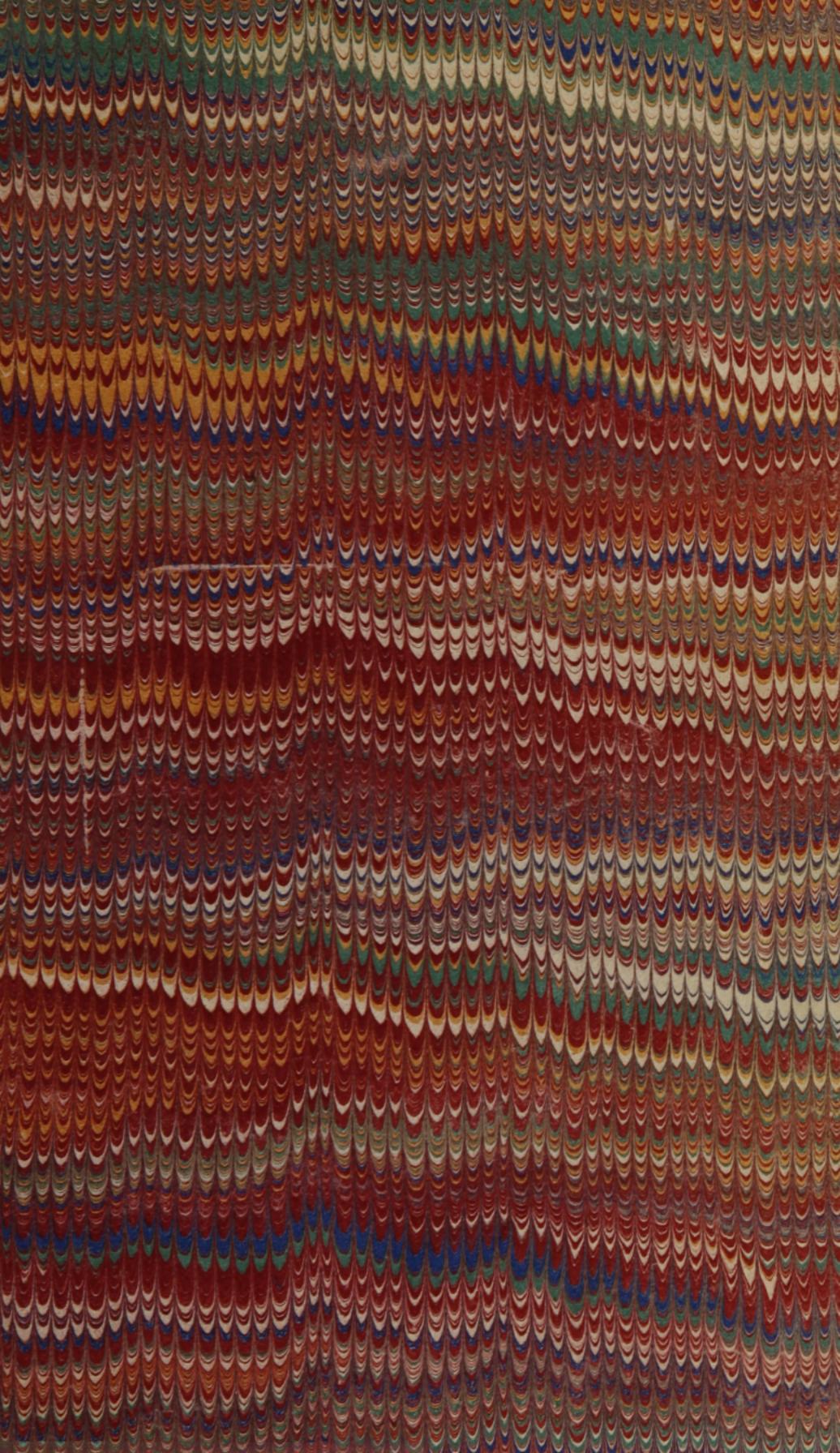


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*Worne M. D.*

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
PRACTICE  
OF  
MEDICINE,  
SURGERY,  
AND  
PHARMACY.

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A  
JOURNAL  
OF THE  
PRACTICE  
OF  
MEDICINE,  
SURGERY,  
AND  
PHARMACY,  
IN THE MILITARY HOSPITALS OF  
FRANCE.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE KING.

Reviewed and digested by M. De HORNE, under  
the Inspection of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY

JOSEPH BROWN

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A  
JOURNAL

OF THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, &c.

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*A short Historical Account of MILITARY  
HOSPITALS. By M. de Horne.*

**T**HERE was no military hospital before the reign of Henry the IVth. who established the first at the siege of Amiens in 1597; in which, according to the report of Sully, the sick and wounded were as well taken care of and dressed, as if they had been in their own houses: Several persons of quality and fortune, adds this sage Minister, caused themselves to be carried to this hospital,

VOL. I.

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tal, in which they were better treated and accommodated than even at Paris.\*

It is then to the great Henry, that model for good Kings, that we owe the first asylum provided for sick and wounded soldiers; it was he that first laid the foundation of this pious and useful institution: Before his time, the sick soldiers were commonly admitted into the civil hospitals, and there mingled with the poor of every city.

UNDER the reign of Henry II. it was likewise customary to pay to the commanding officers of the different corps, certain sums of money for the treatment of the sick soldiers. La Vieuville, a general officer employed at the sieges of Thionville and Metz, received the money that was judged necessary for providing for the sick and wounded,

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\* *Economies royales, politiques & militaires. Chap. LXXIV. Edit. Amst. in fol.*

and to this purpose he procured the most able Surgeons; but the idea never struck him of providing in one place all the necessaries for feeding, administering necessaries, dressing wounds, and curing the sick and wounded soldiers: This undertaking was worthy the great Henry, and he executed it. This example does not appear nevertheless to have been followed immediately after him, as might have been expected; for before the Italian war under Louis the XIIIth. there is not the least trace of an army or military hospital; and it was at this epocha only, that Cardinal de Richelieu, worthy of esteeming Sully, and of prizing his works, constructed at Pignerol, an hospital for the reception of the sick. It is then proved, and the writings of that time certify\*, that the first flying hospital, in the

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\* Protocole du Bureau de la Guerre. Manuscrit de M. le Tellier, déposé à la Bibliothèque du Roy, No. 9468.

train of an army, was instituted by Sully, under Henry IVth. and the first military fixed hospital, by Cardinal de Richelieu, under Louis XIII. It is thus great Ministers resemble one another in projecting and adopting such plans as add to their own honour, whilst they forward the beneficent views of their masters.

It was reserved for Louis XIVth. to give to these establishments a stability and extent proportionable to the greatness of his military operations; it is to him we owe the first fixed military hospitals in fortified cities. He never fortified any place without ordering an hospital to be built in it. He established hospitals in almost all the cities of Flanders that he conquered, and of Alsace that submitted to his dominion. He caused his fortifications, and military hospitals, to advance in equal progress; the former secured his conquests, the latter presented to his troops the most speedy and certain help in  
case

case of sickness and wounds, from which even conquerors are not secure. Louvois seconded well the views of Louis XIV. by facilitating and encreasing, according to the necessity, these respectable establishments. This celebrated Minister knew that real grandeur did not consist entirely in gaining battles and making conquests, but that a road lay open to glory through acts of beneficence and humanity; he procured to his master this new mode of captivating the hearts of all his subjects.

UNTIL there were a sufficient number of military hospitals in France for the reception of the sick, and gentlemen of the faculty enough to attend them, the Regimental Surgeons had the charge of the sick, who were scattered through the barracks occupied by the troops. It appears that it was among the first institutions that care should be taken of the sick; for besides a Regimental Surgeon, there were several regiments that had

had a Physician belonging to it, particularly the regiment des Salles, which arrangement continued until the beginning of the reign of Louis XVth.

ALL the fortified cities under this reign had well established hospitals; the Regimental Surgeons being obliged to transfer their sick to them, had only to treat in the barracks such slight complaints as did not require a removal. This mode of treating the sick in the barracks, is still continued among the Austrians, Bavarians, Danes, Prussians, and among almost all the people of the North. The English have scarcely any other. Every Regimental Surgeon takes care of the sick of his own regiment; the medicines he prescribes for them are prepared and given by his Mate; an Adjutant-Major is charged with the internal management of the place in which the sick are collected. Some soldiers of the regiment are ordered to  
act

act as Infirmiers\*. In some cities there is a Physician belonging to the garrison, who is consulted in extraordinary cases; the soldiers pay is stopped for his diet.

THESE Regimental Hospitals have this sensible inconvenience, that being for the most part established in the barracks, the sick soldiers are too near those in health, which renders the communication of disorders more easy and more frequent, and may increase those that are contagious.

THE custom of employing soldiers for Infirmiers, is equally dangerous and abusive; for besides that this vocation is not fit for them as they are ignorant of the duty, and of course perform it very imperfectly; they contract by it a carelessness which renders afterwards their military exercise less agree-

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\* Infirmiers are men that attend an hospital as orderly men, or Ward's men.

able and more laborious; they are likewise successively exposed to disorders that frequently prove fatal to some of them. It is a fact proved from the experience of our hospitals, that almost all the new Infirmiers, are very sensibly affected by the air of the hospitals, which produces disorders more or less serious, more or less putrid, according to the particular state of the air, and the strength and delicacy of their constitutions. And we likewise know that men get insensibly accustomed to the air of an hospital, and to the necessary watchings and fatigues, and in a little time they come to be almost insensible to contagion and disgust; at the same time they acquire an handiness and knowledge, so necessary before they can be useful to the sick they attend, or execute properly the orders they receive.

THE administration of these Regimental Hospitals, is vicious again in this, that the provision does not correspond with the medicine,

cine, and that the regimental Surgeon directs only the latter. This is a defect likewise, in almost all the Civil Hospitals, that are governed by the Brothers and Sisters of Charity, who consult only their own zeal, or the desire of satisfying the sick, which is inconsistent always with diet and regimen; they never calculate the danger there is in complying with the caprice or importunity of the patients, by which the prescription is often rendered useless, and sometimes dangerous. Another defect in the government of hospitals in foreign countries, is, that a patient who is in a convalescent state, or is capable of walking about, thinks he has a right generally to demand what food he pleases, if it is not countermanded by the Physician, by which means there is scarcely ever broth enough made for those patients that require it.

