the more alarming.

## CURE.

In cases of convulsions the doses of purgatives require to be increased considerably above the ordinary doses for other complaints; we must not hesitate therefore about the liberal exhibition of these medicines, because the danger is not subdued until the torpor of the bowels is overcome, and a free discharge by stool is procured; and upon copious evacuations taking place all the symptoms begin to vanish.

Two grains of calomel, beat up with four grains of lump sugar and one grain of powdered cinnamon, will be a proper dose for an infant in this disease; this is a very agreeable powder, and may be given in a little syrup or honey, or fruit jelly, &c.

In the course of two hours after taking the powder, a tea-spoonful of castor oil will be proper to quicken and assist its operation, and unless a  
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free motion be procured in two hours after taking the castor oil, a smart glyster will generally succeed in bringing away the medicines already exhibited and a large excrementitious stool with decided relief to the patient. The child in the mean time should be occasionally immersed in the warm bath; or spirits should be applied along with hot flannels to the stomach and belly; these steps procure temporary relief, until a more decisive and permanent advantage is obtained by the operation of the purgatives. If the treatment just mentioned fails to evacuate the bowels and to mitigate the convulsions, it will be necessary to go over the process again without delay, and to increase the dose of the calomel as the practitioner may think necessary; perhaps half a grain or one entire grain more of calomel may be added. Should the castor oil be nauseated, some infusion of senna warmed with syrup of ginger and some tincture of senna may be substituted, and will answer pretty well; but where the castor oil is borne by the stomach, it is a more suitable medicine. This practice must be repeated the following day, and continued day after day until the bowels are brought to a natural state, and the fits disappear; but in proportion as the symptoms become milder, and the health returns, the doses of the calomel must be lessened, and the enema, and by degrees the castor oil omitted. In cases where the fits return at short intervals, we must  
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begin immediately with large doses of the calomel powders, &c. and repeat them on the same day according to circumstances; but where they return at longer intervals, more moderate doses may be given at first, and if necessary increased at the subsequent repetitions. After the purgatives have operated, the anodyne and absorbent mixture No. 107 will help to calm the irritability of the nerves, and to correct the acrimony of the bowels, and is therefore useful in the intervals between the exhibition of the purgatives.

Where in consequence of the long continuance of the complaint, and of the violence and frequency of the convulsions, we have reason to fear effusion on the brain might ensue, it will be proper to shave the whole of the head, to cover it with a large blister, which must be left on perhaps for sixteen hours, certainly until a vesication takes place, and to keep up a discharge from it with savin ointment or vesicating ointment until all danger disappears. After the fits have entirely subsided, the regularity of the bowels must be attended to for a few weeks longer. It will be good practice to give a moderate dose of calomel suited to the age of the patient once or twice a week for a whole month after.

The child upon recovering is to be clothed in such a manner as to leave no danger of catching cold;

cold; and instead of using water, the head, if washed at all, must be washed with strong spirits: in short, whatever maintains an equable action on the surface, prevents the perspiration from being repressed, and thereby guards against a morbid determination to the internal parts, such as the brain and the bowels, must be carefully observed.

## APOPLEXY.

This disease like gout most commonly visits the rich and luxurious, yet instances of it are met with amongst the laborious and the poor.

## SYMPTOMS.

The symptoms may be divided into premonitory and proper. The premonitory symptoms, or those which precede the apoplectic fit, are head-ache; vertigo or a swimming or reeling of the head; nausea; vomiting; bad memory; imperfect articulation; impaired vision; weakness or numbness of some part of one of the sides, as of the arm, of the leg, of the face; the tongue, if thrust out, commonly turns to the side not affected. The degrees and modifications of impaired vision are very various, such as squinting, objects seen double, moates or spangles floating before the eyes. The degrees of impaired memory are likewise various, in some cases words are remembered

membered, but ideas forgotten, and in some it is the reverse. Sometimes blood comes from the nose, and there is generally a turgescence or fulness in the face and eyes; often an unusual drowsiness comes on, and, in some instances, fits of incubus or night-mare.

It ought in general to be considered a fortunate event, that some of these premonitory symptoms occur, to announce the approach of the threatened danger; because they suggest the imperious necessity of instantly flying to the most vigorous means for averting the attack. Whichsoever of those appearances takes place, we must be uniform in referring the mischief to the head, as the seat of the disease; and accordingly direct our method of cure to the relief of the brain. The premonitory symptoms demand the same remedies to which we would resort, if the fit had actually come on; at this period they will often save the life of the patient, but when once the paroxysm has set in, it will in most cases baffle all the power of medicine, and prove speedily fatal. We frequently meet with melancholy instances of the truth of this observation.

#### THE PROPER SYMPTOMS OF APOPLEXY.

The symptoms which are found to occur upon the attack of the paroxysm, and during its continuance

nance are, the patient suddenly falling down; a stertorous, slow, and noisy breathing; a total loss of power in the muscles of voluntary motion; pulse for the most part very slow and strong; a throbbing of the carotid and temporal arteries; face either pale, or bloated and livid; a discharge of blood, sometimes from the nose, sometimes from the anus, and sometimes from the ears; in some fatal cases the pulse is quick and weak a little before death. The fits of apoplexy are not always fatal, namely, when they are but slight; and the patient will escape for that time, with a pretty strong certainty that, without particular care, they will visit soon again, and in a severer degree. Sometimes the use of appropriate remedies will break the force of the attack so as to avert the fatality with which it might otherwise have been attended; in most cases however, in which a severe attack has once taken place, it generally happens, that though the patient survives, yet a paralytic weakness remains, either a weakness of the muscles of one side of the body, or of the lower extremities, (but this is rare) or a loss of speech either partial or total, or impaired vision, or imperfect and weak memory, or a palsy of the bladder causing a perpetual and troublesome dripping of urine. And even in those melancholy cases an apoplectic fit one time or other finally closes the scene.

