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AN

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

Rd 1819.

ON THE

INFLUENCE OF ONE DISEASE,

IN THE

CURE OF OTHERS;

SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINATION OF THE

REV. JOHN EWING, S. T. P. PROVOST;

THE

TRUSTEES AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

ON THE TWENTY FIRST DAY OF MAY, 1795,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE,

BY ASHTON ALEXANDER,

OF VIRGINIA.

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1795.

TO

PHILIP THOMAS, PHYSICIAN

OF MARYLAND.

AND TO

BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF THE INSTITUTES,

AND OF

CLINICAL MEDICINE,

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THIS *Dissertation, is humbly inscribed, as a grateful Tribute of Respect, from their much obliged and very,*

Affectionate pupil,

ASHTON ALEXANDER.

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INTRODUCTION.

AS neceſſity and not the deſire of Fame is the motive for appearing thus early in the literary world, this circumſtance, ſhould reſcue the Author from the implication of preſumption, in chuſing a ſubject unattempted before. Deſeaſe is ſo great an evil and ſo much the enemy of Humanity, that Patients would always be averſe from its admiſſion though aſſured good ſhould ariſe out of it. But as one diſeaſe has been known to cure others, all the Author propoſes, is to ſhew where they have had this effect, and upon what principle, one diſeaſe ever cured another.—True principles are the only diſederata in medicine, and it will be found that medicine, as a Science, will be progreſſive in proportion as true principles are eſtabliſhed. The revolution in the mode of preſcribing within a few years is aſtoniſhing; formerly a preſcription was valuable in proportion to the number of ingredients which entered into its compoſition, now it is ſo from the paucity; and probably a phyſician's mind might be meaſured by his preſcriptions, weak if they were complex, ſtrong if they were ſimple.—This improvement has been accompliſhed by principles; and ſimplicity will ſucceed the quakery of medicine in proportion as juſt ones are acquired. There have been phyſicians ſince the days of the Empericks, who have decried every thing in the practice of phyſic,

but fact and experience; waving the proved objection "that as many false facts, & as much false experience have been recorded in the history of physic, as false theories or principles," we insist that the facility of acquiring a knowledge of the profession by means of a principle is as easily acquired as of facts, and if true it is impossible ever to forget it, "for truth, according to a celebrated writer cannot be unlearned"—No memory can retain all the facts recorded in medicine; and if it were possible, a man would be a worse Physician for it, for there are so many contradictory facts on the same disease, that he could only prescribe by forgetting them all. One just principle unlocks a thousand facts, explains those which have a seeming contradiction, & so associates them in the mind, that they revive with the most vivid impressions, whenever we recur to the principle with which they were associated. In the old books on materia medica, the history of every article of medicine, concludes with an appropriate application to some particular affection of the human body; what memory could retain this? But since each article is now known to possess some virtue in common with others, it is only necessary to remember the generic distinction—Thus Opium is given to ease pains in every case, but it does not in every case succeed, perhaps not in one half, and where it fails, the disease is aggravated—Admit as a principle that certain states of pain are to be cured by stimulants, and that opium is only preferable to other stimulants because of its more universal operation, and we unlock all the mysteries of this *invaluable* medicine which no fact nor false experience could explain either by the raging archeus of Vanhelmont or the Sedative or negative operation of Dr. Cullen.—

SECTION I.

INDOLENCE, I believe the moſt prominent propenſity of man, if we trace his character from the ſavage of America, to the profeſſors of ſcience. Is it then to be wondered that Dr. Brown's ſyſtem of medicine; ſhould find ſo many admirers. The ſcience of medicine acquired by former ſyſtems was painful, tedious and operoſe. But when acquired by ſo pleaſant, ſo light and ſo ſpeculative a ſyſtem as Dr. Brown's, it is perhaps the moſt eaſy acquirement which can be impoſed upon the human mind; it is the buſineſs of a day, 'tis to remember there is no local diſeaſe, to which the body can be liable. The doctor meant this or nothing, when he ſays---"A part is the ſeat of no general diſeaſe, the whole body is the ſeat of them all, becauſe with the inequality, above related; the whole excitability is affected in them all"—Dr. Brown, was lead into this error, by another in its conſequences of greater magnitude,—"That pleuriſy, conſumption, and ſeveral other diſeaſes were local. The beauty of truth requires, that we reſt not under degrees of error ſince it is as lovely and as eaſily attained in medicine as in other ſciences. If one diſeaſes even cured an other, it can only be explained by conſidering the body liable to no general, or univerſal diſeaſe."

The human body, as it ſtands formed for the emiſſion of life is a complicated machine—the component parts have been divided by a late * writer

* Dr. Ruſh Yellow Fever.

into nine different ſyſtems, as they are not generally known it will be proper to mention them here:—They are 1ſt.—The Brain and Nerves, 2d.—The Liver Lungs and Alimentary Canal, 3d.—The Sanguiferous Syſtem, 4th.—The Muſcular, 5th.—The Glandular and Lymphatic, 6th.—The Cutaneous, 7th.—The Secretory and Excretory Organs, 8th.—The Blood, 9th.—The Senſes and appetite, all theſe ſyſtems are to be affected in one of two ways, either partially as in diſeaſe or generally as in death. Its partial affection alone, is here to be conſidered—but previouſly I muſt premiſe two propoſitions indiſpenſably neceſſary in this diſſertation.——My firſt propoſition is, that diſeaſe conſiſts in unequal excitement together with exceſs or deficiency of Excitability. The reverſe of this propoſition conſtitutes health. In health all the ſyſtems have juſt proportions of Excitability and excitement—but in diſeaſe all is *diſorder;* the firſt ſymptom of which is unequal excitement in one or more ſyſtems, diſcoverable by uneaſy ſenſations or pain; I have ſaid diſcoverable by thoſe effects; for diſeaſe may occur in the human body without either, as in the formation of calculus in the liver and bladder, alſo, in ſchirrhus, and caſes are recorded in medical writings of ſuppurations in the liver, without pain or any ſymptom to indicate them. We riſe in the morning with a perfect equality of excitement if in health, but the moment the ſtimuli of the day begin to act upon us there is a tendency to inequality of excitement, which acting til night, leaves our bodies under prediſpoſition from the violence of the ſtimuli operating thro' the day. In the ſanguiferous ſyſtem there is an increaſe of excitement and an abſtraction from

the muſcular ſyſtem and probably from ſeveral others. The muſcle which could raiſe five thouſand times its own weight in the morning, is pained at every motion, and the arterie which at the ſame time beat 65 or 70 ſmall and weak, now beats 80 or 90 full and ſtrong.