How imperfect soever these establishments are, they receive into them, only such pa-

tients as are very ill, the others continue in their barracks to be treated in a more summary way; from whence it happens that the hospitals in foreign countries, are less crowded than in France: And when a regiment changes its garrison, these hospitals are of course evacuated, because the Surgeons carry all the sick of the regiment with them; the inconveniencies of which must readily occur to every one: However, as foreigners seldom change their garrisons,\* there is less danger in it, and this incon-

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\* This mode of stationing their troops in garrisons, prevents a great deal of sickness, and particularly of that sort that proceeds from change of climate. Besides, the Northern people very seldom move to a Southern climate. Though from the situation of France, we enjoy many advantages, yet we often experience such changes of weather in one season, nay, sometimes in one day, as are very detrimental to the health; and the French soldier, in changing his garrison, passes often in a few days, from a cold to a hot climate, and from a hot to a cold one.

venience

venience is less obvious. In time of war the difficulty and dangers of service increase of course the number of sick, but they are placed in the same manner, and are provided for and treated as in peace, except that Army Surgeons are appointed to partake of the service of the Regimental Surgeons, and commonly only one Physician is appointed to the whole army.

IF we compare this method of treating the sick and wounded, with that established in France, and followed in her armies, we cannot hesitate to allow this last to be infinitely superior. Indeed, in the French armies, besides a Physician in Chief and Consultants for Head-Quarters, there are Physicians to every hospital, and in sufficient number to do the duty. The flying hospital is always directed by one or two Physicians, who prescribe for the sick in the first instance, which is so precious and commonly decisive; they direct the sick that

are to be brought up in the rear of the army, and without necessity which circumstances sometimes render indispenfible, this order is always complied with. Surgeons and Apothecaries are provided for the flying and other hospitals with the fame care, and neceffaries of every kind are abundantly provided both for officers and men. The fixed hospitals in France were considerably increased under Louis XIV. and have fince been daily improving. Spiritual affiftance is adminiftred by Chaplains\*. Commiffaries at War have always fuperintended the police, and Controulers have been appointed to affift them, who are always to be attentive to the adminiftration of the hospital. The hospitals are fufficiently provided with Infirmiers well accuftomed to attend the fick, who in this fituation render fuch fervices to their fellow-creatures, as inftead of debafing them, ought

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\* Formerly this duty was performed by Bifhops.

to render them more respectable, for they are often obliged to summon up all their resolution to undergo the disgusts they are subject to. It has never been the custom in France to take a soldier from the duty he enlisted for, to employ him in this domestic business. It has always been thought preferable to employ active and intelligent servants, who by the force of habit become insensibly well acquainted with their duty, and to be charitable and interested.

FROM the first institution of military hospitals, there were made and published from time to time, particular ordonnances, announcing the respective duties to be performed, which were augmented or explained as occasion required; but they were never collected in one body until the year 1747. The ordonnance or general rules for the military hospitals, published the first of January of that year, prove to what degree of perfection, solidity and extent these establishments

blishments had already arrived: It prescribes, with as much justice as perspicuity, what can and ought to be observed by every one employed in this service, the least particular is both necessary and interesting; nothing appears to have been forgotten, and if it has been found necessary since to make corrections, augmentations, or indispensable changes; or even if there has been occasion for this ordonnance to undergo a total reform, it was because circumstances often change the very nature of the best contrived establishments, and because there are few ordonnances, that do not require an explication in a more extensive sense in proportion as their operations are more developed and useful; and there is no arriving to any state of actual perfection but by degrees.

AMONG the rules that respect the practice of medicine in the military hospitals, the necessity of two visits per day, the order in which they ought to be made by the  
same

same Physician which must contribute to their success, are laid down in the ordonnance 1747, in a strong and laconic style. The Physician is appointed in fact, as he ought to be, the Judge of every thing that concerns the health; he regulates the diet, he prescribes the medicines, and presides over their preparation and administration; in a word, there is nothing treated of lightly that can and ought to ensure success to his care and trouble; every thing that can meliorate the situation of the patient, accelerate his convalescence, or re-establish his health, appears to have been equally foreseen and wisely provided. The visits, dressings, and operations that ought to be performed by the Chief Surgeon of every hospital, are equally regulated with care, and discussed with knowledge in this ordonnance; and the means to render more completely useful this art, at all times so necessary, but particularly precious in armies, are there directed

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in a way easily understood and readily executed.

It is with pain however we see that the Surgeons and Apothecaries were only hired and if I may so say, they acted as people hired for a job; but it is wisely regulated in a new ordonnance that they shall, for the future, be all at the King's expence, let the administration undergo what change it may; in making likewise the pupils in surgery and pharmacy, independent of hire, they are prevented from those inquietudes that arise from an unstable situation, by which means they are attached more firmly to their duty; and to the maintaining of good order in the district confided to them: This ordonnance likewise extends to the Infirmiers; which must produce more certainty and regularity in the exercise of their duty.

THE ordonnance of 1747, worthy in most respects, of the highest eulogiums, has only  
hinted

hinted at and recommended the necessity of forming in the military hospitals such establishments as may tend to the advancement of knowledge in medicine, surgery, and pharmacy, and to excite an emulation among the faculty.

THE opening of dead bodies was freely permitted, and in some cases ordered; the object of which appears to have been, that the Physician or chief Surgeon may register the cause of death; to instruct the pupils was not actually the object: The new ordinance particularly directs this part of instruction, which is established and encouraged by the perfection the amphitheatres are arrived at, and the recompence that pupils in surgery and pharmacy find, who exert themselves; and it likewise directs all other means to be used that appear capable of forming good subjects for the hospital duties, which assures its stability, and presages its success. The utility of these valuable establishments,

will not be confined to the military hospitals only; its influence will extend in time of war to the army, for sensible and active men will be continually formed in these hospitals, who will carry to the camp, the fruits of the wise principles they have there imbibed, and the improvement in operations they have there learned.

THE military hospitals are throughout abundantly provided with every thing necessary; the wards are properly cleaned, and well ventilated; and unless there is a sudden and unforeseen augmentation of patients, every one has a bed to himself, which has this double advantage, of preventing a communication of disorders, and procuring a regularity in the service: To have a better idea of the advantage and sagacity of this institution, we need only take a view of the principal hospital at Paris (the Hotel Dieu), where we still sometimes see, with pain and mortification, four patients lying in the same bed.

It

It is in vain that complaints have been made for a long time, of this shocking way of heaping the sick together; the abuse continues nevertheless. --- This custom appears in some measure to have become inviolable from long usage, and a good intention badly dispensed.\* The dreadful mortality that, in some circumstances, has been occasioned by it, has even not been sufficient to remedy it. However, we shall soon be able to congratulate such as can feel for the distresses of others, on a total change of this essential part of the administration; each patient will invariably have a bed to himself, which will

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\* There has always existed a fear of not having room enough for the sick; and this fear seems to have authorised this abuse in question: It would be much better however, to receive fewer patients into the hospital, than by heaping them one upon another, occasion an almost inevitable principle of destruction; for this reason the Governors of the Charity ought to foresee and provide against such accidents, in the most rigorous manner.

prevent that horrible and disagreeable situation, of lying by the side of a dying or dead body, and will prevent mistakes that now frequently happen of administering improper food or medicine.

THIS change so essential to the comfort and health of the sick, will be an eternal monument raised to the glory of the King, who has directed it. This act of beneficence will tend to restore, in the day of sickness, that salubrity which appeared to be banished for ever, and which is so very essential to the removal of disorders, and the perfect establishment of health; it will prevent from their delicate feelings, that unnecessary dread of infection which often affrightens and desolates the hearts of these poor miserables, even when it does not generate new disorders, or add to the cause of their destruction.

BUT while we are speaking with as much feeling as truth, of this necessary, comfortable,

able, and long wished for reform, we wish we could announce a like change, which is meditated, and which ought to be executed in all these charitable houses in the kingdom, and over which the most feeling and beneficent Monarch extends his paternal regards. Every thing seems to conspire to render to these respectable and useful establishments, stability, extent, and salubrity, which so much conduce to maturate this most important, and probably most noble of all institutions. There is no necessity to enlarge on the probable consequences of this generous work, which is worthy of the highest encomiums; or to set forth the advantages that suffering humanity may derive from it, to excite the zeal of those persons who are obliged from their situation to see good order observed in the military hospitals, every body seems anxious to maintain it; and from the general who commands to the lowest officer that obeys, a general wish seems to have taken place, to facilitate the execution of  
such

such ordonnances as flow from the throne, for the comfort and preservation of those men who devote their lives to the service of their country, in the noble and laborious career of arms,

THE gentlemen of the faculty who are chosen and appointed by the court, to perform these troublesome and honourable functions, have introduced that order and good understanding that was expected from their zeal, good sense, and love of their duty; to be convinced of this, we need only take a glimpse of the regularity that is observed in the military hospitals, which in every respect may serve as models. The last ordonnance secures to it its superiority, by the improvement it recommends to all such parts of the service as are susceptible of it; by compleating all such plans as were originally designed; by exciting a noble and honest emulation, and by encouraging every means that seem capable of discovering zeal and talents.

THIS

THIS ordonnance is a new proof of the humane principles that the best of Kings manifested on his advancement to the throne; this gracious Monarch, not content with amply providing for all the wants of the sick foldiers, extends his paternal regard even to the means of preventing their sickness; and by the immediate publication which he has ordered of any improvement that may be made in the military hospital,\* in medicine, surgery, or pharmacy, he renders a service to the world at large from what was originally intended for the good of his foldiers only.

THE necessity of forming good subjects, who can with success follow their predeces-

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\* A number of the Journal of the Practice of Medicine, &c. is to be published according to this ordonnance, at the King's expence, every three months, which is to be distributed *gratis*, to the gentlemen of the faculty belonging to the hospitals and regiments.

sors in the military hospitals, and of providing well informed physicians for the army, did not escape the foresight of this good King. He conceived that all the learning that is got in schools, and which is crowned with titles and dignities, is only a preparation; or a necessary step to the knowledge of medicine, which can be acquired only at the bed of the sick, under a good master: Such is the design of these newly established schools, in the principal \*hospitals, and whose success cannot be equivocal. This establishment adds to the respect that the French military hospitals have already acquired throughout Europe, for their good management, and the knowledge of their physicians and surgeons; and which will give the hospital practice a new lustre; it is on observation

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\* Schools for the practical knowledge of medicine, are ordered in the hospitals of Strasburg, Metz, Lisle, Toulon, and Brest.

alone that real science is founded : By neglecting this practical study of medicine, is there not reason to fear that many young physicians see more patients than disorders ? and that their knowledge of their profession is so superficial as to confound effects for causes ?