Apoplexy

Apoplexy when it proves fatal sometimes kills instantaneously, and sometimes not for hours, or perhaps one or two days, and when the attack has once commenced it will be extremely difficult to accomplish a perfect cure; but proper attention and skill will cure in many instances, if employed upon the appearance of the premonitory symptoms, and before the apoplectic stroke has taken place. In young persons the chance of recovery is much greater than in the old.

## PREDISPOSITION.

The persons most subject to apoplexy are those who have passed beyond the meridian of life; persons of large heads and short necks; the corpulent, the indolent, and sedentary; epicures; drunkards; such as are in the early part of life accustomed to activity and labour, and who afterwards become indolent; of this description are those who are raised to unexpected or sudden affluence from a state of poverty; gouty habits; they in whom the piles entirely disappear, after having continued for years; and persons of constipated bowels.

## CAUSES.

The predisposition alone without the concurrence of any unusual excitement, will cause apoplexy; but the disease is more certainly and fatally produced

produced, if an exciting cause be added to the predisposition. The cause might be whatever occasions pressure on, or congestion within the brain; as external injuries to the head; tumors or morbid enlargements within the cranium, an occurrence not unfrequently arising from old venereal complaints; an accumulation of blood in the vessels of the head; blood effused from ruptured vessels within the head; serous effusions into the ventricles of the brain, and therefore, suffocating, metallic and poisonous vapours, which obstruct the circulation through the lungs, and thereby create congestion in the head, will cause palsy and apoplexy; also a fit of rage and violent passions may bring it on. A morbid state of the great arteries near the heart, and of the heart itself may cause apoplexy by obstructing the circulation and creating fulness in the head, such are ossifications, aneurisms, polypus: sometimes asthma, and dropsy, particularly of the chest, terminate in a fatal apoplexy. Full eating, especially of animal food; heavy suppers; indulgence in fermented liquors, such as ardent spirits, wine, strong malt liquors; a sudden change from an active to a sedentary life; the drying up of habitual discharges, as of issues, setons, hæmorrhoids or piles; constipation and sudden stooping in predisposed habits, may cause a fit of apoplexy, and also exposure to a hot sun; tight ligatures round the neck kill by inducing apoplexy.

The most usual of those causes are indolence, intoxication, gluttony and over eating, external injuries, costiveness, and vehement passions.

The exciting causes sometimes bring on a fit of apoplexy in persons of long necks and slender bodies. The symptoms of drunkenness are very like those of apoplexy: and such persons as are inclined to stutter and speak imperfectly from having taken strong liquor, have greater reason to apprehend apoplexy, as a consequence of intoxication, than they whose tongues do not falter so much from the same cause. Hence an useful warning to drunkards, to beware at least of that excess which disturbs the articulation, and which in the midst of their festivity might prove suddenly fatal: eating to excess is oftener a cause of a fatal fit of apoplexy than even drinking to excess; crowded and hot rooms will bring on a fit of apoplexy in predisposed habits; hence it sometimes happens, that at large parties, the noxious suffocation of the air, the heat of the room, and the indulgence of eating and drinking to excess, are productive of sudden death.\*

## CURE.

\* Upon such occasions the melancholy event is announced in the public prints with an observation that the gentleman was in excellent health before dinner, never better in his life, that he eat and drank with good appetite and good spirits, and that he suddenly dropped down never to rise again, after making

## CURE.

From a view of the exciting and predisposing causes of apoplexy, it is manifest that the most valuable part of the cure must depend upon the conduct of the patients themselves. Sobriety, moderate eating, and that rather of vegetable than animal food, abstaining from suppers altogether, an active course of life, early hours, regular exercise, tranquillity and composure of mind, sleeping with the head raised high, attention to regularity of bowels, so as to have at the least one stool every 24 hours: all these circumstances should be attended to very strictly by those who have a tendency to paralytic and apoplectic complaints. The regimen here pointed out will contribute to form a loose habit of body, but if costiveness should still remain, purgatives must be occasionally employed, the medicine No. 3, is useful for such a purpose, and as apoplexy sometimes requires larger doses than other diseases, the quantity of the purgative materials in the medicine might be increased if necessary, and in a few

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making an hearty meal. It is scarcely necessary to observe that in those cases, the goodness of the appetite, the largeness of the meal, the excitement of the spirits, the seducing excellence of the wine, and perhaps the heat of the apartment, were the causes of the sudden death.

Hogarth gives a sketch of an election dinner, in which he represents a man dead of apoplexy with an oyster on his knife.

hours after the pills, the purgative mixture No. 4, or a dose of castor oil, might be taken to improve and quicken their operation.

It is before the visit of the apoplectic fit, as I have already urged, that remedies are most useful; therefore it is at this period all our resources should be employed: the head should be shaved, and the shaving repeated at least every week; spirits or a spirituous mixture should be rubbed to the head every morning. The bowels ought to be freely purged with a medicine containing a large portion of calomel, because from such a purgative we have the strongest grounds to rely on a complete removal of irritating and putrid excrements; any purgative which passes quickly through the bowels may be given soon after, such is the mixture No. 4, the electuary No. 10, or castor oil; low diet should be enforced: if from the appearances there is a strong probability that a fit is to be apprehended, we might recommend a large issue to be made in the back part of the neck, close to the head, so as to hold two or three orange peas. If a slow and strong pulse, with a turgid fulness of the face and eyes, announce alarming and immediate danger, blood should be taken instantly from the temporal artery, or from the arm; in cases of less alarm, leeches might be applied to the temples.