A continuance of this irregularity would be diſeaſe; but as night comes on, all the ſtimuli are abſtracted except ſuch as ſupport life, and thus leave the excitement to equalize itſelf. "Sleep has been called a tendency to death," it might, with more propriety be called, a tendency to life. For without night and ſleep reſulting from it, we muſt have been formed like Salamanders, or exiſted as Ephemeras—The wiſdom of the Supreme Being, in the Government of this world appears in no inſtance more ſtupendous than in the alternation of night, with day. All nature feels its influence, and lives but in the change: but as all things are made ſubordinate to man, ſo the benefit of night is more eſpecially intended for him. I have ſaid that it acts as the prevention to phyſical evil, it alſo, prevents the Commiſſion of moral, with exceptions applicable to both: But its principle efficacy conſiſts, in the prevention of diſeaſe. When the irregularity of excitement is ſo great, that the tranſition to diſeaſe, is a work of a moment: night kindly abſtracts all ſtimuli, the arterial ſyſtem gives off the accumulated excitement, abſtracted from others, and by the morning leaves all the ſyſtems with juſt proportions of excitement—I have ſaid the body labours under prediſpoſition, to diſeaſe every night: prediſpoſition, is that ſtate of one or more ſyſtems, in which a ſmall exciting cauſe, brings on diſeaſe, which without this prediſpoſition, would have had no effect:

when the ſanguiferous ſyſtem labours under irregular accumulated excitement, from cauſes before mentioned, the continuance of thoſe cauſes, or others of a ſimilar kind one hour, will produce a fever which ſhall end in death in a few days; the only difference here between the prediſpoſition and the diſeaſe conſiſts in this. In prediſpoſition, however accumulated the excitement may be, in a ſyſtem, there is ſtill a tendency in the excitement to equalize, when the ſtimulating cauſe is withdrawn. But in diſeaſe, this tendency is loſt, though the cauſe be taken away; in the arterial ſyſtem a convulſion takes place, by which the excitement becomes ſo inſulated (if the expreſſion may be allowed) as not be conducted off, by any of the other ſyſtems, and a permanent, irregularity of excitement, in other words diſeaſe, takes place; in this light I conſider hereditary prediſpoſition to any diſeaſe as conſumption, epilepſy, madneſs, gout, ſtone, and numerous others, to conſiſt in nothing more than a diſpoſition, which the ſeats of thoſe diſeaſes have to accumulate excitement, hence a ſmall exciting cauſe is capable of producing the diſeaſe prediſpoſed to. That diſeaſe conſiſts in unequal excitement, appears alſo, from its phenomina, when a patient labours under that particular ſtate of fever denominated pleuriſy, he is ſaid by the followers of Brown, to have a general diſeaſe; and from the hard tenſe pulſe which attends, a diſeaſe of too much ſtrength: I ſelect this diſeaſe, becauſe it has been uſed to exemplify the doctrine. But ſince the muſcular ſyſtem appears incapacitated to all action, how ſhall it be explained, that the whole Body labours under too much? It is impoſſible to explain what has no exiſtence in

nature. The propoſition leads me to conſider, pleuriſy not as a diſeaſe of the whole body, but as a diſeaſe confined to the arterial ſyſtem: the proximate cauſe of which is an accumulation of excitement, in that ſyſtem, of which the other ſyſtems have been deprived, the muſcular ſyſtem, in a particular manner has been deprived of its excitement; this always accumulates the excitability, and in this ſtate any motion is ſtimulus diſproportioned; but particularly the motion of the intercoſtal muſcles, in reſpiration: that the excitement is accumulated from the other ſyſtems, and not from without the body, as Brown's doctrine teaches, is apparent from the cauſe of pleuriſy: this cauſe is long expoſure to cold, which abſtracts excitement from the whole body—It may be urged that, bleeding is the only proper remedy in the diſeaſe; but bleeding is only a general remedy indirectly, it is as much ſpecific to the arterial ſyſtem, as the gum fœtida, is to the nervous, affecting the other ſyſtems through the arterial, as the fœtida does through the nervous, and in proportion as the other ſyſtems are dependent upon it; thus fainting may be occaſioned by bleeding, becauſe the nervous ſyſtem is dependent upon the arterial, for ſuch a degree of tenſion in the brain, as will enable it to perform the proper vibrations, or motions of life. If a proper remedy were diſcovered for pleuriſy; its operation would conſiſt in replacing from the arterial, the excitement of which the other ſyſtems had been deprived; this would give health, becauſe the excitement would be equal; but until ſuch a remedy be known, bleeding muſt be the ſubſtitute. Bleeding ſucceeds by waſting the excitement in the arterial ſyſtem, nearly to an equality with the others, and ſo gives

the excitement an opportunity to equalize. If the ſum of excitement in all the ſyſtems be 50, we will ſuppoſe a permanent accumulation of 5, in any one ſyſtem to conſtitute diſeaſe, in the arterial it would conſtitute fever, but ſince the other ſyſtems have been deprived of excitement as 5, health is reinſtated when they are replaced. This I ſhall hereafter ſay is ſometimes accompliſhed by ſtimuli, yet ſhould they act upon the arterial ſyſtem, the excitement ſo far from being equalized, might be increaſed to *indirect debility*, this I will ſuppoſe at 60, juſt practice, therefore to avoid that danger, rejects the uſe of ſtimuli; and by a different plan attempts to waſte the excitement in the arterial, by bleeding, and purging, to an equality with the other ſyſtems; nevertheleſs, ſhould the inequality continue after the depletion, ſtimuli may be attempted with ſafety. The excited ſyſtem in this caſe, I ſuppoſe to be under 50, and though indirect debility, might be brought on in the firſt inſtance, in the ſecond, the excitement would only be raiſed to 50, the point of health. As the other ſyſtems are frequently brought up to the excited ſyſtem in this way, it is ſafe, but in the firſt it is improper, in as much as indirect debility ought always to be avoided. Patients 'tis true have recovered of indirectdebility, in the Yellow Fever, under the ſtimulating treatment, becauſe the debility is ſo ſudden, as eaſily tobe equalized. The ſyſtem being inſenſible during the time to ſtimuli: but indirect debility, brought on in other diſeaſes, is more dangerous, as diſorganization, by effuſion of water, or blood, is the conſequence.—The phenomina of Rheumatiſm, ſhew the ſame inequality of excitement. In this diſeaſe, as in Pleuriſy, there