O N

## MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY.

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**A** Topographical knowledge of the country we inhabit, is essential to the Physician who would practise his profession with satisfaction and success; he ought to know the quality of the air that is breathed; of the water that is drank, and of the food that is made use of: There is not a single production in nature but he ought to be acquainted with; nor is there any thing that should be indifferent to him---Hippocrates has shewn the example. And it is not less necessary for him to have an exact knowledge of other climates, particularly when he is destined to have the care of sick soldiers in the military  
or

or civil hospitals. The custom of removing troops often to distant regions, and to such as are very different from one another in temperature of climate, must influence very materially their constitutions. The knowledge of different climates is then indispensable to the Physicians of the military hospitals, that they may better understand the original or acquired temperaments, and particular dispositions that soldiers carry from the country they previously inhabited; these dispositions will be more essential to know, and more easily discovered, as the climates are more opposite to one another. A soldier who has lived for a considerable time in the South of France, is more sensible to the impression of the cold, when he arrives at a garrison in the North, than one who has always lived in a cold or temperate climate; but even when he is not more affected by the cold, the disorders that he may be seized with, partake always of the constitution he acquired by living in a hot country; his fibres and  
blood

blood necessarily partake of the relative qualities of the physical state of these climates ; and he ought not to be treated in the same manner as a soldier who has inhabited for a number of years this cold or temperate climate, although they have both the same disorder ; this observation is more particularly interesting when a soldier is directly marched from a hot to a cold climate, or *vice versa*.

FROM these incontestable principles, this consequence naturally follows ; that, except in case of absolute necessity, troops should never change their climate but very gradually, and particularly from those that are very opposite to one another ; but as this precaution is sometimes impracticable, Physicians ought to have a perfect knowledge of the physical state of every province ; of the impression that a sudden change of climate may have on the constitution ; of the effects that may result from it in case of sickness,

ness, and of the complications that almost necessarily follow; in short he ought to direct his treatment in consequence, and not generalise it too much.

THE Physicians of the military hospitals, cannot be too often invited to study and write the topography of their provinces; by which means the medical geography of all France may be obtained, which will be of the greatest utility in the treatment of the sick; and not only that, but it may be frequently the means of preventing disorders, by rendering more wholesome, noxious places; or by rectifying any ancient abuses, and by wise and decided observations confirm these means; to this effect is the memoir of M. Lurde, on the situation, air and water of the city of Auch; and likewise that of M. Read, which he has written of Havre de Grace, where he was sent by government to discover the cause of the unhealthiness of that Canton. I will not anticipate this very  
conclusive

conclusive memoir he has given, as it will be published entire; it does him credit as a man of feeling, spirit, and abilities.

MEMOIR

M E M O I R  
O N T H E  
S I T U A T I O N, A I R, a n d W A T E R, o f t h e  
C I T Y o f A U C H.

*By M. L U R D E.*

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**T**H E different aspects of the sun, air, and food, have so powerful an influence on the health, that all the Physicians who have made the disorders peculiar to certain climates their study, have attributed their causes to some of these sources; it is to imitate them that I have given a sketch of the situation of the City of Auch; the qualities of its air, and of the nature of the solid and liquid food that its inhabitants make use of.

**T**H E R E

THERE are three hills which run in a direction from West to North-East, where they terminate by a rapid descent in a valley, through which runs the river Gers from South to North; on the center hill is situated the City of Auch, the capital of Armagnac.

ITS extent is greatest on the East and South sides; it has an amphitheatre like appearance, in which the houses are separated by avenues of trees and terraces; this City being exposed to every wind, cannot retain any health destroying atoms, or dangerous miasms, if the Police be the least careful; but a defect in this and other particular circumstances, have sometimes occasioned epidemical disorders; among others, the hooping cough, dysentery, and small pox.

THIS City is distinguished into the upper and lower; and although its extent be not very great, the air that is breathed in these two quarters is extremely different; that of  
the

the upper city is sharp and subtle, and injurious to people of delicate lungs. Pulmonary Phtisics are there more common; some years since I saw a respectable family, the father and mother of which were perfectly healthy, entirely cut off by it; consisting of three sons and two daughters. A lady die a victim to it from her zeal that attached her day and night to her husband. A domestic who attended sick in this disorder, and a cook in the same house, who generally carried them their soup, they were both about forty-five years of age, suffered the same fatality: This is not all, the son and daughter of a domestic died a little while after of the same disorder; they had nothing at all to do with the sick; they only wore some of their cloaths. Is there not a great resemblance between the Pulmonary Phtisic and the Glanders? Grooms look upon this disorder to be very infectious, so much so, that they burn the mangers, and

E

every

every thing that has been used by the infected horses; for the same reason, in some countries, all the cloaths of the persons that have died of the consumption are burnt.

THE air of the lower city is thick, humid, and foggy, from the proximity of the river that surrounds its walls, and which by over-flowing its banks inundates the streets and houses that are by it; this inconvenience may be easily obviated by straitening, if I may so call it, the course of the river, whose circuitous rout, impedes the descent of the water. The humidity that results from it occasions fluxions on the teeth, throat, and ears; but as a recompence for this we see a greater proportion of old people in this quarter: Is it not probable that this humid air moderates the progress of aridity which  
cha-

characterises old age and occasions its destruction ?

THE barracks for the soldiers are very badly situated ; they are built on a low and confined place, and it is scarcely credible that the residence of the most useful subjects of the state should be fixed on, in a large building, that was formerly inhabited by a community of Friars, but which they were obliged to abandon, on account of its unhealthiness. This building is separated from the neighbouring houses on the right and left by a narrow street ; its rear which fronts the North, is prevented from enjoying any fresh air by a hill ; its front, which faces the South ; is situated in a *cul de sac*, which ought to be widened to give the air a freer access ; the ground floor is extremely damp, on account of its being lower than the court yard, but which may be easily remedied. Notwithstanding these barracks are

so very unfavourably situated, it cannot be said the Soldiers experience any very serious disorder from it; but I believe the exercises they are obliged to perform, which keeps them one half of their time out of doors, contribute not a little to preserve their health.

THE Hospital, on the contrary, is situated in a most excellent position, in the suburbs of the city, and although it be not far from the river, its proximity does not injure the salubrity of its situation: A courtyard and an extensive garden afford a walk for the convalescents.

THIS building is large and stands by itself; it contains four large wards, for the sick of both sexes, which are well aired on account of the windows being large, and placed opposite to one another, which face the North and South.

THE

THE People neither drink beer or cyder; the wine here does not exceed two coppers a pint.

FOUNTAIN Water is most generally used; there are several springs in the neighbourhood of the city; the most plentiful is that called St. Peter, which would be very healthy, if the great rains did not sometimes make it muddy, which is occasioned by its canals running too near the surface of the earth; this spring is too low to be conveyed to the upper city, but we hope there will soon be conducted to it a spring that rises on an height, which is not more than a quarter of a league off: This was a design of the late M. d'Estigny, Intendant of this district. M. de la Boulaye, our present Intendant, who is equally solicitous for the public good, is now about to undertake it; it will likewise be a great resource in case of fire.

ALTHOUGH the city of Auch, which is in  
Lon.

Lon. 18. 40. and in Lat. 43. 37. be situated in a temperate climate, we nevertheless experience in the Dog Days excessive heats. The Spring is of very short duration ; the heat of Summer abruptly succeeds the cold of Winter ; the season that continues longest and is most agreeable is Autumn.

THE soil furnishes very abundantly every necessary of life, except for fast days ; but we frequently get sea fish, and the ponds of Armagnac furnish a great many Tench, Carp and Pike.

THE wine here is not very strong, or very delicious ; but the better sort of people have their tables furnished with Chalosse, Bourdeaux, Bearn, and Spanish wines, which are procured about three leagues off.

THE Peasants eat bread made of wheat, mixed with barley and rye ; but their more common food is Sepan, or mush made of Indian

dian meal, or the large Millet seed; they sometimes likewise make bread of these last; they may have great plenty of vegetables and fruits.

EVERY wind that blows is perceived here by turns; the North wind brings fair weather, cold and frost; the West wind commonly brings rain; the East and South winds produce the same effect, and are called by the country people the winds of *Autan*. They are hot, muggy, and weakening; because they relax the solids; they make the Mercury in the Barometer descend very rapidly, and the more instantaneous their changes are, the more we are sensibly affected.

THE *Autan* wind blows very commonly in the morning, and in its passage over the Pyrenean mountains frequently is encountered by a West wind, which is generally victorious; the consequence of which is a violent  
lent

lent tempest over our heads; if the wind happens to shift about again immediately to the East and South, a new tempest is produced; these changes sometimes happen two or three times a day.

THE soil of this province being rather dry, its productions require to be frequently watered; the storms are almost the only occasion of rain towards the latter end of Spring, and during the Summer; but the hail that frequently accompanies them, makes us pay very dear for the advantages we derive from them.

It results from what has been said, that the people in easy circumstances live in abundance, and enjoy a healthy food, but the poorer sort of people eat great quantities of herbs and fruits, and often of such sort as are not very wholesome; particularly when the hail, this dreadful scourge of the country, prevents their making a good choice.

FROM

FROM all these circumstances taken together, the inhabitants of this country are subject to rheums, rheumatic pains, dysenteries, diarrhoéas, to intermitting, putrid, and worm fevers; pleurifies, and peripneumonies have been remarked to be seldom primary diseases, but are almost always symptomatic of these other fevers.

## OBSERVATION

O B S E R V A T I O N  
O N A

PUTRID, GANGRENOUS FEVER,  
cured by fixed Air.

*By M. Eustache, and M. Guillaum.*

---

**D**AVENCOURT, a soldier in the regiment of Royal Comtois, was admitted into the military hospital of Condé the first of September, 1780, having all the symptoms that characterize putrid fevers of the most malignant kind ; such as debility, prostration of strength, a small pulse, foetid breath, nausea, &c. An ample evacuation of corrupted bilious matter, procured by an emetic draught, did not in the least diminish the intensity of his symptoms. The 6th, his head became painful, his tongue was dry and rough, in consequence of which  
a blister

a blister plaister was applied to the nape of his neck, and an antiseptic draught was prescribed for him; the blister discharged but little, the 10th two more were applied to the calves of his legs, their effect was not more beneficial, though aided by the antiseptic draughts and some wine. We endeavoured in vain to procure evacuations by stool, nothing succeeded with him, he became emaciated, with an entire loss of strength, and began to emit a cadaverous effluvia; this continued to be the situation of this unhappy patient till the 20th of October; his back, loins, and buttocks were entirely excoriated, but without any suppuration, his flesh was of a brown colour, and several times very deep ischars were formed, which indicated a gangrene of bad omen; and as an increase to his distressed situation on the first of that month came on a lax, which threatened a speedy relief in death. The *decoctum sacrum* of Fuller, the antiseptic draught, the camphorated bolus,

the mineral lemonade were all tried without any effect; we viewed Davencourt as a victim that death was sacrificing by inches. The 9th of November the lax diminished, but the putrefaction continued with equal progress, the patient at this time lost five of his jaw teeth ; the infected gums communicated their corruption to the alveolar processes of the os maxilaris, which was in some places actually decayed ; his mouth was in such a deplorable situation that it was with the greatest difficulty he swallowed any thing.