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It may be very proper to observe, that in the situations here mentioned, namely, when the premonitory symptoms warn us of the approach of a serious fit, hesitation is fatal, a middling or timid practice is equally fatal; upon those important occasions decision and vigour are imperiously demanded. Strong irritating warm baths, with mustard and horse-radish, may be used for the lower extremities, and sinapisms may be afterwards applied to the legs or soles of the feet. In sudden danger, a large blister should be laid over the head, from the forehead backwards, and stretching down over the nape of the neck; a layer of powdered flies having been spread over the plaister when made; this blister may be left on for two days, and the discharge afterwards kept up with strong issue or savin ointment. The blister is best calculated for pressing and immediate danger; the issue for the more slow and permanent purpose of securing the patient from future attacks. The vigorous treatment recommended here is more indispensable if the patient has been gouty, as the apoplectic attack of gout, or gout in the head, is one of the most alarming appearances of the complaint.

When called to see a patient in the fit, all the practicable part of the above treatment should be adopted, such as bleeding from the arm and temples, shaving the head, strong stimulating baths to the feet, purging, if the patient can swallow,  
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with very active pills, assisted by a purgative mixture or castor oil, and where swallowing is difficult or impossible, enemata should be thrown up, and repeated every one or two hours until the bowels are relieved; the formula 83 is a good purgative enema in desperate cases. I have lately seen a striking instance of gout in the head, where this bold treatment restored the patient, although a palsy of one side had existed for some time before the fit of the apoplectic gout had attacked him.

As in apoplexy the brain, which is the origin of all the nerves and of the spinal marrow, is the seat of the disease, it is not matter of surprise that a great variety of nervous complaints are apt to follow. Indeed in apoplectic patients, there is often observed a general mobility and delicacy of the whole nervous system; this state is marked by a tremulous agitation of the muscles of voluntary motion. When the danger of the apoplectic paroxysm is removed, and this delicacy remains, it will be proper to recommend a plan in some degree different from that which was adapted to the apoplexy itself; because in the apoplexy our object is to rescue from instant death, even at the hazard of debilitating the system; in the other, that imminent danger being subdued, we ought to strengthen the frame, restore its functions, and endeavour to make it proof against future attacks.

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The state of the bowels is to be closely watched, and if slow to be immediately relieved. Pills containing a large portion of aloë, as in No. 84, are well suited to this purpose. They preserve in general a regular state of bowels, without leaving a disposition to costiveness, as other purgatives are commonly observed to do; and when stronger purgatives are necessary, the pills No. 3 might be employed with advantage. In delicate and old persons the draught No. 85 or 86 might be used with benefit, and repeated as often as the confined state of the bowels requires it. Regular exercise in the open air is indispensable when the weather permits, and had best be taken on horseback, or in an open carriage. With a view to quiet the agitation of the nerves, one of the cordial draughts No. 87, might be taken every morning. It sometimes happens that the patients will get a sudden fit of great nervous distress; in such cases an æther draught as in No. 88 is our best remedy for procuring immediate relief; but this is only adapted to a sudden emergency, and by no means to be used for a continuance. White mustard seed, swallowed whole, is sometimes of advantage to preserve a regular state of bowels, to stimulate the stomach, and to improve appetite.

#### PALSY.

Palsy is most frequently of the same kind as apoplexy, differing from it only in degree: it

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is often the forerunner of apoplexy; and an apoplectic fit if not fatal generally terminates in palsy.

The symptoms of palsy are very various. There is often loss of memory, in which things are forgotten and words remembered, and vice versa; in some cases, one language alone out of many remains; in some, the transactions of one period of life are recollected, and of other periods forgotten: the speech is imperfect; the patient often endeavours to pronounce different sentences, but the effort always terminates in the repeated pronunciation of the same sentence; there is commonly an hesitation or stammering in the speech: there is a morbid diminution of the sensations, and of the powers of the muscles of voluntary motion, so that the patient is totally or partially deprived of feeling in the former case, and incapable of moving the affected limbs in the latter. There is sometimes a palsy of one, of a few, or of all the muscles of one side, though the feeling be natural; and sometimes the feeling is lost, but the motion of the muscles remains, and there have been instances where the feeling was lost on one side and the power of motion on the other. A creeping is often felt over the whole surface, called *formicatio*: the limbs of the palsied side are frequently colder and heavier than those of the other; and sometimes, but rarely, the pulsation  
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of the arteries is weaker in the palsied than in the sound side. The palsied limbs often become stiff and wasted, more especially where poisonous gases or vapours, or poisons absorbed by the surface, or swallowed into the stomach, have been the cause of the palsy.

## CAUSES.

The causes of palsy are generally the same as of apoplexy: rheumatism is also sometimes a cause of palsy.