is an accumulation of excitement in the arterial ſyſtem, an abſtraction from the muſcular, leaving the latter too deficient to perform its offices; the intention in both, is to equalize the excitement, and the method of treatment the ſame: In convulſions, the excitement is accumulated in the muſcular ſyſtem, and abſtracted from the arterial and other ſyſtems, this inequality appears in the pulſe, which is ſlow and weaker than in health, however as fever ſometimes occurs, it ſhews the arterial participates in the accumulation: this ought to be noticed, for whenever it occurs bleeding is more proper, it increaſes the determination to the arterial, where the accumulation is much more ſafe, than the muſcular. This is ſo ſtriking, that the arterial ſyſtem ſeems to be the grand Magazine of excitement, in which all the ſuperfluous excitement is depoſited and from whence it is carried out of the body by means of the excretions, or remains to ſupply the wants of the other ſyſtems. This obtains very remarkably in conſumption, the excitement is accumulated in the arteries and from thence conducted off ſo perfectly that none of the ſyſtems appear to be affected for ſome time: Debility attends, but as the excitement is nearly equal from the ſuperfluous quantity diſcharged every night; the only inconvenience which the patient appears to ſuffer is in bulk; that this is really the caſe may be inferred from the different effect which metaſtaſis of the excitement from the lungs to the head has upon the body; when accumulated in this inſtance it cannot be evacuated, and the body labours under great inconvenience. The above conſideration of the Phenomina of diſeaſes, I think prove, that they depend upon unequal excitement. This

will appear more clearly in the conſideration of the proximate cauſe of diſeaſes: But as the metaſtaſes of diſeaſe has been mentioned, it may be proper to conſider them in this place.

SECTION II.

While the Phenomina of all diſeaſes, were explained by Phyſicians, upon the morbific theory, great difficulties aroſe in the conſideration of metaſtaſis; it was eaſy to conceive, upon their theory that morbific matter repelled from a ſore leg, might produce a conſumption, becauſe here the *matter* had been the object of their ſenſes, and whenever diſeaſe was the effect of repulſion of any eruption from the ſurface of the body, they attributed it, to a metaſtaſis of the ſpecific matter. In repelled Small-Pox, and Meaſles; it appeared to them ſelfevident that the matter was tranſlated from the ſurface or cuntaneous ſyſtem to ſome internal part.———But when they came to conſider the ſudden tranſlations or metaſtaſis in the Gout their theory muſt have failed. It was difficult to conceive that matter, in their acceptation of the word, could paſs with the velocity of light, from one great toe to the other, and as ſuddenly return, yet this occurs in gout a diſeaſe according to their theory depending upon morbific matter—In Pleuriſy the pain paſſes from the ſide to the breaſt and from one ſide to the other, in an inſtant of time.—But how this ſhould be matter, is not eaſy to conceive. The Aura Epileptica muſt have excited aſtoniſhment but never could *excite*

an explanation upon the morbific theory.—I ſhall conſider metaſtaſis as nothing more than excitement unequal or out of place, not differing in any one reſpect from that excitement which in proper place compoſes the health of the body. I may be aſked; do not diſeaſes proceed from accrimonious eruptions repeled from the ſurface ? and are not thoſe eruptions admitted to depend upon accrimony? to this I anſwer, that internal diſeaſes certainly, have originated from repeled eruptions, yet as I deny any ſpecific accrimony exiſts even in the eruptions I ſhall certainly deny it in the internal diſeaſes; when the morbific theory of fever was expelled the ſchools as untrue, a priviſo was anexed, by which it was to be admitted in ſome caſes. It was granted that fever from the ſenſible qualities of the air did not originate in morbific matter, but it was maintained that fever from ſpecific contagion certainly did, and they inſtanced ſmall-pox, where the matter conveyed into the ſyſtem, was the object of our ſenſes. Admitting the matter of contagion to be conveyed into the ſyſtem, and there to produce fever, let us ſee how far this may be juſtly explained upon different principles ; every thing which affects the human body muſt do it by one of two operations ; as ſtimulant, or ſedative, if this be admited which cannot be denied medicine and food are ſimilar, differing only in the degrees of their operation ; all medicine is ſtimulant, or ſedative ; ſo is whatever produces diſeaſe in the body ; as therefore whatever ſtimulates the body produces excitement, ſo whenever the excitement is increaſed to diſeaſe the cauſe is ſtimulus applied, now whither the ſtimulus reſided in the variolus morbillous, or any other matter the excitement is the ſame, differing only in degree and ſpecific operations. But a

ſpecific operation is equally diſcoverable, in thoſe ſtimuli denominated food, as in thoſe called medicine; Aſparagus, parſely, the alliaceæ, muſtard, and many other articles of diet have a ſpecific operation upon the glandular ſyſtem, or kidnieys, Squills, Digittalis, Cantharides, have the ſame; If it were neceſſary to continue the parallel all the medicine now diſcovered might be aduced; but the analogy of quality appears ſtrong in this, that articles of diet are alternately medicine and food; Figgs, Pruins, Muſtard and many others, are uſed either as food or medicine. Milk ſo general an article of diet, is to ſome perſons equally purgative with Calomel, and from its having that effect in diſcharging the meconium of Infants, 'tis probably a property, it has in common with other purgatives. It is not an objection that the ſame effect does not continue; themoſt violent purgatives require, to be increaſed if the ſame effects are wiſhed; the power of habit, in waſting the excitability by the ap-operation of any ſtimulant. is evident in the uſe of Tobacco, and opium. Inſtances are not wanting to ſhew that the ſtimulus of food, has produced the ſame ſpecific operation upon the body, that it feels from contagion;—* A dinner of the Dolphin fiſh, gave the Sailors who conſumed it a fever and an efloreſcence over the whole body;—† A diet of Bullocks liver, cauſed the moſt inſupportable affection of the cutaneous ſyſtem in perſons who lived upon it. From what has been ſaid we may fairly conclude no ſuch thing as accrimony, or morbific matter, different from ſtimuli, as above explained; ever exiſted in the human body; and that however different and numerous diſeaſes may have been conſidered, there is but one diſeaſe in the world.

* Dr. Ruſhes Lectures. † Medical Tranſactions.

This I define to be irregular excitement, and ſtrange as it may ſound, I believe it true, and ſo conſonant to juſt reaſoning that an inveſtigation of diſeaſe, upon this principle, would leave the mind more ſatisfied than upon any other.

SECTION III.

My ſecond Propoſion is, that all Pain wherever ſituated in the Human Body, has for its cauſe exceſs of Excitement.

I am ſenſible this propoſition is contrary to received opinion, which makes pain depend upon exceſs and deficiency of excitement; and would have avoided it, in order to avoid the appearance of ſingularity, yet it is ſo much an appendage of the firſt propoſition, that it may be conſidered a farther explanation of it. I have alſo the opinion of the great Dr. Heartley, in its favour. On the ſubject of pleaſure and pain, he ſays "that the moſt vigorous of our ſenſations are termed ſenſible pleaſures and pains; the doctrine of vibrations ſeems to require, that each pain ſhould differ from the correſponding, and oppoſite pleaſure, not in kind but in degree only, that is, pain ſhould be nothing but pleaſure carried beyond a due limit" "thus an agreeable warmth may be made to paſs into a troubleſome, or burning heat, by increaſe, or continuance, and the ſame holds with reſpect to friction light and ſounds"—If pain does not depend upon exceſs of excitement always; it originates from deficiency—but if the firſt, be admitted, and I ſhew a fallacy in the ſecond, the propoſition will be proved.