ALL the remedies that had been hitherto used, though perfectly indicated, producing no effect, we determined to try the fixed air. The patient, exhausted by the length of his disorder, and tired with taking so much medicine, refused to take any more; however, from our pressing intreaties he consented ; we gave him the fixed air in draughts and glisters, and the sores were dressed with  
linen

linen cloths wetted with brandy and water; and then he was immediately held over a vessel in which were chalk and vitriolic acid in effervescence. The first draught was composed of sal. tartari and two ounces of common water; the second of two ounces of common water and enough vitriolic acid to make it agreeable. The patient swallowed these draughts successively, which were repeated five times in twenty-four hours, and during this time two glisters of fixed air were administered, by means of a bladder which was filled and injected into the rectum.

DAVENCOURT soon experienced the good effects of a remedy, for which he had manifested such antipathy. The sores occasioned by the blisters and the excoriations on his back began to suppurate and to heal every day, the parts of his jaw the putrefaction had injured, likewise put on a better appearance; he gradually recovered his  
strength

strength by the use of the draughts, glisterers, and the external application of the fixed air. The patient continued the use of these remedies from the 12th of November to the 7th of December; he likewise took a strengthening draught, and sometimes some hartshorn jelly, rendered agreeable with lemon juice, or with white wine and cinnamon. The patient, if we may so say, was raised from the dead, he began to have an appetite, which he satisfied very sparingly, till by degrees his stomach acquired strength; the 6th of January we gave him a strengthening bolus composed of fifteen grains of theriaca diatefferon, and of fifteen grains of the aqueous extract of bark. By these means he recovered his strength and flesh; to cleanse his skin he bathed twice, and was in every respect a convalescent; he was now making preparations to rejoin his regiment, when on the 20th of February, he was attacked with a complaint in his throat, but which was removed by antiphlogistics and a purge.

The

The 27th of the same month he was again convalescent, and on the 5th of March he left the hospital for his garrison in a good state of health.

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R E M A R K S.

WE very seldom see, except in the army, and the hospitals belonging to it, putrid disorders continue so long or attended with such dreadful circumstances.

It appears in the above case, that nature, by determining to the skin the gangrenous juices that oppressed her, and by exciting a bilious laxness, procured a fortunate crisis, although long and difficult, which reduced the patient to the brink of destruction; but she required the assistance of art to circumscribe the external putrefaction, and to vivify those organs, that in some measure had  
lost

lost their tone. The fixed air produced this double effect, and accomplished the efforts of nature, that of combining itself with the degenerated juices, on the one hand, and on the other, that of giving to the enfeebled solids a tone sufficient to surmount the effect of these putrid exhalations. This remedy has been already tried in England with some success, and its qualities have been justly valued by our best Chymists; but to reap all the advantages that it seems to promise, it is to be wished that we might have other observations as conclusive as this is; for we cannot properly pronounce the merit of this new remedy until it has been repeatedly tried.

OBSERVATION

O B S E R V A T I O N  
O N T H E  
H Y D R O P H O B I A.

*By M. L'Epecq de la Cloture.*

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**T**HE 8th November, 1781, Rosignol, a soldier of the regiment of Boulonois, between nineteen and twenty years of age, was sent to the hospital of Rouën, for a catarrhal fever, as his billet of admission mentioned. He said, that being on duty, he was seized with a violent shivering, a head-ach, and a sort of strangling in his throat. When he first came to the hospital his face was blue, his cheeks drawn back, his pulse concentrated, and rather febrile, his respiration interrupted, and he had much difficulty in swallowing, as when a fore

G

throat

throat that has been neglected, tends to gangrene.

HE was bled on his first arrival at the hospital, but it increased his complaint, and seemed to diminish his *vis vitæ*. I ordered him the next day an infusion of cassia and glysters; but as he had an extreme difficulty in swallowing, the Religious thought proper to give him a grain of tartar emetic dissolved in six spoonfuls of water, which had a most astonishing effect; the patient vomited seven or eight times, a slimy bilious matter, and towards the end a very remarkable atrabilious matter; this vomiting was followed by twelve or fifteen stools, of the same quality: Towards the evening he was most violently convulsed, which continued all night, it required eight men to hold him. During this time he gave unequivocal signs of madness, he discharged from his mouth a good deal of frothy saliva, and frequently spit in the faces of the assistants a sort of black  
bilious

bilious ferum; with which his bedcloaths were covered: Towards morning he fainted and then became tranquil and sensible, and begged pardon of his comrades, \* and died about five o'clock in the morning, thirty-six hours after his arrival at the hospital.

HAVING particularly enquired into the situation of this man from his first coming into the hospital, I found that he continued to drink till three o'clock in the afternoon, at this time he absolutely refused any kind of liquid, afterwards he swallowed a little ptisan with the utmost difficulty, during some moments of interval; for some moments he seemed to be in the greatest terror, particularly for dogs, which seemed to be

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\* It will probably appear extraordinary, that this man did not attempt to bite any of the bystanders; but there are instances of people in the hydrophobia, who did not bite or attempt to bite any person.

constantly before his eyes; and sometimes he spoke of spirits that appeared to him. I farther learned from his comrades, that some weeks before, he was bitten in his under lip by a mad dog.

I PROCEEDED to have his body opened by M. Couraut, a Surgeon at Rouan, and we found on the right side of the under lip, at about an inch from its upper edge, a superficial hard cicatrix, which being a little inflamed plainly indicated the place that was bitten.

THE lips were of a deep violet colour, the membrane that lines the mouth, and the schneider membrane, had both the appearance of the highest inflammation.

THE left tonsil contained a few drops of pus, the right was scarcely tumified, and had not the least appearance of sup-  
puration,

puration, the uvula was very much contracted.

THE *glandulæ morgani* were swelled inflamed, and of a violet colour. On examining the *larynx* we found a very small quantity of frothy saliva, but the interior part of the *trachea arteria* was very much inflamed, particularly the interannular membrane, and more especially that part that was nearest the lungs, which were a little choaked up. The *pharynx* was very much inflamed and of a violet colour; we observed several gangrenous spots in it; the *œsophagus* did not appear to have suffered; but the stomach contained a good deal of air, a small quantity of gastric juice, and a very little bile; its villous coat was considerably hardened, and its *rugæ*, or folds, were likewise harder and more resisting than in its natural state; all this *viscera*, appeared to have suffered much inflammation which  
seemed

seemed to be particularly directed towards the *cardiac orifice*.

I HAD now learned that several soldiers had been bitten by the same dog, whilst doing their exercise, of which I informed the Major of the Boulonois regiment, who immediately ordered all the dogs in the neighbourhood to be killed, and went myself to the barracks to be certain of the fact, and to find out the men that had been bitten ; I was there informed that the dog had been shut up with a large cat to make them fight, and that the dog had killed the cat, and being very enraged, he left the place of combat, and attacked the regiment which was drawn up on the parade, without regarding their bayonets or the many strokes he received.

M. DE CROSNE, Intendant of Rouan, was as zealous and expeditious as possible, in endeavouring to prevent further accidents to the troops, and in sending to the hospital to be

be properly treated, such of the men as had been bitten. The Surgeon of the Boulonois regiment sent to me in consequence, a soldier by the name of Naiffel, who was bitten on his right wrist ; I observed the scar was become of a lead colour, which was a bad prognostic, and which confirmed me still more that the dog was certainly mad, and of course that something ought to be immediately done for him. But as the death of Rosignol did not leave a single doubt about the cause of it, I insisted that all who had been bitten by the dog should be immediately sent to the hospital. On the 17th in the evening, came two other soldiers by the names of Bearn and Beaucroft, who, as well as Naiffel, were young recruits. Naiffel, as I have already said, received his bite in the naked wrist, Bearn in his right thigh, through his breeches, and Beaucroft in his belly, through his shirt. The Intendant having ordered a particular treatment for these

these men, they were placed in a room by themselves, and I began to prescribe for them as follows, under the inspection of M. Thouret, Doctor Regent of the faculty of Medicine at Paris, and Member of the Royal Society, who happened to be at this time at Rouan. I could not have chosen a more faithful witness, a better instructed co-operator, or a more intelligent judge.

ON the first day I applied a large and very strong blister plaister to the scars, on each of which plainly appeared the marks of the dog's fore teeth, and ordered them glysters and a plentiful ptisan, and they were confined to a diet.

ON the second day scarifications were made on the wounds, which were then dressed with mercurial ointment, mixed with blister ointment, at the same time a dose of cobbs, or tonquin remedy was administered, with the addition of camphire; the third and  
fourth

Fourth day the same remedies were continued, and mercurial frictions were well applied to the edges of the wounds; on the seventh day they took the last dose of the tonquin remedy.

THE epidermis being raised on the second day, discovered very plainly the traces of the dog's teeth in Naiffel's wrist, the holes had a blackish bruised appearance. Neither of the patients was salivated, I do not know if the musk prevented it; they all rendered a great deal of urine, and on the first days they sweated copiously, but nevertheless had a good appetite; the wounds were kept in a state of suppuration for more than a month, and on the 24th of December, they were dismissed the hospital, without having experienced the least symptom of hydrophia, they had only some slight febrile complaints.