## CURE.

The cure is commonly similar to that of apoplexy; but the blood-letting, so indispensable in the apoplectic fit, is seldom or never necessary in palsy. In general, the exciting and noxious causes should be avoided; these are already enumerated in the description given of apoplexy, as intemperance in eating and drinking; sedentary habits; exposure to poisonous causes, however modified. The relation between the two diseases is analogous to that between acute and chronic diseases of the same sort, as between acute and chronic rheumatism. The variety of treatment is analogous also: the bleeding, for instance, so material, and often so indispensable in apoplexy, is seldom, if ever, required in palsy: but in palsy the necessity of a regular habit of body is the same: issues or a seaton in the back part of the neck,  
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neck, close to the head, are particularly indicated in palsy: friction to the palsied limb, and often a blister to the origin of the nerves supplying that limb, and a long continued discharge from the blistered part, are of great use in palsy: the shaving of the head, and the regular and daily application of spirituous embrocations, as already recommended in apoplexy, are very useful in palsy.

The limbs are often wasted down to a small size in palsy, so that the muscles become mere membranes. This is an occurrence more usual in palsy occasioned by poisons, as in colica pictonum, when that causes palsy. Where there has been undoubted evidence of affected brain, as the foundation of palsy, the use of electric shocks is dangerous; and the cold bath is at least doubtful, if not dangerous likewise: sparks, however, may be taken from the affected limbs with safety and advantage. But where the disease is the offspring of rheumatism, or of poisons; the bracing system of cold bath, electricity, chalybeate and light bitter medicines, is most effectual; the bowels being kept in a regular state all the time. The palsied limbs should be uniformly and constantly exercised, as much as they can conveniently bear; this practice, in many cases, helps to restore a considerable portion of strength; and in a few instances it has been known

known to renovate the health of the limbs altogether: friction produces the same effect, in a milder degree; it may be applied with the flesh-brush or flannel, or with the naked hand, but it is more convenient to use a little sweet oil, when the hand alone is employed; and when we wish to combine with it the advantage of a strong stimulus, as will be proper in cases of great stiffness and diminished sensation, the stimulating liniment, No. 16, will be found very useful. The liniment, No. 89, is also excellent, particularly in the stiffness and palsy caused by rheumatism.

#### ASTHMA.

This disease is often met with in Dublin at all seasons, but in the cold weather its attacks are most frequent and severe. A fit of asthma is marked by laborious breathing, accompanied by great and suffocating anguish; there is a sense of tightness across the chest; expiration and inspiration are difficult, and performed with a wheezing sound, as if the passage through the windpipe and lungs were greatly contracted; during the fit speaking is very difficult, and in some instances nearly impossible; the patients gasp for breath and are obliged to sit erect: the cough in the beginning is difficult, interrupted and dry, but by degrees it becomes easier, and

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at length a mucous expectoration is thrown up, which causes a remission of all the symptoms. The fits usually come on suddenly, more frequently in the night than at any other time, and continue for some hours, but remit towards morning, when the patients generally fall asleep, and after some hours repose awake greatly relieved, but still with a slight affection of their breathing. The pulse is sometimes natural, but more commonly quick; the heat of the body is increased; the paroxysm is accompanied by sickness at stomach, by flatulence, and sometimes by head-ache. During the intermissions, the patients cannot bear fatigue, or great motion. After the paroxysms remit, the urine, which was before pale and copious, is deep coloured, and often deposits a sediment.

Towards night, the breathing becomes again laborious; the fit is completely formed as before, and runs its usual course; and thus the complaint proceeds, the fits returning towards morning, until they gradually become less severe, and of shorter duration; the intermissions longer and more free from laborious breathing; and after some days the attacks entirely subside. Afterwards, it often happens that the patients enjoy a comfortable portion of health for a long time, without any annoyance from the complaint: but when once a fit of asthma has attacked, it is sure to return again; and the patient cannot entertain

entertain any well grounded hope that it has at any time taken its final leave: on the contrary, after having suffered from the repetition of some distressing attacks, the breathing even in the intervals continues hurried and laborious; and if the patient gets a common cold or catarrh, it is sure to cause a very severe return of the complaint; and in its advanced stages, a fit of it will occur in the day time as well as at night.

Asthma is mostly a disease of advanced life, and frequently hereditary; but there are many instances of its attacking very young persons, and even children are martyrs to it. Asthma will continue through the whole of life, and often of a long life; but it more commonly proves fatal before the period of old age, by breaking down the constitution by repeated attacks; by ending in hæmoptoe and pulmonary consumption; by inducing dropsy of the chest; or by a severe convulsive attack of it, terminating in apoplexy.

Asthmatic persons are remarkable for high shoulders, narrow chests, and commonly a slight habitual stoop, or a slight inclination of the upper part of the body forward. When the system is predisposed to asthma, the slightest causes will provoke it: a paroxysm may be brought on by drinking a glass of water; by flatulence or wind in the stomach and bowels; by a full meal; by perspiration

perspiration being even momentarily checked, from exposure to cold. Catarrh or catching cold will cause it with great severity; strong and violent passions, as rage, &c. and severe or fatiguing exercise will also bring on a distressing attack. As asthma often terminates in dropsy of the chest, so likewise is dropsy of the chest often accompanied by an asthmatic breathing.