Pain from ſthenic diſeaſe is ſaid to originate in exceſſive excitement, and in proof tis ſaid the application of all ſtimuli increaſe it. Yet as there are caſes of pain ſeated in the ſame ſyſtems, which are relieved by ſtimuli, 'tis ſuppoſed the cauſe muſt be different.—In ſpaſmodic cholic, ſo called, the pain is cured by ſpirit, ſpices, eſſential oils, æther, and laudanum, which ſay they, muſt give an addition of excitement, to the ſyſtem. This certainly is plauſible at firſt appearance, but is reſolvable into this: In the pain ariſing from diſeaſes of exceſſive action, the inequality of excitement is as 55, now every attempt to raiſe the dificient ſyſtems up to 55, would in danger freſh accumulation in the affected part, the cure therefore (as before laid down) would conſiſt in waſting the excitement below 50, after which the pain is relieved by ſtimuli. The accumulation then though irregular is below 50, and as it is eaſier to bring the ſyſtems up to 50, than to reduce the accumulated ſyſtem lower, ſtimuli are moſt proper. No pain can occur, but under one of theſe circumſtances; either there is an accumulation of excitement above 50, or an accumulation below it; neither is it difficult to conceive the ſame effect in both caſes. To equalize the excitement in the firſt inſtance depletion is neceſſary in the ſecond ſtimuli, both however have their exceptions; it is known that the ſtimulus of hot drink, the pedeluvium, and a hot bed will cure a pluriſy, not long formed. This does not always ſucceed, nor does the application of ſtimuli always relieve pain, though the ſyſtem be below 50; for if the ſtimuli act upon the accumulated ſyſtem, it may be ſoon carried above 50, and require bleeding; this is often witneſſed in cholics. Is it poſſible to conceive that in one hour, without any ſenſible al-

teration in the pain, it ſhould proceed from deficiency of excitement in the next from exceſs. Dr. Ruſh, lately taught that nervous fever, was cured by bleeding after the 21ſt. day; here the excitement was ſo accumulated in the arterial ſyſtem, though conſiderably below 50, that nothing but waſting a part could ever equalize it. The tremors in fevers which precede ſubſultus tendinum, and convulſion, he has alſo diſcovered, may be cured by dipletion, to the great benefit of mankind; yet how much bark, how many volatile muſk boluſſes, what deluges of wine, have not theſe ſymptoms in fever conſumed. This ſymptom like pain, has been attributed to deficiency of excitement, and the cure attempted always by thoſe things, which ſhould give excitement to thoſe parts. There can not be a doubt, that tremors have in numerous inſtances been cured by ſtimulants; but it has been upon the principle above laid down, and the practice can only be juſt, as that is refered to. A principle muſt be juſt, which embraces every phenomenon of the ſubject, upon which it is founded, this is eminently true of the propoſition under conſideration, ſince all pain however different in appearance, is reſolvable into it. Does pain from inflammatory cholic, depend upon exceſs of excitement? So does pain from nervous cholic. Does pain ariſe from wound in the foot? So it does from gout. Does inflammation of the ſtomach cauſe pain? So does retrocedent gout. Is pain from inflammation of the kidnies, owing to exceſſive excitement? The ſame is ſeen in miſplaced gout; yet the cure is different. In the firſt, the cure conſiſts in waſting the excitement, in the ſecond excitement is added. "Truth it is ſaid reſts behind, firſt appearances"---In no caſe is the obſervation more juſt than in the preſent. Phyſicians conclude;

pain depends upon two ſtates of action, merely from the different effects of the ſame medicine, at different times: this is certainly the firſt appearance, but truth reſts behind it. I know it is ſaid, that when ſtimuli ſucceed, the body labours under debility, but this is a vague term: the body is in a ſtate of dibility, whenever it is affected by ſtimuli, diſproportioned to excitability! It is the prediſpoſing cauſe of all diſeaſe, exiſts equally, in the moſt acute caſes of ſthenic diſeaſe, as in the purely, nervous, or ſpaſmodic, and applies with equal propriety to caſes of wounds, as to the chorea St. Viti. But are not inſtances of pain, from tetanus, and cold, exceptions pointed to the propoſition? They are not. Tetanus originates from two cauſes, the alternation of heat and cold, or ſome particular irritation of the nervous ſyſtem. When expoſure to cold night air, in tropical climates is the cauſe: we ſhall find the patient had been in health, and under circumſtances where dibility is leaſt expected, how then can the excitement, reſulting from the ſtimulus of heat, ſo ſuddenly be waſted, as to ſubject the body to diſeaſe of too little excitement in a few hours? When the body is expoſed to the cold in this paſſive ſtate, the excitement is thrown into thoſe ſyſtems which were deprived of it. The muſcular, is perhaps moſt deprived of excitement, it will require moſt therefore to equallze it: If the loſt excitement could be reſtored gradually to the muſcles, health would be the conſequence, but as the cold, has added to the debility, the excitement ruſhes violently to that ſyſtem, and becomes locked in ſpaſm; that this is really the caſe appears from leſs determination, producing rheumatiſm fever, &c. whereas were it different, under the ſame expoſure, but one diſeaſe could ever occur. Practice

has led to this error; becauſe pain in the firſt, is relieved by ſtimuli, and in the ſecond, by depletion, phyſicians concluded pain to depend upon a different action in each. The ſecond cauſe of tetanus is irritation, now irritation of either of the other ſyſtems produces increaſe of excitement and pain? Irritation of the bladder, occaſions fever, and great pain; ſo does irritation of the brain, give riſe to fever, and convulſions. If it produce excitement in others, why ſhall it be denied to the muſcular?* The ſame occurs in fever, from irritation of the nervous ſyſtem. Probably it depends upon ſympathy, ſince all ſympathy, appears reſolvable into irregular determination of excitement. I come in the laſt place, to conſider pain from cold: The explanation of cold, with reſpect to the effects it has on the body, has been until of late unintelligible, and it is even now difficult to explain the pain, reſulting from its application, conſonant to my propoſition. If cold acted by ſtimulating, as ſome think, the explanation would be eaſy, for whatever ſtimulates produces excitement, proportioned to the impreſſion; but cold is the abſence of heat, which being poſitive, the abſence of it is negative, or thus, if life depends upon heat, the abſence of all heat would be death, or cold. Debility may be conſidered as the prime conductor of excitement, if the body was in an equilibrium, it would only continue ſo while there was no partial debility; but as cold gives this debility, the equilibrium is deſtroyed by its application, and the excitement ruſhes to maintain its equality, to the dibilitated part; this is accompliſhed in an inſtant of time, for the