## R E M A R K S.

THIS observation is a very important one by itself; but it is still more so, from the desire it creates to know if the dog that bit the four soldiers, one of whom died of the hydrophobia, contracted the disorder from a bite he had received from some other animal, or if it spontaneously resulted from his having been a long time shut up with a cat, on purpose to irritate him and make him fight. If an excessive imitation can produce in a dog this disorder, it warns us of the danger there is in this kind of amusement, and how much we ought to be on our guard against irritated animals.\* If the dog was bitten by some other animal, we

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\* M. Ponteau relates the history of a man, who in a violent fit of anger bit another man, who became mad; and likewise of a gamester, who had been at play, and having lost his all, bit his own hand in a fit of despair, and died mad.

cannot but blame the negligence of those who knew the fact; in either case, it is very extraordinary, that not the least precaution was taken, or intended to be taken, until the unhappy death of the first soldier. The attention and zeal employed by M. l'Epecq de la Cloture, in determining on the proper mode of treating these soldiers, will not be surprising to any that know him. The manner in which he proceeded is nearly the same as that made use of by the Committee of the Royal Society of Medicine at Senlis, in 1780,\* where they were sent for a similar accident, which was as happily terminated. M. Thouret, who was present at the treatment of these soldiers at Rouen, was a most useful associate to M. l'Epicq de la Cloture, as

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\* See the history of the treatment of fifteen persons bit by a mad dog at Senlis, published as a supplement to observations and enquiries on the hydrophobia. By M. Andry, chez Didot le jeune, quai des Augustins.

he was one of the delegates sent to Senlis by government, and had there so satisfactorily executed the object of his mission; he had besides a perfect knowledge of all the information that his companions had derived on this important subject; and as his opinion so exactly coincided with that of M. l'Epecq, it could not but increase the confidence so justly due to this learned Physician. The event has justified this double opinion, and the three soldiers have been preserved from this terrible disorder, from which they would not probably have escaped, if these gentlemen had not profited in time of the dreadful effects it had already produced. The laying the wounds bare, and then scarifying them, answered the end of the burning so much recommended by all Authors, and admitted the immediate application of mercurial remedies, whose efficacy is no more doubted. These topical remedies, to which M. l'Epecq de la Cloture, added the tonquin or cobbs powder,

powder,\* could not but increase its efficacy, and render the cure more certain; and we since learn with peculiar pleasure, that these men continue still to enjoy perfect health.

THE opening of the soldier that died, exhibited the successive progress of the inflammation from all parts of the mouth, trachea arteria, and aſophagus to the ſtomach; the gangrenous traces that followed were equally viſible, which teach us how very eſſential it is to attack this terrible diſorder in its infancy.

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\* This powder is compoſed of 16 grains of muſk, 20 grains of artificial cimabar, and an equal quantity of native cimabar, which are to be mixed together, and taken either in a glaſs of brandy, or made up into a bolus either with honey or fyrup: It is ſaid that about three hours after it is taken, it produces a calm ſleep, and a plentiful perſpiration. The doſe is to be repeated according to the effect it produces, and the urgency of the ſymptoms.

ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH a salivation does not always result from a mercurial course, we ought not to think it useless; the discharge by urine, by perspiration, and other gentle evacuations, operate more advantageously, probably, than a salivation could do, as happened in the present case. But it is necessary to continue for a long time, as M. l'Epecq de la Cloture has done, the use of deterfive remedies to the wounds. and not to pronounce the patients cured until the cicatrix be firm and of a good colour.

A NEW

A N E W  
R E M E D Y  
F O R T H E  
I T C H.

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**T**HE Itch is a disorder of the skin; its seat is in the sebaceous glands, and in the little excretory vessels of this organ; it is sometimes produced from a vitiated state of the fluids, and an acrimony of the lymph, which by irritating the nerves of the skin, excite an insufferable itching, which is followed by small pustules more or less inclinable to suppuration; often it is derived from an immediate contact with a person that has the disorder, or from his linen or other cloaths. The necessity of remedying the vitiated state of the fluids, and the internal cause of this disorder, before any external applications

plications are used, must be obvious to every one; by neglecting this precaution, a continual re-production of the itch is the least inconvenience to be dreaded from it; a repercussion of this vitiated matter into the mass, may be attended with the most serious consequences; it exposes the viscera to the most acute disorders, and when that is the case, the medicines that will drive the disorder to the skin again, are frequently the only ones that are of the least use.

THE effects of such remedies as are essentially repellents, are always to be dreaded in the treatment of this disorder; such as combine with the itchy humour, or such as by exciting on the skin a slight irritation, attract this humour there, ought on the contrary to be sought for and preferred, as they are the only ones that are not dangerous.

THE most common kind of itch in armies, is that which is derived from contagion; which

which is frequently renewed by recruits; however this cause may be prevented, by not suffering the new comers to intermingle with other soldiers, until they have been examined and cured; but the necessity of teaching the recruits their exercise, and the inclination of participating the recruiting money, induce some of the old soldiers who have not much delicacy, to frequent the company of their new comrades, by which means the disorder acquires a new circulation.

THE lead wort\* acts from a caustic and stimulating principle, that produces on the papillæ of the skin a slight inflammation,

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\* La Dentelaire: Dentellaria Rondeliffi (L. B. ii. 490.): Lepidium Dentillaria dictum (C. B. pin. 97): Plumbago quorundam (Clus. Histor. cxxiii): Plumbago Europea Linnei. It is called by the country people, Herbo Enrabiado, and Herbo de Rasquas, or Herbe de la Teigne. (Garidel, page 368.)

which prevents a repercussion of the humours, and occasions a necessary suppuration which is in a very short time dried up.

THIS remedy was sent to the Royal Society of Medicine, by M. Saumiere, M. D. of Marignan in Provence, and gained the prize which that Society had proposed for the best method that would immediately and safely cure the itch, that is contracted by communication so frequently in barracks, workhouses, hospitals, and prisons. Although the memoir presented by M. Saumiere, was accompanied with experiments accurately made, they were nevertheless repeated by a Committee the Society chose for the purpose; and M. Hallé, one of the Committee, Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, has digested the proceedings: We shall give an extract of his memoir, which is made with as much knowledge as care, and with the greatest impartiality.

“ THE

“ THE manner of preparing this remedy,  
“ says M. Saumiere, is to bruise in a marble  
“ mortar, two or three good handfuls of the  
“ root of lead wort, encreasing the quantity  
“ in winter; some people add a spoonful of  
“ salt; then pour on the pounded root at  
“ least a pint of boiling olive oil, then mix  
“ them well together for three or four mi-  
“ nutes; the whole is then to be poured on  
“ linen cloth, and when all the oil be run  
“ off, the cloth must be well pressed; a part  
“ of these roots only is to remain in the  
“ cloth, which must be tied in a knob.

“ THE way of using it is to dip the knob  
“ of roots into the expressed oil, made very  
“ hot, and stirred up from the bottom, and  
“ then rub the surface of the body all over  
“ with it; it is necessary to rub pretty hard,  
“ and the oil ought always to be very hot;  
“ these frictions are to be repeated every  
“ two hours as long as there is any appear-  
“ ance of the itch: The first friction ge-

“ nerally draws out all the itch that is con-  
 “ cealed under the skin, and encreases the  
 “ pricking and itching, which the following  
 “ frictions will certainly remove; the puf-  
 “ tules then immediately begin to dry, the  
 “ scales fall off, and the itchy humour is re-  
 “ moved; commonly three or four frictions  
 “ produce a cure.”

To confirm, by experiments, the effect of  
 the lead wort announced by M. Saumiere,  
 and whose memoir exactly fulfilled all the  
 conditions of the prize; the Committee  
 tried it on nine children in the hospital of  
 la Pitie, who had recently contracted the  
 itch, but several of them had had it before;  
 these experiments were made in the presence  
 of the principal surgeons of that hospital.

*All the patients, says M. Hallé, were per-  
 fectly cured.*

*The effect of the frictions was generally to raise on the skin the itchy pimples, and then dry them up.*

*This effect and all that could have been expected from this remedy, were produced in seven, eight, or ten frictions.*

*What appeared to have escaped the frictions, being left to nature, disappeared of itself, without any other application.*

*This treatment did not occasion in the health or constitution, any sensible alteration.*

*In fine, it is now seven months since the patients were cured, and they have continued well ever since.*

*It follows then from these experiments, that the lead wort has cured, that it has immediately cured, that it has cured without repulsion, and in fine, that it has cured without the assistance of any other remedy.*

**THE**

THE dentilaire grows naturally and without cultivation, in the Southern parts of the kingdom, particularly in Provence; it ought to have of course more virtue in this country, than in the Northern parts of the kingdom, where it is raised with much difficulty by cultivation. For this reason it would be better to procure it from the country where it is a native; but when this cannot be conveniently done, may we not substitute for it, with the same preparation, the *clematitis*, or the herb *aux gueux*, whose pungency and effects resemble the lead wort very much? It is experience alone that can decide this matter, says M. Hallé, and the virtues of the asphodele, must likewise wait for the same decision, which is proposed by M. Saumier, as being more mild than the lead wort; but this assertion is not supported by any thing but mere conjectures; therefore M. Hallé concludes,

*That*

*That the lead wort, prepared as above, cures decidedly the itch.*

*That it has an evident manner of acting, and exempt from the dangers of repercussion.*

*That all the inconveniencies that are attributed to it, are irritations purely local, which are more or less severe, according to the manner of preparing the roots.*

*Which irritations may be considerably diminished without injuring the efficacy of the remedy.*

*That in common cases, where the itch is recently contracted, and not complicated with any other disorder, it cures without any internal preparation, and sooner than any other known remedy.*

*That in the most difficult cases, (with respect to the age, strength, and delicacy of the patient,*

*to the degree and obstinacy of the disorder, to the nature of the accidents that may unexpectedly happen, and proportioning to these circumstances, the force, number and intervals of the frictions, suspending or discontinuing in time its application; varying even the preparation according to the case,) this remedy may be attended with great advantage, as it is less dangerous than mercury, less disagreeable than sulphur, and its success equal to any known remedy.*

WE have faithfully extracted from this excellent memoir of M. Hallé,\* what appeared to us essential to give a just idea of this remedy and its effects; at the same time

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\* This memoir is entitled, *Détail des Experiences faites par Messrs. de Jussieu, de Lalouette, Janroy et Hallé, Commissaires nommés par la Société Royale de Médecine de Paris pour, déterminer les propriétés & les effets de la racine de Dentelaire, dans le traitement de la Gall.* It was printed at the press of Monsieur, in 1781.

It ought to induce the more sensible of the profession to continue the experiments further.

IF, as there is reason to expect, new trials should confirm more positively, those that have already been made, and which have since been repeated with success, if they tend to throw more light on this disorder and on the manner of treating it, and if the method proposed can be rendered more gentle and more certain; if in short, we discover more of the effects of the clematitis, which is so well known through all France, we shall have at length discovered the long sought for means of curing a disorder that so often affects the soldiers, and encreases the expence of the hospitals; and we owe this important discovery to a respectable military officer, who proposed and gave the prize that the Royal Society of Medicine adjudged to M. Sumaire, which does honour both to the giver and receiver of it.