## CURE.

Riding on horseback is the best remedy for asthma, and for all cases of delicate lungs: the food ought to be light, easy of digestion, and taken in moderation: animal food should be taken very sparingly, especially in a solid state, because the distension of the stomach even with a large or full meal of vegetables, and still more of animal food, is apt to bring on a fit of asthma in predisposed persons. The strictest attention is required to the state of the bowels, and therefore costiveness should not be permitted to exist for a moment; for this reason the patient should be furnished with some mild purgative, which has the property of leaving a regular state of the body, after its immediate operation is over; such are the pills, 84. The clothing should be comfortably warm, in order to guard against the consequences of repressed perspiration; and the composure and cheerfulness of the mind should  
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be supported by all possible means. As a bilious colluvies of the alimentary canal is frequently found in asthmatics, as is evinced by the foul and loaded appearance of the tongue, we should in such occurrences recommence some purgative analogous to the medicines No. 1 or 2, because they have the effect of carrying off this acrimony more completely than other purgatives. With respect to air, one rule will not hold in all cases. Some asthmatics will find the mild air of inland situations agree best with them, and this is most frequently the case; others, the sharp and bracing air of the sea coast; and others, the loaded and impure air of large towns. The warm and mild air of inland and southern situations, however, agrees best in the greatest number of instances, as has been already stated. Where the cold bracing air of the sea answers best, the prospect is most favourable, because it is manifest that the delicacy of the lungs is not then so great; and because in those instances, the bracing plan of cold bath; cool air; and vigorous exercise is likely to be successful: but where this invigorating method cannot be resorted to, in consequence of its inducing a violent attack of the complaint, it is evident that the lungs are more delicate, and that the palliative treatment of guarding the patient from the exciting causes is the most that can be effected. Here however it will be proper to remark, that even under those circumstances

stances of morbid delicacy of the lungs, the plan of riding on horseback, or of exercising in an open carriage, may be sometimes so managed in young persons, as to cause that change in the habit of the patients which shall ultimately enable them to adopt the strengthening regimen: thus the duration of the exercise may be increased day after day, so that in some time they can bear to be in the open air a great part of the day, and to begin at an early hour in the morning. The difference produced in the strength of the constitution, and in the firmness of the patient's habits by such means, is sometimes very great: after sufficient strength is acquired by these means to enable the patients to walk without fatigue or danger of bringing on a fit; they ought to unite both kinds of exercise, so as to walk and ride alternately; and by degrees accustom themselves to spend the greatest part of the day in the open air, when the weather is favourable. By following this method, they will in several instances be enabled to approach that sharp air, which at first was intolerable; and acquire firmness enough at length to exercise in that air also. Habits of sobriety must be strictly enforced; and the patients ordered to sleep in a large room and on a firm bed without curtains.

I have here dwelt on regimen and discipline more than I have on any medical treatment strictly

so called, because the complaint is to be subdued more by attention to regimen than by the use of medicines; but sometimes a severe fit of asthma requires the aid of medicine to break the force of the attack and to shorten its duration. When the patient labours under the symptoms of catarrh along with asthma, an emetic will be proper. One ounce of ipecacuan wine, with half a grain or a grain of tartar emetic dissolved in it, is a good and safe dose for an adult. On the following day a dose of the purgatives No. 1, 2 or 3 might be prescribed according to the circumstances of the case; or if there is no evidence of the bowels being oppressed with much acrimony, the mixture No. 4. may be recommended, or some other mild purgative, but in small bulk. The patient should be strictly restrained to low diet, and to the use of emollient and subacid drink taken tepid, such as whey, fresh buttermilk and such like. In cases of asthmatic and of quick breathing, I have found great benefit from an expectorating mixture, consisting principally of a solution of asafetida as in No. 68, the mixture No. 69 is less nauseous and frequently very useful in such cases, but in delicate persons these mixtures will sometimes sicken; we may then try the expectorants No. 66 or 67. It is during the existence of catarrhal symptoms that these formulæ are most proper; but when the fit is purely asthmatic, or when the catarrhal symptoms are mitigated, so that the asthmatic are now

the predominant symptoms, the draughts No. 90, or 91 may be taken to allay the difficult breathing, and repeated as often as the oppressive breathing may return. Very small doses of ipecacuanha in powder taken at night, are also frequently found to mitigate the distress of asthmatic breathing, and their efficacy is sometimes increased by adding to them a small particle of opium. In some cases of catarrh combined with asthma, the sense of oppression and the irritating cough derive great benefit from a blister between the shoulders. Bleeding in severe cases of the same combination will be necessary, and will give immediate relief; but in a purely asthmatic fit, unaccompanied by catarrh, bleeding is not only a doubtful but a dangerous remedy.

Gout frequently assumes all the distressing form of asthma, and that sometimes in robust persons. The delicacy of health during the existence of this treacherous complaint is marked by a sallow complexion; impaired appetite; inaptitude for the ordinary exertions and habits of industry or employment; a bilious loaded tongue; flatulence and uneasy tension of the belly; irregular secretion of urine, sometimes copious but more commonly scanty; and an imperfect evacuation by stool, accompanied by straining similar to that of dysentery. At night the patient is suddenly seized with quick breathing, oppression  
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about the chest, and feverish hurried pulse; he is obliged to start up, sit erect in bed, and sometimes to throw open the window to relieve his breathing.

This modification of gout is not unusual, though in many instances where it exists gout is not suspected. Here the purgative pills already recommended are decidedly valuable, as the removal of the acrid alimentary mass by means of appropriate evacuants gives instant and complete relief. Exercise on horseback, attention to the state of the bowels, and a rigorous injunction to avoid all excess in eating and drinking, should be strongly enforced. Country air and exercise agree much better with those gouty asthmatics than the habits and air of the town; even the severe exercise of hunting and shooting will rather brace than fatigue them in many instances. Along with the directions of attention to sobriety, regularity of bowels, and moderation in eating already recommended, the strengthening and chalybeate pills No. 35 might be taken during the intermissions with advantage, and washed down with one of the draughts No. 87. These medicines are well adapted to gouty infirmity, as they are calculated to strengthen the stomach and the whole system, and thereby to correct the wanderings of its attacks, and to give them a fixed and regular form.