* It is no objection, that the irritation exiſts in the nervous ſyſtem, and the accumulation in the muſcular.

moment a part is abſtracted by the cold, it is ſucceeded by freſh excitement, the change of which gives pain. This is illuſtrated a by fact of univerſal obſervation, that the face becomes more red from expoſure to cold, than to heat, and explains the univerſal redneſs, which appeared over the body of the man, who expoſed himſelf naked in the ſnow, † viz. that the dibility over the whole ſurface, occaſioned a greater determination of excitement to it, than under any other circumſtances. The Phenomenon of death, from cold is reſolvable into the ſame principle, when the cold has ſo far waſted the excitement, that the tendency to equalize itſelf, is deſtroyed, no more pain is perceived, and a ſtrong tendency to ſleep ſucceeds, which ends in death. Should it be ſaid, the loſs of ſenſation, prevents the perception of pain—I anſwer, that while life continues, there is ſenſation, and that the pain vaniſhes long before life. Upon the principle juſt laid down, I am of opinion, the effects of cold bath, in curing intermittents, and diſeaſes depending upon dibility, may better be explained, than upon any other. All periodical diſeaſes appear to depend upon accumulation of excitement; in quartan, and tertian fevers, the operation of ſtimuli, accumulates ſo much excitement in the arterial ſyſtem, that in a given time fever, as before deſcribed, is produced: This however is of ſhort continuance, and ends when the ſuperabundant excitement is thrown off by ſweat. The recurrence of the fit happens, when the ſame quantity of excitement is again collected; which is moſt likely to occur, in a given time; the ſame happens in all periodical diſeaſes.—There was lately a caſe

† Dr. Wiſtar's Lectures.

of madneſs, in the *Pennſylvania Hoſpital*, which recurred in the form of a tertian fever, and which is only different from a tertian, in accumulating the excitement in the brain, rather than the arterial ſyſtem. Periodical hemorrhagies, are from the ſame cauſe: whenever therefore, the cold bath is of advantage, it is by creating ſuch dibility in the cutaneous ſyſtem, as induces the excitement, which was accumulating in the arterial ſyſtem, to ruſh into the cutaneous, where we ſhall hereafter ſay, an accumulation may exiſt, with little detriment to the body. As long as the excitement continues in the cutaneous ſyſtem, the paroxyſm is prevented; but as this cannot be done always, the remedy frequently fails.

I ſhould in the next place proceed to conſider the cure of one diſeaſe by another; but as the words, excitability and excitement frequently and unavoidably occur, it is neceſſary to explain what is meant by the terms. By excitability, I mean that property which diſtinguiſhes living from dead matter, it is that upon which ſtimuli act to produce life, and this, as is taught in our univerſity by the profeſſor of inſtitutes, is nothing more than an *effect*. Excitement is the reſult of ſtimuli acting upon excitability; this it is true comprehends the definition of life; and probably excitement is nothing more than life. However it is a ſubject, on which much is to be learned; but the time will come when the Pyrrhoniſt himſelf ſhall acknowledge its identity. Excitement appears convertible into excitability; thus the ſemen maſculinum throws the accelerators into convulſion when much excitement is determined to them; but when they are not excited the ſemen paſſes unnoticed. This alſo occurs in nervous fever, and will explain

Dr. Wood's doubts with reſpect to the propriety of powerful ſtimuli in that diſeaſe. The converſion of excitement into excitability, appears farther in injuries of bones and ligaments, which have little excitability in health, but in diſeaſes become exquiſitely ſenſible. Dr. Brown ſays that where the body is debiliated, the excitability is increaſed and vice verſa. This propoſition is applicable to thoſe irregularities generally eſtimated within the boundaries of health, as in drunkeneſs &c. but does not apply to diſeaſes; thus, in an inflammation of the ſtomach, the excitability is ſo great that the admiſſion of one drop of wine gives more pain than a bottle in health; the ſame applies to all inflammatory diſeaſes; in nervous fevers the excitement is waſted and the excitability alſo, as appears from the application of bliſters giving no pain and from the great quantity of ſtimuli neceſſary to reſuſſitate departing life.

SECTION IV.

DISEASES CURE OTHERS.

This will appear more conſpicuous by conſidering.—1ſt. How far the preſence of one diſeaſe in the body, prevents the admiſſion of others.—2d. What diſeaſes have cured others, and upon what principle.—3d. The application to practice.

And firſt, one diſeaſe preventive of others, in proportion as it is general in the ſyſtem. No diſeaſe can be univerſal in the body, from what has been ſaid; but as ſome ſyſtems are more general than others, whenever a diſeaſe is ſituated in

one of them, it more certainly prevents the admiſſion of others. It is from this cauſe that fever is the greateſt preventive of other diſeaſes; madneſs perhaps excepted—Fever has its ſeat in the arterial ſyſtem, which muſt be acknowledged the moſt general. It conſiſts in an increaſed excitement of that ſyſtem, and may exiſt independent of any other affection, as in conſumption without ulcer, and in gout placed in the arterial ſyſtem; all violent contagious diſeaſes as plague, yellow fever, ſmall-pox, meaſles, &c. have their ſeats in this ſyſtem; other ſyſtems become affected, as the glandular in the plague, the liver in the yellow fever, and the cutaneous ſyſtem in the ſmall-pox; but the primary affection is in the arterial. Theſe diſeaſes originate from the ſtimuli of contagions which only differ from other ſtimuli in their ſpecific determination.——Now although, contagion as a ſtimulant may affect the ſyſtem, already under the impreſſion of another, and increaſe the excitement; yet no ſpecific effects are to be ſeen except thoſe of the firſt contagion; from which it would appear that the arterial ſyſtem muſt be free from any ſpecific operation, before the effects of any other is to be ſeen; and to this the power of fever, in the prevention of diſeaſes may be attributed. It is no objection to this, "that powerful epidemics chace away all other diſeaſes, or force them to wear its livery," whenever the violence of the cauſe is ſo great as in epidemics, it ſuſpends the action of all the ſyſtems, and when they begin again to act whatever ſtimulus is ſtrongeſt, agreeably a to law of the animal œconomy, will be alone perceived. Thus if tobacco, and cayene pepper, be put into the mouth at the ſame time, the tobacco will not be perceived. This view

of fever will explain, why inoculation ſometimes fails, becauſe the patient laboured under fever without its being known; a remarkable fact of this kind occured in the practice of Dr. Thomas of Maryland, my worthy preceptor in medicine, he inoculated a whole family for the ſmall-pox, who did not ſicken till the 21ſt, day; as perſons inoculated with the ſame kind of matter had it at the uſual time, I am induced to ſuppoſe they laboured under fever without its being noticed. It was from this cauſe probably, hard drinkers who were conſtantly intoxicated, eſcaped the yellow-fever in 1793—they were conſtantly under fever from the diffuſible ſtimulus of rum. I am led in this place to notice the queſtion, whether the body can labour under two diſeaſes at the ſame time.