O B S E R V A T I O N  
O N A  
SCORBUTICAL AFFECTION,  
Cured by the use of S O R R E L, by  
M. R A M B A U D.

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**C**LAUDE PARENTIE, a foldier of the regiment of Chartres, was young, and appeared to have been robust and of a good constitution, was received into the military hospital of Sedan, the 7th April, 1778. His complexion was of a lead colour, the whites of his eyes had lost their brightness, his gums were swelled, livid and soft, there was a considerable echymosis on his legs and thighs; he complained of lassitude, dejection, and a general loss of strength; in short, he had almost

almost all the symptoms that characterise a scorbutic affection.

HE was ordered for common drink a ptisan of the wild horse radish root, and to use as gargle a decoction of sage, vinegar, spirit of scurvy grafs, and honey; the echymosed parts were fomented with camphorated spirit of wine, and he took at the same time the following tincture, which I have used in similar cases with success.

TAKE a pound of fresh wild horse radish roots, bruise them in a marble mortar, and pour on them by degrees four pints of strong vinegar, which must be exposed to the sun for fifteen days in a vessel well closed; then add of the leaves of water cresses, becabunga, (brooklime) wood sorrel and scurvy grafs, each four handfuls; of mustard seed bruised, one ounce; let these ingredients macerate together for three days, and then squeeze the liquor through a linen cloth.

THE patient took an ounce of this tincture three times in a day, in a glass of white wine; notwithstanding this his complaint encreased every day. On the 30th he was purged, and then took an antiscorbutic apozem, every doze of which was preceded by a bolus made of the extract of juniper, rhu- barb, winters bark, and gum lac.

THE gastrocnemii muscles and the tendo achillis of the left leg were become as hard as a board, which determined me to add sal ammoniac to the camphorated spirits, which had not been discontinued from the beginning of his disorder.

TOWARDS the 20th of May a fever came on. The 22d the purge was repeated, and he continued taking the bolus and apozem; his gums were lanced from time to time, and he gargled his mouth several times in a day with the spirit of scurvy grass, and the tincture of gum lac.

ALL

ALL these remedies produced no effect, and the patient was reduced to the most dreadful situation. His figure was horrid, the fever continued without intermission, the echymosis extended all over his body, spots began to appear under his eye-lids, his gums and the roof of his mouth were so swelled, that they covered his teeth, and as he could not chew his food for some time, he was fed with panada and cream of rice: he had besides frequent suffocations, and he fainted with the least motion. From time to time he had considerable hæmorrhages. This unhappy man smelt so very disagreeable, that it became necessary to remove him; the infirmiers were afraid to go near him. As Parentié appeared to me to be a gone case, and as the active remedies that he used produced no effect, I laid them aside, and contented myself with giving him as much *sorrel* as he could suck and swallow, and some was likewise put in his soup. This remedy, simple as it is, produced in a short  
time

time a remarkable and unexpected change; he used a great deal of it, which recovered his colour, and by degrees all his complaints disappeared; his mouth got well, his gums recovered their usual size, and the 17th of July he left the hospital radically cured. I have seen him several times since, and his health appeared to be perfectly re-established.

To this observation I can add another not less important, which farther proves the efficacy of this remedy. A young lady had her body covered with black spots, as big as freckles; she had considerable hæmorrhages, and voided by stool very foetid blood; in other respects she felt no pain. I ordered her to eat large quantities of *sorrel*, and in a little time she was perfectly cured. I likewise attended a woman who was between twenty and twenty-five years of age; who had black spots all over her body; she was attacked with frequent hæmorrhages, and there

there was such a quantity of blood extravasated from the eye-lids, that she could not any more close her eyes, which made her a spectacle truly dreadful. Had I known at that time the marvellous effects of the sorrel, and the preference this plant merits above others, that are generally adopted in this disorder, I should have used it, and probably have saved the life of this patient; she died, notwithstanding the constant use of the mineral aids that I administered in all forms.

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### R E M A R K S.

THE success of a remedy so simple, in a disorder so serious and complicated as the one related in the first observation, proves that there are cases, in which it is necessary to have recourse to simple means, after more powerful ones have been used to no purpose;

purpose; and that there are disorders that resist sometimes the greatest efforts employed to surmount them, which afterwards give way to more gentle applications, that are more analogous to the effect we expect from them. This variety in the action of remedies, is not at all surprising to physicians, who are attentive to the operations of nature, and who form their judgments from her indications. They know that if a decomposition of the juices, supposes almost always a relaxation of the fibres, or is occasioned by it, there are nevertheless cases where these two defects appear to be in opposition to one another. It is indeed possible to conceive a decomposition of the fluids, whilst there still exists a tention of some of the solids, and an irritability that require attention. This is a case in the scurvy that is not so rare as may be imagined, in which the most active scorbutics are often of little or no effect, because they irritate the fibres too much; by endeavouring to reunite  
the

the organic particles, a general decomposition may be prevented; but such applications will not guaranty those organs that are already injured, and health will not often be re-established by these means, for they act too powerfully, and prevent nutrition, without which no reparation can be made. It is therefore that the sorrel (which contains an acid sufficiently voluminous, in the extractive and saponaceous part, that envelopes and softens it, without its injuring the effect which the mineral acid has produced, in stopping the progress of the scurvy,) by promoting a relaxation of the fibres; has facilitated the circulation, and procured new juices more benign; these juices incorporating with the nutritive part of the soup, produced a necessary and sufficient reparation, which could not have been retarded without risk, and by which means a perfect re-establishment of the patient's health was brought about. This observation, which confirms the well known virtue of the sorrel

in the cure of the scurvy, indicates the circumstances that are most favourable to its action ; it merits the preference of the horse radish, scurvy grass, water cresses, and the other hot antiscorbutics, when it is necessary to moderate the effervescence of the juices, and to meliorate them ; it is likewise preferable to the mineral acid when there is a rigid fibre, and when the excretory vessels are not sufficiently souple to do their duty. But the use of the sorrel ought to be preceded by the warm antiscorbutics, or such as are in a great degree tonic, when the scurvy attacks very suddenly, or when it is necessary to be immediately circumscribed ; in this case its action can only be regarded as secondary.

OBSER-

O B S E R V A T I O N S  
O N T H E  
I L I A C P A S S I O N.

By M. R A M B A U D.

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**S**TEPHEN WEISS, a foldier of the royal Piedmont regiment, about forty years of age, was admitted into the military hospital of Sedan, the 25th August, 1781; before his arrival he had been bled in the barracks; he had no fever, but had a severe pain in the lower belly, although it was not tense, and he vomited a bilious matter. His situation then did not appear to me to be any thing else than a humoral cholic; I ordered him some emollient glysters, which eased the pain, in consequence of which the next

L 2

morning

morning I prescribed for him two grains of tartar emetic in a ptisan of tamarinds, and this ptisan for a common drink.

THE 27th, his pains became more violent, I ordered him to be again bled, the emollient glysters to be repeated, and some oily draughts to be taken.

THE 28th, the vomitings encreased, he voided by the mouth some worms and a fœcal matter, he had no stool; he had a cadaverous appearance, his pulse was small and contracted, his belly was tense and painful, all his symptoms characterised an iliac passion of the most alarming nature; he continued the emollient glysters, and an emollient fomentation was applied to his belly; he took some manna and oil of sweet almonds, and drank whey for a common drink; he was put into a warm bath, and made to swallow four ounces of crude mercury. From this time his vomiting ceased; in the afternoon

he

he took some more manna and oil of sweet almonds; and in the evening he took an oily draught with some Hoffman's anodyne tincture, he had too good stools; the day after he was again put into the bath, and continued the whey, fomentations, and glysters.

THE 30th, the patient was purged with manna and oil of sweet almonds; the same remedies were continued as the day before, and he found himself much better; but what is very extraordinary, although the purgatives had produced very copious and happy effects, the patient did not void the mercury for three or four days. He left the hospital the 30th September, well of his disorder, and procured a congé to go to his native place to recover his strength.

*REMARKS.*

## R E M A R K S.

WHAT renders this observation particularly interesting, is the happy effect that appears to have been produced by the crude mercury, swallowed in a well characterized iliac passion, and which was retained in the body four days. Without determining whether the mercury, by removing the obstacle that opposed the passage of the excrements and retained humours, effected the cure, or whether it was derived from the emollient drinks, the oil of sweet almonds, and the purgatives; is it not very extraordinary that a fluid so heavy, so moveable, so disunited, and of a form so very smooth, should remain in the intestinal canal for several days, without occasioning the least injury, and that it was not carried off by the evacuations that were procured? Where did it remain all this time? Was it lodged in the cul de sac of the cœcum? If so how came

it dislodged? Ought not its weight to have fixed it there, as happened to substances less heavy, found in the cul de sac of the cœcum, after very lingering disorders they occasioned; and among others to a soldier of the invalids, who died in consequence of a cholick that was very painful and of a long standing; on opening his body a large quantity of cherry stones was found in the cœcum, which had dilated it in a very extraordinary manner.\*

IN the German Ephemerides, there are observations of the same kind as that related by M. Rambaud, which prove that crude mercury may remain several days in the intestinal canal without doing any mischief; and which, from an extraordinary motion; or sudden jolt, has been voided a month

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\* This observation related by M. Bonafas, is inserted in the second volume of *Recueil des Observations de Médecine Militaire*, page 503.

after,\* without any effort or inconvenience; but it contains likewise another in which crude mercury was administered in the iliac passion, complicated with a hernia, and which produced the worst effects, and could not be evacuated; on opening the body of this person, the mercury was found mixed with the fœces in the ilium.†

THE case related by M. Rambaud, is very satisfactory; but the following reflections necessarily result from it: That crude mercury ought never to be tried until every other probable means have been found to be useless or of no effect, and until we be well convinced that the iliac passion is occasioned by a retention of obdured fœces in the intestinal canal; and that this remedy ought never to be attempted when there is the least sus-

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\* Ephemerides of Germany, for the year 1635, page 191.

† Ibid, page 192.

to be attempted when there is the least suspicion of inflammation, and it is more particularly dangerous when there is a hernia.

THESE are truths known to every Physician, which ought to be frequently inculcated that they may become incontestable; we have thought it proper to fulfil these views still better to subjoin the following observation.

O B S E R V A T I O N  
 O N T H E  
 I L I A C P A S S I O N.