## CHINCOUGH.

This is a common disease in Dublin, and generally to be found in those seasons in which catarrh and measles are prevalent: indeed there is seldom a season in which some cases of it might not be met with, but its greatest frequency and severity are known during the winter and spring. It is a convulsive disease and propagated by contagion, and like most contagious diseases it is often epidemic. Its attacks are principally confined to children and young persons, like all those diseases which seldom occur but once through life: grown persons however, and even the aged, who had it not in the preceding course of their lives, may be attacked by it. In the beginning it appears like a common feverish cold; but by degrees its real character is evolved. It is not until the end of the second and sometimes of the third week that the whoop or kink sets in, and points out the genuine nature of the complaint; it is often met with in dispensary practise.

The patients appear in the beginning to have got cold, but when the marks of the disease commence, the cough is found materially different from that of a common cold: it consists of a violent convulsive expiration frequently repeated by successive efforts, without the intervention of an alternate or reciprocal inspiration. This suc-  
cession

cession of short expirations is called a kink, after which the patients, who are now ready to perish from want of breath, when the lungs appear entirely exhausted of air, have a rapid noisy inspiration, as if through a streightened passage, until a sufficiency of air is again received into the lungs to enable them to repeat the former process of short, quick, and rapidly succeeding expirations; and thus this convulsive cough, succeeded by a noisy and violent inspiration, is frequently repeated, until some viscid mucus is expectorated, which is commonly followed by an effort to vomit; and this puts an end to the paroxysm or fit for the time. During the continuance of the fit, the face grows turgid and red, the eyes are swelled and suffused, and the pulse becomes quick and feverish. After the fit however it often happens that the little patient, although for a moment exhausted and weary, soon resumes his usual amusements and cheerfulness, and does not seem to have suffered any serious mischief; even the appetite is not impaired; and there are instances of cases so very mild, that the patient is attacked during sleep, and passes through the fit without awaking. Frequently too the complaint has an evident effect upon the health and strength of the patient, who continues for some time after the fit exhausted, tottering, and stupid. Sometimes the force of coughing causes hæmorrhages or discharges of blood from the nose and from the lungs; some-  
times

times hernia or ruptures, and sometimes a protrusion of the anus are the consequence; and in many instances the accumulation of blood in the head becomes so great as to bring on an apoplectic paroxysm. In the progress of the disease, the approach of the fit is perceived by the patients who will catch at any person or thing within their grasp, in order to support themselves during the distress of the approaching attack, and sometimes they will seize upon their own throat, in order to check or to stop it altogether.

## CURE.

In the beginning when the disease has the appearance of common cold, it may at least in most instances be treated like catarrh, that is with the exhibition of an emetic; and this practice either with a view to the catarrhal appearances, or to the probability of incipient chincough is judicious and proper; the emetic may be repeated once and again during the symptoms of catarrh. But when it assumes its genuine character, emetics must be given with considerable caution, because they weaken the constitution, and have a tendency to make the disease more obstinate. Bleeding also is to be avoided, unless the violence of the fit threaten apoplexy or the rupture of a blood-vessel. Expectorants are the remedies principally to be relied on. The mixtures No. 92 or 93, taken by spoonfuls,

spoonfuls, and repeated at short intervals three or four times before the fit begins, will often break its force and shorten its duration.

In cases where these mixtures may prove too inert or mild, the formula No. 94 may be taken. If the patients are under six years of age, the quantity of the opiate in these medicines ought to be diminished. Warm clothing, exercise in an open carriage, and change of air are of great service, but the change should not be from a warmer to a cooler air; but rather to a warmer air, from air not so warm. I have known instances of bad consequences having followed the removal from Dublin to the seaside in this complaint. This is a circumstance that should be carefully attended to, and which I have reason to believe has been too frequently neglected. I tried the expedient of filling the bed-room of the patients with nitrous vapour in two instances of delicate children, and with decided advantage. This is a practise which appears to me entitled to serious trial in dangerous cases of chincough.

There is no disease on which more quackery has been expended than chincough. Liniments rubbed to the surface have been greatly applauded and are daily employed; there is one particularly, in high estimation, of which oil of amber forms the basis.

The

The most plausible applications of this sort, are those which contain anodyne qualities.

I have uniformly found in convulsive cough, as well as in all other modifications of cough, that where the bowels are slow, and the tongue bilious and loaded, an appropriate purgative, such as the powder, No. 52, will not only relieve the first passages from the foul contents, but also greatly mitigate the severity of the cough; this powder is a proper dose for ordinary constitutions, about twelve years old, and should be modified according to the age and the delicacy of the patient. This purgative ought to be repeated whenever a new accumulation of sordes takes place, an event which the loaded tongue, the slow bowels, and the uneasy feel about the præcordia will announce: if this does not operate in the course of five or six hours, a spoonful of castor oil, proportioned to the circumstances of the patient's age and constitution, will be useful in rendering the operation of the powder more speedily efficacious.

I met with two alarming instances of chincough in the month of February, in two very young and delicate children, who had neither the vaccine nor small poek. From the period of the year, the delicacy of their constitution, and the tenderness of their age, one being only two months, and

and the other fourteen months old; I entertained but slender hopes indeed of their recovery. I determined to try how far the habit and severity of the disease might be shattered and subdued, by subjecting the system to the action of a strong fever; and accordingly inoculated both with the infection of small poek, (I preferred small poek to the vaccine poek on this occasion, because its fever is more violent, causes a greater shock to the body, and therefore holds out a better prospect of overcoming a powerful morbid action, under the influence of which the system already laboured.) My views were happily gratified. The severity of the disease was so dissipated by the fever of the small poek, that after its departure, the convulsive symptoms of chincough had disappeared, and only a slight cough remained, which in a little time was removed likewise; and left the little patients in a state of convalescence which soon improved into perfect health.