The diſputants in this as in many other queſtions long maintained without conviction, have been in turn both right, and both wrong. The human body may as certainly labour under two diſeaſes at the ſame time, as there certainly are different ſyſtems, compoſing that body. It may labour under fever, leproſy, ſcrofula and lues, at the ſame time, the ſame may be ſaid, of itch, tinea, capitis, and all the cutaneous diſeaſes, which may exiſt with or without fever at the ſame time.—But they exiſt in this combination only as peculiar to different ſyſtems; for I would as ſoon ſuppoſe the body exempt from all diſeaſes, as ſuppoſe any one ſyſtem could have two different diſeaſes at the ſame time, or in other words ſuppoſe the ſmall-pox, and meaſles, could both exiſt together; this is clearly exemplified in the fact related by Dr. Hunter: He ſays that in a caſe which he had inoculated for the ſmall-pox, the meaſles entirely ſuſpended it, until the meaſles had left the body, when the ſmall-pox

appeared—the contagion of the meaſles had begun to act previous to the introduction of the ſmall-pox and had taken ſuch excluſive hold on the arterial ſyſtem that the variolus. lay dormant, until the morbillous had worn itſelf out.

Madneſs particularly prevents other diſeaſes. Perhaps the body is leaſt diſpoſed to diſeaſe, when it has leaſt excitability.—One of the firſt ſymptoms of madneſs is a morbid inſenſibility to the action of all ſtimuli madmen, bear equally the extremes of heat and cold, and are ſcarcely moved by mechanical ſtimuli :—Since then it is the action of ſtimuli, which give riſe to diſeaſe, the body may be ſaid to be in the beſt ſtate of prevention when it is in a ſtate of madneſs ; and accordingly, we find that lunatics are exempt from all other diſeaſe, and ſometimes live to a great age: madneſs however does not univerſally prevent diſeaſe. *Three of the maniacs in the *Pennſylvania Hoſpital*, had the influenza in 1789, and they are ſometimes affected with diſeaſes from the alternation of heat and cold. Theſe facts however do not leſſen the power of madneſs, in preventing diſeaſe, for as many lunatics have lucid intervals, ſo 'tis highly probable theſe diſeaſes are taken in one of them. The hæmorrhoids have long been conſidered as preventive of other diſeaſes ; the followers of Boerhaave taught this, and ſo great was their confidence in it, that the patient, who once had it was obliged to bear a loathſome diſeaſe, the reſt of his life, becauſe it was thought to be a drain for morbific matter. But it may more juſtly be explained upon the principles eſtabliſhed, that the evacuation leſſens the excitement, which, by accumulating, gives riſe to diſeaſe.

* Dr. Ruſh's Inquiries, and obſervations, vol. 2.

Setons and iſſues, like the hæmorrhoids, prevent diſeaſe. Dr. Hodges affords in himſelf a ſtrong proof of their advantage; the Dr. ſays he had one in his leg all the time the plague raged in London, and to that cauſe he attributes his eſcape from its deadly ravages. Whenever his ſyſtem became ſurcharged with contagion, the ſeton inflamed and diſcharged more conſiderably. The gout is eſteemed preventive of other diſeaſes, and this becomes a ſource of comfort to the Podagric. Dr. Hilleary, in his diſeaſes of Barbadoes, ſays a miliary eruption often prevented the yellow fever.

Theſe facts are ſufficient to eſtabliſh the poſition, that one diſeaſe prevents another, any further enumeration of facts will therefore be unneceſſary.

SECTION V.

2d. WHAT DISEASES HAVE CURED OTHERS, &c.

Solitary facts, of the cure of one diſeaſe by another, are to be found diſperſed in moſt medical writings; but they are ſo unconnected with any principle, as to appear niched in, merely to increaſe the book. The firſt fact of this kind, perhaps was noticed by Hippocrates, who in his firſt book upon Epidemicks, ſays. "The quartan fever is not accompanied with much danger, that it is eaſy to cure, and that it even cures ſeveral conſiderable diſeaſes, as apoplexy, &c. If the fever (he adds) does not ſupervene, the Patient dies on the 7th. day." Again he ſays, "if a man loſes the power of ſpeech, when intoxicated, he recovers immediately upon the appearance of fever." Monſieur

De la Hire was subject to palpitations of the heart the cause of which was unknown, but after resisting every remedy, it was cured by a quartan fever. A member of Congress, from the state of Georgia, informed me, his wife's mother was cured of insanity, by breaking her arm, and has continued perfectly well ever since. Similar to this was the practice of Dr. Disportes of St. Domingo, who cured his patients of the yellow fever by large wounds in their legs.* The wife of a British officer had long been subject to the head ach; after her first child she became insane, and continued so till her head ach returned, which restored her to reason.† Willis, relates the case of a girl, who was subject to epilepsy, who in one of her fits, fell into the fire, and burned her face and head very much, but as long as the ulcers kept open, she was free from the disease: Hollereus, furnishes us with a similar example. A girl had from her infancy a sore on her head, it was suddenly healed, and she became epileptic, a variety of medicine was attempted without any effect, when she was cured by bringing back the discharge, by an application of beet leaves. Dr. Mead, relates a case of epilepsy, which occured at the same period with the tides, and was cured by an ulcer on the head, the consequence of a blister.—‡Fatuity in a child was cured by a large burn, and an idiot thirty five years of age became rational when labouring under a consumption.—§ Dean Swift was cured of madness while he had an abscess in his eye.‖ An obstinate ulcer on the side was cured upon an attack of hemiplegia. Many chronic diseases have

* Dr. Rush's Lectures.
‡ Percival. § Dr. Johnson's Life, of Swift.
‖ Chs. Webster, observations on the stomach.