*By M. Joyant, Physician to the Military Hospital at Bruet.*

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**A**NTHONY MARTEL, a grenadier soldier of the regiment of Bearn, was subject to wind colics, in appearance very slight, which seldom arose from any misconduct; he messed the same as his comrades who had no such complaints. His disorder was not preceded by any pain, and the day it came on he had a stool as usual. An hour after dinner he was seized, in an instant, with a most violent colic, accompanied with continual vomiting: when the vomiting ceased, it was succeeded by the hiccough; his pulse was small and contracted, and he voided nothing by stool. It is remarkable  
 he

he could not support himself in any other position than sitting with his body inclined forwards; his belly was neither hard or tense, his tongue was not foul, and he had no fever; but he had unluckily swallowed two leaden bullets, with an intention to force down the matter that he supposed occasioned the colic; such was his situation when he arrived at the military hospital at Brest on the 11th September, 1781.

THE Surgeon of the guard gave him immediately two grains of tartar emetic, but it only encreased his vomiting, hiccough, and pain.

I EXAMINED this patient very attentively on my visit in the evening, and immediately ordered him to be put into a warm bath, and prescribed for him emollient glysters, a drink and fomentations of the same kind, and an oily draught with manna; by these remedies all his complaints were calmed,

except the hiccough, which still continued though less frequent and not so severe. The patient passed the night tolerably well; in the morning I repeated the same remedies, but ordered the glysters to be made purgative to endeavour to procure a stool, but it was in vain, the constipation was too obstinate.

THESE remedies not producing the desired effect, I thought it necessary to have a consultation with the gentlemen of the faculty belonging to the hospital; and it was unanimously advised to bleed him, to give him oil of sweet almonds, to substitute irritating glysters in the room of those that were simply emollient, and to try an injection of tobacco smoke, the drink, fomentation, and bath, to be continued as before. In consequence of which he was bled three times, but without any success; he felt no kind of ease from any thing but the warm bath, in which he continued almost constantly; at the same  
time

time I gave him some laudanum which removed his pain, and he slept for three or four hours, but this respite was not of long continuance, and he relapsed into his former situation. I then thought it best to give him the same remedies I had prescribed in the beginning, although they produced but little effect.

As his pain continued always in one spot, and on examining his back I found the spine was considerably curved, so as to make a large protuberance, and at the region of the ilium, there was a small, soft, fixed, and deep seated tumor, I determined to make some efforts to remove it, hoping by that means to procure a developement of the intestines; but the pain the patient suffered in this situation, was so considerable, I was obliged to give up farther trial. In short, the patient died the 17th September, six days after his admission to the hospital, not being able to take any thing but a few drops  
of

of laudanum, which eased his pain, and a little wine and water.

His body being opened in the presence of the gentlemen of the faculty belonging to the hospital; the viscera of the lower belly were found to be in their natural situation; the epiploon was nevertheless small and of a deep red colour; the small intestines contained nothing but air, and a small quantity of liquid without any smell; but in unfolding their circumvolutions, we found a portion of the ilium of about 22 inches in length, had slipped under the appendix cœci through the mesentery, and which was drawn so tight in its passage that the point of a finger could not be introduced without forcing the aperture; this portion of the ilium was full of air and a thick liquid: it contained besides one of the bullets the soldier had swallowed the first day of his disorder, the other bullet had stopped in the superior part of the ilium.

How

How did the ilium get fixed under the appendix cœci? Was this forced introduction of the ball owing to the convulsions of the intestines? It results at least, from this observation, that heavy bodies ought never to be swallowed in any kind of colic, as it is impossible exactly to determine the case, in which they can be of any use.

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R E M A R K S.

IT cannot be too much insisted on, without doubt, the danger there is in swallowing leaden bullets, or any other heavy body, to remove the colic, under pretence of forcing down the obstacle that occasions this obstinate constipation, that accompanies almost always that species of colic called iliac passion; and although in the preceding observation crude mercury appears to have produced some good effects, they are not sufficiently evident to counterballance our fears on this subject. It is necessary besides, before

fore we determine to use either lead or quicksilver, to be well assured of the nature of the obstacle, to judge if it can be removed by this violent means, without injuring the parts to which it adheres, or without producing a disorder still more dangerous, which often becomes irremediable. The observation of M. Joyant is a proof, and we can scarcely doubt, but that the bullets so inconsiderately swallowed by this soldier, by their weight continually acting on the ilion, and encreasing the convulsions he suffered, occasioned the elongation of the ilion and forced it under the appendix cœci. Although it be difficult to account for this extraordinary derangement, it is in some measure justified by others still more so, occasioned by convulsions, and this disorder ought to banish from the practice of physic, or to employ only with the most prudent precautions, a remedy so equivocal, and the public ought to be admonished of the danger of its administration.

OBSER.

O B S E R V A T I O N

O N T H E

Treatment of a SOLDIER who was  
bitten by a VIPER.

[By M. Lebel]

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**P**ONTRIEUX, a foldier of the regiment of Basigny, had accustomed himself to disregard the bites of reptiles of all sorts, pretending he had the art of charming them.

ON the 13th April, 1779, being walking about eleven o'clock in the morning, in a small wood in the neighbourhood of Marennes, in Saintonge, (where his regiment was then in garrison,) and in which are a plenty of Vipers; he saw something move among the leaves, and thinking it to be a reptile of the same kind he was looking for, caught hold of it with both his hands, and was going to put it in his bosom, as he had

frequently done for his amusement; the animal being irritated, and paying no respect to Pontrieux's power of enchantment, bit him in both of his hands; his left was bitten in the index finger, his right in the abductor muscle of the little finger.

THESE wounds, though slight in appearance, made him despair of his life, from the serious symptoms that followed,

IN a few minutes the effects of the poison began to be felt, by a very violent pain in the small of his back, which in a short time extended all over his body; to this succeeded a dryness of the mouth and throat, a swelling of the hands, a pale visage, a weakness, nausea, colic, cold sweats, and slight convulsions. All these symptoms came on at the place where he was bitten, according to the relation of the patient himself, and of the people who came to his assistance.

THIS

THIS unfortunate man was obliged to be carried to the city by his comrades; a Surgeon of the neighbourhood prescribed the first remedies for him; he made him swallow the heart and liver of the Viper pounded up with some wine, but his stomach could not retain it; and ordered his hands to be wrapped up in a linen cloth that had been dipped in olive oil. I did not see him until an hour after the accident.

I IMMEDIATELY ordered him to be carried to the hospital; his hands were prodigiously swollen, he complained of being very cold, particularly in his lower extremities. The oppression at his breast, his anxiety, fainting, vomiting, and the irregularity of his pulse, made us despair of his life; these symptoms continued until eight o'clock in the evening, when he dosed a little; but the swelling which was of an inflammatory nature, had made such rapid progress, that by this time it had got to his elbows.

I HAD never seen the effects of the bite of a viper before, and altho' I had read the writings of modern authors, on the effects of this dangerous poison, and the manner of treating it; particularly the interesting observation of Barnard de Jussieu, inserted in the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences, in the year 1747\* ; the number and intensity of

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\* THE celebrated Barnard de Jussieu, has given in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences, for the year 1747, an account of the cure of the bite of the Viper, produced by the volatil alkali taken internally ; and this observation joined to several made since, appears to prove the volatil alkali to be a specific for the venom of the Viper. Barnard de Jussieu, was determined to try the properties of the volatil alkali, as much from the inefficacy of other usual remedies, as from it being constantly remarked that the volatil alkali instantly relieved those that had been bitten by the Viper ; and by perseverance completed their cure. In conjunction with the famous Rouelle, he made some experiments on this subject in the King's garden ;

from

of his symptoms frightened me: It was in vain that I endeavoured to procure some concrete volatil salts, or eau de luce, neither was to be got in the city. I had recourse to the theriaca, mixed with a little red wine, but his stomach could not support it; happily

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from which resulted, that dogs bitten by this reptile, who had the volatil alkali given them soon recovered; that such as had the usual alexepharmonic remedies given them, got well very slowly; and those that had nothing given them, died. These experiments being repeated were an additional proof to Barnard de Jussieu, that the volatil alkali was the real specific for the bite of the Viper, and he soon after had an opportunity of trying it on a Student of Medicine, who was bitten by this reptile whilst simpling; the success was so complete, as would have sufficed any one else, that the volatil alkali was the true specific. But this learned man (whose death will be long regretted, but who lives in the hearts of all good and honest Physicians,) knew that it was necessary to multiply our experiments, before we publish our opinion; to follow respectfully his views,

pily I recollected that I had at my house a small bottle full of the volatil spirits of sal amoniac; I ran home for it, and gave him eight drops in a little honey water; this remedy continued on his stomach. I ordered him to be well covered up in bed, and some bottles full of almost boiling water were put by him to endeavour to warm him. At two o'clock, P. M. his cold feeling still continuing, I gave him a second dose of the volatil fluor alkali\*; a glyster was given him which eased the pain of his belly a little. Towards the evening he began to grow warm, and did not vomit any more; I gave him a third dose of the volatil alkali in wine, this dose contained twelve drops, which produced an hour after a pretty plen-

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views, we have reported this case, which will support the opinion of this great man.

\* THE volatil fluor alkali, is nothing but the volatil spirits of sal amoniac, regenerated with this new name.

tiful

tiful sweat; three hours after I gave him another dose in an aqueous vehicle, and I poured a few drops of this specific on the small wounds, in imitation of the celebrated and learned Botanist cited above; the hands and fore arms of the patient were enveloped in a linen cloth dipped in olive oil; the patient passed this night in a state of moisture, but he slept none.

THE next day the 14th, I found him tolerably easy, but the swelling had ascended as far as the upper part of his arm; the olive oil was now omitted, and a decoction of mallows and elder flowers substituted in its place, I gave him another dose of alkali; at noon the swelling was enormous; it had got up to his shoulders and filled his arm pits; I gave him another dose of volatil alkali which induced and maintained a sweat until the evening; after that the swelling did not encrease, but became more red near the arm pits where it seemed to terminate. The dressings

dressings all this day were the same as in the morning; his drink was a weak infusion of elder flowers and liquorish root.

THE 15th in the morning, the swelling had again made some progress, and in the evening, all the external part of his chest, and particularly the lateral parts, were swelled, but this swelling was rather œdematous than inflammatory; it pitted with the finger, he had no more heat or pain in the two extremities; and the red colour was superseded by a leaden one. To increase the action of these parts which appeared to me to be numbed, I omitted from the decoction the mallows, and added to the elder flowers, camomile and wormwood. I wrapped his arms as far as the shoulders, in linens and flannels wrung out of this new decoction made very hot, which was renewed every quarter of an hour: these parts were kept as in a continual hot bath, the heat was still increased by bottles of almost boiling water, which were placed close by his arms; this  
day

day he took two doses of volatil alkali, which kept him in a gentle sweat all day. In the morning I scarified the end of the bit finger, from whence issued a bloody liquor.