In alarming cases, preparations of the leaves of cicuta or hemlock, and of hyoscyamus or henbane, should be tried, particularly the latter, a few drops of the tincture of which are found to produce anodyne effects, in convulsive complaints, sometimes better than opium; without being attended with the inconvenience of causing a constipation of the bowels.

LEUCORRHEA.



## LEUCORRHÆA, FLUOR ALBUS, OR WHITES.

This complaint is often met with in Dublin, particularly among the poor. It is accompanied by pain of the back and loins; paleness of face, and of the whole surface: the stomach and bowels are injured in their functions, hence proceed loss of appetite, and irregularity of the bowels, but mostly costiveness; the tongue is foul and yellow; and there is a feeling of oppression at the pit of the stomach; the spirits are generally depressed; the patients are unwilling to make any exertion; and in several instances there is a lightness or reeling of the head: a white or yellowish mucous fluid is discharged by the vagina, sometimes in small quantity, and at the usual interval of the catamenia; but the discharge is often copious and returns at much shorter periods; and in some cases the relaxation becomes so great, that there is almost a perpetual discharge with very short intermissions. The train of symptoms which characterise this disease will commonly disappear with the discharge, and return periodically along with it: in many instances, particularly in the higher ranks, the matter is sometimes a mucous fluid, and sometimes blood; and at the monthly periods, there is frequently a profuse evacuation of the ordinary appearance, which, as it diminishes and is about to cease, loses its colour

colour, and becomes similar to the mucous discharge of flour albus. In irritable habits it is often accompanied by hysteria, and when it has long continued without any relief, it has a tendency to terminate in dropsy.

## CAUSES.

The habits of fashionable life, such as late hours; want of exercise; warm liquids, such as tea and coffee freely used; the custom of being restrained from the use and exercise of the limbs in the open air, and of being carried about only in a carriage, greatly dispose to this complaint: dress likewise often leads to it, especially such as by squeezing or pinching the soft parts of the body confines the circulation, and restrains the easy and healthful motions of the limbs and trunk of the body.

In humble life, the complaint is occasioned by labour; fatigue; want of comfortable clothing; exposure to cold; and sometimes by habits of intoxication: frequent abortions will cause it; and in females who suffer long from its attacks irremediable barrenness is often the consequence; or though pregnancy take place, there is neither vigour nor health of constitution sufficient to enable the infant to arrive at maturity, and miscarriage commonly ensues.

Sometimes

Sometimes a cancer of the womb is attended with all the painful symptoms of profuse menstruation, and of flour albus; and though the cause be permanent, yet the complaint will observe periodical returns.

Venereal intercourse during the existence of leucorrhœa will greatly exasperate the symptoms.

## CURE.

The first and most important step in effecting a cure, is to correct the habit, if possible, which predisposed to the complaint; but it is often extremely difficult to correct inveterate habits, notwithstanding the pernicious consequences which manifestly result from their indulgence.

If there be evidence of foulness of stomach and bowels, marked by pain and fulness of the pit of the stomach and hypochondria, by costiveness, and most particularly by a loaded tongue; an appropriate purgative is to be administered, to carry off this foulness, such as the medicines, No. 1 or 2, and they might be repeated twice a week, or oftener, according to circumstances, until the healthy secretion of the stomach and bowels be restored: afterwards the pilule rhei compositæ of the Edinburgh dispensatory may be occasionally used,  
whenever

whenever the bowels are confined: such a treatment alone will in many instances cure this complaint, as I have sometimes experienced: and in all cases of leucorrhœa, it will be found an useful auxiliary, because in all cases it will be an indispensable step to free the alimentary canal from its irritating and morbid contents, and to restore the sound secretions of this important part of the system.

After this evacuating method has been properly premised, the most valuable remedies are those which have the general effects of bracing the system; and such as are peculiarly fitted to strengthen the uterine organs; of this class are the astringent mixtures, No. 81 or 82,\* cold water topically applied by means of a linen cloth or napkin, is useful in this way, and in slight cases of the complaint, will sometimes effect a cure; exercise is also proper either on horseback, in an open carriage, or on foot, according to the constitution and vigour of the patient; but it should be always moderate, and within the limits of the patient's strength: the cold sea bath or shower bath is an excellent remedy, and ought to be persevered in for  
a long

\* The rubia tinctorum or madder root, has been in high estimation in this complaint; and from its astringency seems entitled to more respect than is now paid to it; as it is at present almost omitted in medical practice.

a long time; lime water, both simple and compound, has been sometimes found useful. The cordial mixture, No. 78, is a good roborant, after the medicines adapted to the evacuation of the bowels, and to the constringency of the parts affected, have had a proper trial, and might be exhibited for a long time with decisive advantage.

MENORRHAGIA, OR PROFUSE  
MENSTRUATION.

Too copious a flow of the catamenia is analogous in most of its symptoms and causes to leucorrhœa. The quantity of the discharge is not only excessive, but it returns at shorter intervals, continues at each period for a longer time than the natural evacuation, and is accompanied by the weakness of leucorrhœa. The melancholy consequence also of barrenness and of miscarriage, enumerated in treating of leucorrhœa, will follow with equal certainty in this complaint.