been cured by pleuriſy—It has cured diarhœa in a gentleman of this city. A patient who came to Philadelphia with conſumption in order to prepare for a ſea voyage which had been preſcribed by his phyſicians, was cured by a pleuriſy.—A ſimilar caſe occurredi n the hoſpital in Jan. 1794: James Young was admitted for conſumption, and bled three times; ſoon after, he was ſeized with pleuriſy, Dr. Ruſh, the attending phyſician, had him bled eleven times in ſix days, which cured him of both complaints. It may be ſaid the bleeding cured him, but unleſs the diſeaſe had aſſumed the form of pleuriſy, bleeding might not have been ſubmitted to, though equally proper in the firſt as the ſecond diſeaſe. Rheumatiſm cured conſumption, in three caſes in the hoſpital* the ſame diſeaſe has alſo been cured by hydrocephalus internus, and from a ſimilar cauſe—the breaſt is relieved in that diſeaſe, whenever the pain is tranſlated to the head.† Madneſs has cured conſumption, ſo it has dropſy. In this place may be noticed the effect which pregnancy has in diſeaſes; a maniac in the bettering houſe of this city was perfectly cured of her inſanity while ſhe was pregnant, but relapſed into her former ſtate ſoon after delivery. Though pregnancy is not eſteemed a diſeaſe, yet it can not be denied that the excitement is collected in a particular manner in the region of the uterus; whatever does this cauſes diſeaſe, which is an accumulation in other parts. Cutaneous diſeaſes have been more particularly noticed, as curing others.—Cleghorn, in his diſeaſes of Minorca, ſays, it happened in ſeven or eight patients, that an eriſipelas appearing on the inferior extremities cured the fever, others were cured by a phlegmon. When-

* Dr. Ruſh's Inquiries, and obſervations, vol. 2.
† Dr. Mead.

ever the plague is cured ſpontaneously, it is by means of phlegmons. Dr. Ruſh, had a patient the laſt ſummer, 60 years of age, who recovered from his fever, as ſoon as an eriſipelas appeared on his leg; this patient informed me, that this had been the termination of every fever he ever had. Puſtulary eruptions, and blotches frequently relieve the pulmonary fever.* The ſame author obſerves, when the puſtules broke out at the ſtate of the diſeaſe, it relieved the patient, and ended in a deſquamation of the ſcarf ſkin, this deſquamation is obſervable in all diſeaſes which have a ſpecific determination to the ſkin, as ſmall pox, meaſles, &c. The excitement, in this inſtance, is thrown upon the cutaneous ſyſtem, and frees the arterial. When critical eruptions break out in madneſs, they give inſtant relief. Inoculation for the itch cured the epilepſy. A very remarkable caſe of the ſame kind is mentioned by Dr. Zimmerman, in his experience in phyſic. A gentleman, ſixty years of age, had long laboured under ſpaſmodic affections, and particularly of that ſtricture in the organs of reſpiration and intermiſſion of the pulſe attendant on angina pectoris; an herpetic eruption about the anus relieved him perfectly; the ſame kind of eruption relieved a patient who had been afflicted with vertigo and aura epileptica with a ſtrong tendency to apoplexy. A worthy friend of mine about ſixty, whoſe conſtitution was much injured by frequent attacks of gout, was freed from them by a pruritus around the anus; but the removal of it by ſtrong applications of lead, contrary to my advice, deſtroyed him in a few days.† A coach-

* Huxham, of Epidemics, page 58. vol. 1.
† Dr. Lettſom Medical Memoirs.

man in this city was ſeized with headach, which incapacitated him from any employment, he ſaid the jolting of the carriage gave him a ſenſation as if his brain was looſe and ſhaking in his head ; after this ſenſation had continued ſome time, he became perfectly deaf ; but was relieved from thoſe complaints by an eruption which broke out over his head—he wiſhed to be cured of the eruption ; but Dr. Ruſh adviſes him to bear the preſent inconvenience. Dr. Woodhouſe informed me, he had a patient laſt fall with the intermittent fever which reſiſted every medicine that could be deviſed, who was cured by the hyſteria. Great pain in the penis was cured by a gonorhæa virulenta after every medicine had failed and after Dr. Hunter had pronounced it incurable.* Blenorrhagia is alſo cured by the ſame diſeaſe. Strangury is of great advantage in the cure of other diſeaſes. A phyſician in Maryland informed Dr. Ruſh he never loſt a patient in pleuriſy where he could produce ſtrangury ; and the doctor adds in his lectures that he did not recollect ever to have loſt a patient in fever of any kind, where bliſters brought on that painful ſenſation. Joſeph Groſo, a Weſt Indian, was cured ſuddenly of violent pneumonia, which had continued ſome time, by a ſtrangury. Dr. Lettſom, in the medical memoirs mentions, a remedy for chin cough, which cured by cauſing ſtrangury—The excellency of bliſters, in the cure of diſeaſes, has ſtamped ſuch a value upon them, that they will never perhaps be forgotten in the practice of phyſic. Yet phyſicians are not determined upon their principle of action. One phy-

* James Burnet, ſurgeon, Medical memoirs.

ſician applies them in all caſes of pain, becauſe pain is frequently deſtroyed by their application. A ſecond preſcribes them as antiſpaſmodics, and ſhould they aggravate the diſeaſe, which not unfrequently happens, their failure is attributed to to the violence of the diſeaſe. A third conſiders them as ſtimulant and will only preſcribe them in aſthenic diſeaſes. Bliſters appear to me univerſally ſtimulant and the difference of effect at different times, muſt be aſcribed to different ſtates of Excitement, in the ſytem. Perhaps medicine might be defined to conſiſt in thoſe things which produce diſeaſe when applied to the healthy body. This definition ſtrictly applies to Bliſters, which produce general and local diſeaſe applied to a body in health, but which give health to the ſame body when diſeaſed. The ſome obſervation applies to the ſalivary diſeaſe which we ſhall next conſider, and poſpone the explanation of Bliſters to an other place. Mercury has been called very emphatically, the Sampſon of the materia medica ;* the praiſe is juſt ; for the phyſician who can manage it, has a weapon with which he can deſtroy a hoſt of diſeaſes either of which, without mercury could deſtroy him. But its chief virtue depends upon producing the ſalivary diſeaſe. Salivation by mercury, probably originated in accident, and the good effect no doubt induced phyſicians to imitate it. From the knowledge now to be obtained, it appears to have been firſt regularly applied to the cure of lues. The ſucceſs which attended its uſe, muſt have given to the diſcoverer a pleaſure almoſt as ſublime as were the felings of the phyſician who firſt diſcovered that purging and bleeding could cure the yellow fever. For its ravages were not leſs great. Nor can we

* Dr. Rſh's Lectures.