THE 16th, the swelling had considerably increased in height, though not in breadth; the bit finger was again scarified. Notwithstanding the swelling on the chest, the patient felt no inconvenience from it internally. This day he took three doses of the volatil fluor alkali, his arms and chest were dressed as before.

THE 17th, which was the fifth from the accident, the swelling in general appeared to be a little diminished, particularly in the fingers, which could now be moved with less difficulty; but one thing alarmed me very much, independent of what I had read in M. Quesnai's learned Treatise on the Gangrene, which was to see the lateral parts of the chest covered over with black spots

resembling an echymosis that follows a violent contusion; there were some on the arms likewise, but not so many as on the body; on the fore arms and hands were none. The patient took this day two doses of the alkali, the dressings were continued as before.

THE 18th, the swelling was nearly the same as yesterday, but the echymosis was considerably increased both in spots and extent; the black colour had now extended to the ends of the fingers. To increase the action of the vessels, and to stop in the beginning a foundation that might produce such terrible effects, I added to the last decoction some brandy and sal amoniac; the patient found himself in other respects better; he now for the first time asked for something to eat.

THE 19th, he had now no more pain, and although the swelling had but little diminished, he began to recover the use of his  
arms,

arms, the black colour of the skin was not so deep, but had extended to the back of his shoulders, and descended as low as the small of his back; such parts as were subject to pressure were blacker than the other.

THE 20th, the swelling and echymosis of the body were a good deal diminished, but the extremities continued still very large, shining and black, particularly from the arm pits to the wrists.

THE 21st and 22d, the swelling on all the circumference of the chest was entirely gone down, the black colour was quite gone, but was superceded by a yellow one, which extended to his face; the superior part of his arms was diminished to nearly half of their size, and were likewise of a yellow colour; his forearms were gone down to nearly a third, but his hands continued still very much swelled.

THE 23d and 24th, his right arm regained its natural colour; the fore arm was not so large; the internal part of this extremity still continued a little black, his hand was not yet much diminished; the patient began now for the first time to help himself with his right arm in eating; the left arm mended slowly, the fore arm and hand continued still very large, altho' there was no echymosis except on the internal part, all the rest was yellow.

THE 25th, being the 12th day from his disorder, the right arm was perfectly well, the fore arm was scarcely swelled any; his hand was considerably better. His left arm continued nearly the same, but the finger that was bitten had for some days been growing larger, and he felt shooting pains in it; which continued stiff, even after he was in other respects perfectly well.

THUS all the accidents of this violent disorder were dissipated by degrees, and in an  
opposite

opposite order to that of their coming on. A perfect cure was not obtained in less than a month, though the most assiduous care was taken. There was used in this cure both internally and externally, more than one ounce of the volatil fluor alkali.

THIS observation furnishes a new proof that the volatil fluor alkali, is the real counter poison for the venom of the Viper, even for a long time after the bite. Its effect is more certain when applied immediately after the accident; and there is reason to presume, if it had been administered in the beginning of the disease that I have described, as Barnard de Jussieu had an opportunity of doing, the consequences would have been infinitely less severe, less complicated, and much shorter. We see that this remedy ought to be given in greater or less doses, and continued a longer or shorter time, in proportion to the violence of the symptoms and their continuance.

MAY we not attribute the extraordinary progress of the swelling, which did not relax until the fourth day, to the small quantity of volatil alkali made use of topically? It is a reflexion I have made since reading the observations of M. Sage on the effects of the volatile fluor alkali.

OBSER-

O B S E R V A T I O N

ON A VERY REMARKABLE

T H I R S T.

B Y M. R O S E R.

*Case. R090*

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**M**ANGIN, a soldier of the regiment of La Couronne, had from his infancy an uncommon thirst. He is now about twenty-four years of age, of a strong and robust habit of body, about five feet three inches in height, auburn colour hair, of a florid complexion, enjoys perfect health, and performs the duty of a soldier with the most scrupulous exactness.

FROM the age of six years, he drank every twenty-four hours twenty pints of water. His parents were alarmed, from the idea that his situation was produced by witchcraft,

craft, had recourse to faints and quack-doctors; but his drowth, far from diminishing, encreased every day.

WHEN ten years old he drank daily twenty-eight pints of water; his belly now began to grow large and very hard; it was with difficulty he could walk. This uneasy situation continued for two years; his eagerness for drink continued always the same, and it appeared to be absolutely insurmountable. However his belly regained its natural size, without being indebted to any medicine for it.

AT thirteen years of age, Mangin drank thirty-two pints of water daily; the uneasiness of his parents increasing, with a view to make him insensibly get the better of a habit that alarmed them so much, they confined him to his room, and gave him drink but a little at a time, and not even that, until he repeatedly asked for it. He expressed

pressed, in a very feeling manner, the violent anguish he suffered from this restraint. He was shut up in this prison for several months, till one day he found an opportunity of escaping from his confinement, when he left his father's house altogether, for no other reason but that he might be able to drink his fill without constraint. The first condition that he proposed to the master he went to serve, (who lived on a farm a few leagues from his father's house) was, that he should be at full liberty to drink his fill of water, which his master very readily agreed to. From the age of eighteen till twenty he drank constantly from forty to forty-eight pints per day. During summer, or when he drank wine or spirituous liquors, he was obliged to drink one third more than ordinary.

AN inclination to serve the king, or probably the hopes of overcoming an habit

that was now become very troublesome, induced Mangin to enlist in the regiment of La Couronne. It is now four years since I have observed him with a good deal of attention, and I am well satisfied that this soldier is actually obliged to drink so copiously as he does.

IN the month of March, 1778, he was admitted into the hospital of St. Omers, for a fever and pains in his back and loins. He drank every day forty pints of small beer and twenty pints of water, besides the medicines and liquid food his situation required, and which were prescribed for him by the Physicians of the Hospital; but it was not found necessary to augment his doses of medicine in proportion to his drink, the same doses operated with him the same as with other patients in the same disorder.

IN the month of October, 1778, he was sent to the military hospital of St. Lizieux,  
with

with an inflammatory fever; he staid there twenty days, and was then dismissed perfectly well. During this time, he drank daily sixty-eight pints of weak cyder and water, besides ptisans and other liquors that were prescribed for him. It was again remarked that his medicines produced in him a similar effect as might have been expected in any [other patient; a common purging dose generally produced the desired effect.

To be more correct in this observation, I weighed for fifteen days the solid and liquid food daily used by this soldier, and the sensible evacuations produced. I told him not to drink more than he had occasion for, or to stint himself in any thing, which he performed very faithfully. The result of this experiment was:

ON the first of December he drank in twenty-four hours, of Cyder, 4lbs. Water,

40; of Meat Soup, 3 1-2; of Meat, 1-2; ---  
48.

HE voided in this time, by Urine, 24lbs.  
by Stool, 1; ----25.

THE quantity of food, drink, and evacua-  
tions, were nearly the same the four fol-  
lowing days.

THE fifth day he drank, Cyder, 16lbs.  
Water, 48; ----64. He voided by Urine  
and Stool, 28.

THE 10th day I made him drink about  
3 ounces of apple brandy, in which day he  
drank, Cyder, 16lbs. Water, 52; ----68.  
Evacuations, 20lbs.

THE other days that he drank no brandy,  
he drank less water, but his evacuations  
increased by some pounds.

THIS

THIS soldier never spat any; his mouth was always dry; he never sweated extraordinarily; the mucus of the nostrils, the growth of his hair and nails did not appear to be augmented, and the pulmonary transpiration received on glass seemed to be with him as with any other person of his age.

ON examining attentively the state of the viscera of the lower belly, there was neither tension, hardness, or any extraordinary elevation to be perceived; when this man suffered from thirst, and he could not get wherewith to satisfy himself, he complained of a devouring fire in his stomach; his eyes grew dim; his head became giddy, he fainted, and would probably have died if he had not been immediately relieved. Water immediately revives him, much in the same way as air revives birds that have been inclosed in a pneumatic machine; he cannot exist two hours without drinking. From re-

peated

peated experiments that have been made to estimate the quantity of drink necessary for this foldier for twenty-four hours, and of the evacuations made in this time, we may conclude that he drinks in winter per day 48 pints, and in summer 54; that his urine in general is not more than 24 pints; he says that he has been obliged to drink 80 pints of water in a day, when he has been intoxicated.

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R E M A R K S.

IT is difficult to account for the cause of such a very extraordinary thirst, and particularly as the man enjoyed a good state of health. It is true we hear of inextinguishable thirsts, but they have been accompanied with a burning fever or dropsy. We know likewise that wine, spiritous liquors, heat, violent exercise, salts or acrid matters, excite thirst, but then it is momentaneous, and depends on the cause that produces it;

and

and the foldier who is the fubject of this interefting and well made obfervation, has experienced fometimes himfelf an augmentation of thirft from thefe caufes; but the thirft he has been accuftomed to from his infancy, and which is now as it were natural to him, is not daily excited and kept up by thefe heterogeneous caufes.

It follows then, that there is in him a flame of this inextinguifhable fire, whofe effects water will moderate for a fhort time, but cannot put out, and which blazes fo quickly and fo eafily. But what is the caufe of this heat? A continued and immoderate thirft is in the opinion of all Phyficians\*, a real diforder, and the proximate caufe of the cahexy and dropfy. However there is nothing in this foldier that announces the prefence or probability of any of thefe diforders, and his health has not fuffered any

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\* Van Sweeten, in Aphorifmos, Vol. ii. Page 407.  
change

change from this habit; it is in this above all that consists the peculiarity of his situation.

IT will nevertheless be interesting to attempt some means to deliver him from the tyranny of his complaints and prevent their effects; the following are proposed: Without refusing him the satisfaction of drinking, might not the quantity of his drink be constantly and insensibly diminished? Could not he accustom himself to gargle his mouth some time with what he drinks before he swallows it, and always keep in his mouth lozenges of cream of tartar, or some such medicine, and mix a few drops of vinegar in all the water he drinks; to imitate the *posca* of the Romans?

THESE means are simple, easily tried, not dear, and cannot be attended with any inconvenience; they may besides be regarded as a tacit invitation to Physicians to propose more efficacious.