The method of cure is the same as that of leucorrhœa.

At the period when the catamenia are about to cease, an irregular kind of menorrhagia occurs. Sometimes the discharge is profuse and returns at short intervals; sometimes the intermissions are longer than natural; and sometimes the quantity

tity of the discharge is very scanty; and those varieties in its appearance as to quantity and period succeed one another, with considerable irregularity.

CURE.

The complaint in those instances must be treated with such remedies as are calculated to preserve a regular state of the bowels, and to alleviate present distress. The purgative medicines No. 1 and No. 2 are properly qualified for this purpose, and they may if necessary be assisted by the purgative mixture No. 4, or by a dose of castor oil and tincture of senna taken in a few hours after. These medicines might be resorted to from time to time, as often as there is a constipation of the bowels accompanied by a fulness of the præcordia, or a bilious foulness of the tongue; but with a view merely to preserve a regular state of bowels, when there is no evidence of morbid colluvies of the alimentary canal, a moderate dose of sulphat of magnesia and two grains of powdered ginger may be taken at bed time in some agreeable water, such as peppermint or cinnamon water, or with an infusion of roses, as in No. 49, and frequently repeated. The treatment here recommended will in most instances be fully sufficient to remove any pressing distress and to preserve a comfortable portion of health throughout this delicate period. But if the quantity

quantity of the menstrual discharge become so great, or return at such short intervals as to weaken the system considerably, and to threaten dropsical consequences by a pale swelling and stiffness about the ankles, legs, and feet; the medicines, No. 34, 35, or 37, may be taken for a constancy, until appearances of decisive improvement take place; with these may be combined with much advantage the cold salt bath or shower bath, when the season of the year is favourable; the bath is a strengthener of superior efficacy, particularly in cases of relaxation, like those of the present complaint.

In two or three years the constitution generally becomes adapted to the change; the strength is re-established, and in many instances the patients enjoy for many years after a more comfortable portion of health than they were ever blessed with in the preceding course of their lives.

#### CHOREA, OR ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

This is a complaint of youth, from the age of eight or nine, to that of puberty about the fifteenth year. Its attacks are confined to the delicate and relaxed of both sexes; but more commonly to females than to males; it is however a very rare disease, and so seldom met with in males, that it

is

is most commonly considered a sexual disease. I have seen a few cases of it in dispensary practice, and but a very few in private practice.

The symptoms of it are an hobbling or unsteady motion of one of the lower extremities, which in walking is more or less dragged along with a starting or jumping of the limb, that cannot now be lifted firmly as in its healthful motion in walking; the complaint in many instances is confined to this symptom; but when it becomes more severe, one of the arms is convulsed in a similar way; and when the convulsed limb is held steady by force, the corresponding limb, which was steady before, is now agitated like the affected limb; in more severe cases the muscles of the head and jaw are also disturbed by irregular contractions; there is an evident alteration in the general appearance of the health, particularly when the disease has continued for a long time; the spirits and usual playfulness are lost; the belly becomes uncommonly hard and swelled; the bowels confined; and the tongue foul and loaded. Those however are the symptoms of chorea completely formed, and after it has continued a long time.

#### CURE.

I treated the few mild cases which occurred to me on the principle of the disease being connected

y

with

with a morbid secretion of the stomach and bowels; and with success.\* I recommended the powder No. 52 to be taken in the morning, and in four or five hours, a dose of the purgative mixture No. 50 to be used if necessary, and repeated every two hours until the bowels were relieved; this method to be resumed as often as the bowels were slow, in such a manner that there should be an evacuation at least once a day; and to be persevered in until the stools, which at first were generally dark coloured and fatid, began to assume a natural appearance; the bowels afterwards to be kept regular by means of gentle laxatives or glysters. It is not necessary that the calomel purgative should be persisted in throughout the continuance of the complaint; after being exhibited three or four times, other purgatives will generally answer, such as the mixture No. 4, of which a dose may be taken every two hours until the

\* For the simplicity, the propriety, and success of this treatment, I profess myself indebted to the valuable publication of Doctor James Hamilton of Edinburgh on the effects of purgative medicines, a work which I hold to be one of the greatest treasures that has been published on the practice of medicine. At the same time I must candidly own that I conceive its value would have been much greater, if he had made a distinction between the qualities and effects of the different purgatives he recommends, and pointed out those varieties of symptoms and of disease, which required particular purgatives, in preference to others; with an explanation of the reasons for such a preference.

the bowels are relieved; but I conceive the calomel purgatives decidedly the best in the beginning, because they are the most powerful in dislodging morbid excrements, and in correcting depraved secretions; other purgatives will afterwards keep up the action of the alimentary canal. By degrees, in consequence of this treatment, the irregular motions of the muscles subside, and health returns. On the intermediate days, some agreeable tonic medicine might be ordered, such as the mixture No. 18, and of this a table spoonful taken in the morning and middle of the day.

After the natural action of the bowels is restored, and the tremors begin to subside, it will be proper to recommend chalybeate and strengthening remedies, with a view to the state of the stomach, and to brace the system; such as the pills No. 34, 35, or the draughts No. 45: when the pills are taken, they might be washed down with a table spoonful of the mixture No. 18. In most cases however, particularly when recent, I am strongly disposed to believe, that the purgative plan alone will be competent to banish the complaint. The cold shower-bath or sea-bath, where the constitution can bear it, may be used two or three times a week after convalescence has begun, if the season of the year permits; and is an excellent remedy both to restore the health of the system, and to guard against a return of the complaint.