ſuppoſe that ſo valuable a remedy would ſoon go into diſuſe, and accordingly we find ſalivation was long eſteemed the only cure of lues. But probably the morbific theory kept it in uſe, for it was conſonant with their ideas, to eſteem a medicine which evacuated the venereal matter. Accident which firſt diſcovered the remedy, in time convinced phyſicians ſalivation was unneceſſary. Tis now ſufficient to the cure that ſo much mercury be introduced into the body as ſhall by its ſtimulus throw the excitement from the lymphatic and glandular, into all the ſyſtems. I may be aſked why if mercury cures lues by its ſtimulant quality, do not other ſtimuli cure it? I anſwer they do, as Opium and G. Guaacum; the firſt of which acts, only by equalizing the excitement. Though ſalivation is improper in lues, it is the Dei donum in other diſeaſes. Chronic rheumatiſm which ſo frequently baffles other remedies, yields to the ſalivary diſeaſe. Lord Cheſterville was cured of it by accidental ſalivation.

How happy muſt that pyhſician be who diſcovers a remedy for paralitic extremities, hemiplegia epilepſy and madneſs, after frequently failing with the uſual remedies. This remedy he will I think find in the ſalivary diſeaſe. The wife of Mr. John Hall of this city was cured of madneſs by ſalivation, under Dr. Ruſh's care after it had continued with different ſtates of violence five years. She is now well and has lately brought him an heireſs. Gout however protœform ſubmits to this remedy. I Buchannan was admited in the P. Hoſpital laſt winter, with the gout; after taking mercury till his mouth was affected, he was cured But its virtues do not reſt with chronic diſeaſes. The moſt acute diſeaſes in the world

are equally under the power of ſalivation. Dr. Ruſh loſt but one patient in the yellow fever who was ſalivated, and from the plague being cured by phlegmons I have no doubt the ſalivary diſeaſe would cure it. In ſhort I might ſay of ſalivation with truth what has been falſely ſaid of every quack medicine. But enough has been ſaid for my purpoſe and to ſhew its value. I ſhall next attempt to ſhew the principle upon which ſalivation cures dieaſes, and from thence explain the facts above mentioned of one diſeaſe curing others. It has been ſaid, bliſters are the cauſes of diſeaſes when applied to a healthy body, ſo is mercury when taken into it; in my firſt propoſition health is made to conſiſt in equal excitement; bliſters then give an inequality to it, by acumulating it in the bliſtered parts. All pain conſiſts in diſproportioned excitement; as long therefore as pain continues, the excitement is acumulating from other parts and placed in that which is pained. It is no objection that the pulſe is ſome times increaſed by them, this is invariably their firſt effect, for the excitement is conducted into the arterial ſyſtem from the pained part, until it begins to be evacuated. A bliſter to the neck in bilious fever cures the inſupportable headach, ſome times attendant on that diſeaſe, the excitement is determined from the head to the bliſter and there evacuated. This effect is eminently the caſe in ſalivation. In this the excitement is determined to the mouth in ſuch quantity that all other accumulations are diſtroyed; beſides the evacuation makes room for a ſucceſſion of excitement until no enequality exiſts, but in the mouth; and herein we ſee the advantage it has over every other remedy, for no other accumulates the excite-

ment ſo long. Bliſters require repetition and even then they do not evacuate ſo much. Let us now apply this to the explanation of the facts of one diſeaſe curing another, before enumerated.

Madneſs has for its proximate cauſe an accumulation of excitement in the brain; the ſalivary diſeaſe throws it upon the mouth where it is then evacuated. It is no objection to the proximate cauſe; that fever ſome times attends madneſs, it only ſhews the excitement to be accumulated in both ſyſtems, and were the whole to be accumulated in the arterial ſyſtem, the head would be relieved. In this way the quartan fever cured the apoplexy. Epilepſy accumulates the excitement in the nervous and muſcular ſyſtems; ſalivation abſtracts the accumulation and equalizes them. Salivation cures hydrocephalus, which is nothing more than an accumulation of excitement in the brain, it differs from other ſtates of accumulation in this, that the excitement waſtes itſelf by the evacuation of water, as in bliſters. The ſalivary diſeaſe throws the excitement upon the mouth, and when there is no farther addition to the water, the lymphatics will be able to adjuſt the brain. Quere do not diuretics all act by abſtracting excitement from the dropſical part and not by ſtimulating the abſorbent ſyſtem? Chronic rheumatiſm depends upon excitement accumulated in the muſcles; the ſalivary diſeaſe places it upon the mouth. In ſhort whatever diſeaſes are cured by the ſalivary diſeaſe have for their proximate cauſe accumulation of excitement in the ſyſtem where they are ſeated, and are cured by that excitement being placed in the mouth, and from thence waſted. But it is not neceſſary that the excitement ſhould in every caſe be evacuated. Tis merely neceſ-

ſary that it be accumulated in a part of leſs danger where, being leſs inſulated, it more eaſily may be equalized ; this occured in the cutaneous diſeaſes which cured others; Epilepſy melancholy and madneſs were cured by the itch, the accumulated excitement in thoſe caſes was placed in the cutaneous ſyſtem, where if it did not equalize it could remain years, without detriment to the body—all the caſes which have been enumerated of cutaneous diſeaſes curing others are reſolvable into the ſame explanation. Strangury cures diſeaſe by placing the excitement in the glandular ſyſtem, and it ſhews, that to cure diſeaſe, we may accumulate excitement in parts of great importance. The pleuriſy was cured by ſtrangury in Groſo ; although in doing it, the excitement was thrown upon the kidneys, a part much ſooner diſorganized than the pleura or lungs. Now the cauſe of the ſtrangury is the bliſter, and as the effects of bliſters in other parts, do not continue long, it appears that when ſtrangury cures diſeaſes by accumulating the excitement in the kidneys, it continues only a ſhort time, but long enough to equalize the excitement, when it leaves the kidneys ; However if the dibility ſhould ſtill continue in the part firſt affected, the excitement will again acumulate with greater danger. To this cauſe, may be attributed relapſes, which are freſh accumulations in the part, which had remained in a ſtate of prediſpoſition. I might in this way have explained all the facts which have been mentioned, but as in the enumeration I ommitted many which would have illuſtrated the propoſition, ſo in the explanation, I am limited to a very few ; to conſider them all would require many additional pages, and I have already exceeded the uſual limits of a theſis.

SECTION VI.

3. THE APPLICATION TO PRACTICE.

This is ſo obvious as ſcarcely to require a comment. The facts which have been quoted, prove to a demonſtration, the influence one diſeaſe has in the cure of another. This then may be applied to practice, that though patients would object to diſeaſe as a remedy in recent diſeaſes; they might be induced to ſubmit in old chronic diſeaſes, where the exhauſtion of hope leaves the mind leſs faſtidious in the choice of remedies. It will alſo prevent the curing of thoſe diſeaſes which occur in the body with others, and which left may be attended with the happieſt conſequences. Nor need I mention the diſeaſes in which this practice would be important; If it were only applied to the cure of thoſe caſes which had gone the routine of medicine, we might probably leſſen the burden of poor, diſordered, ſuffering humanity.

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