

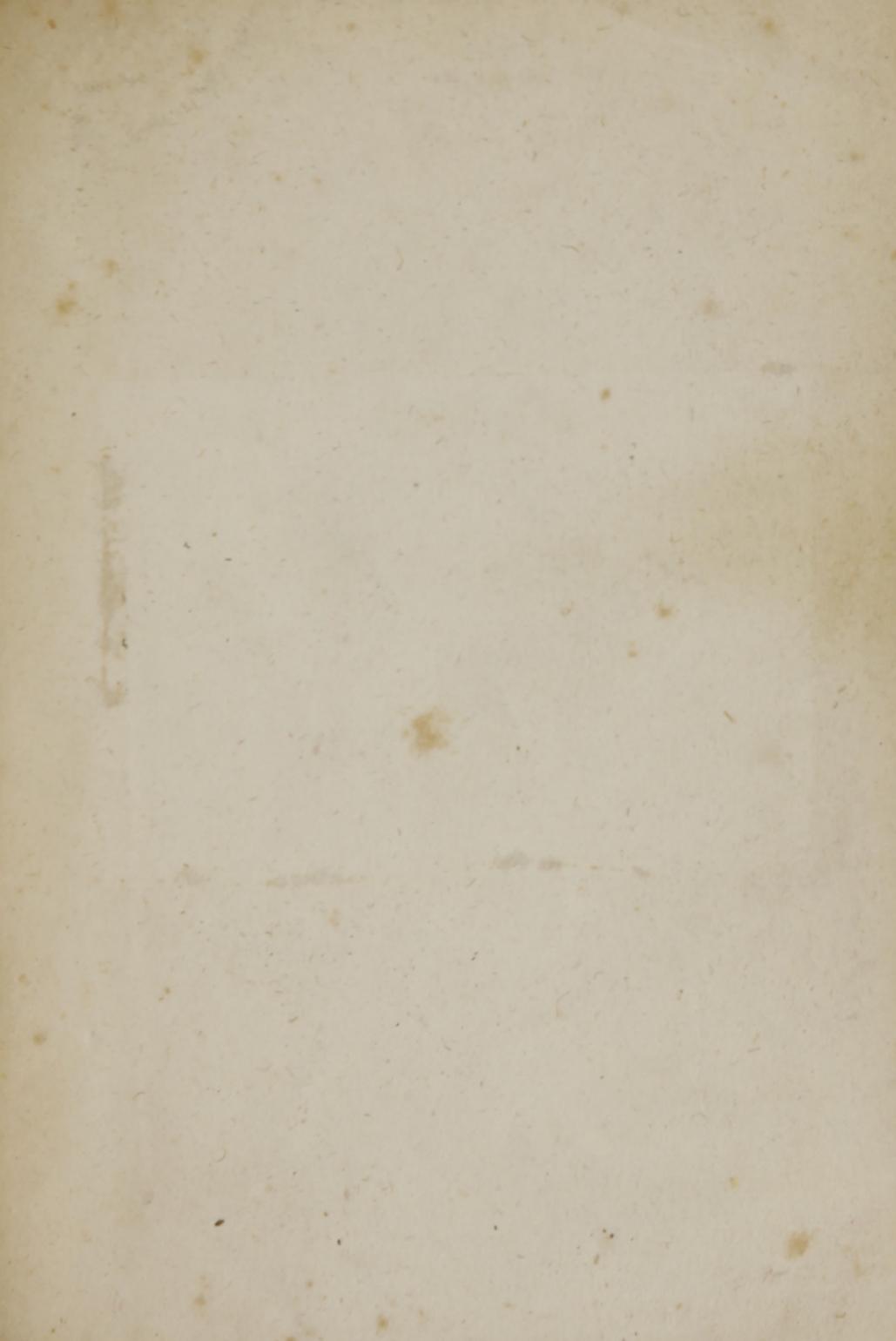
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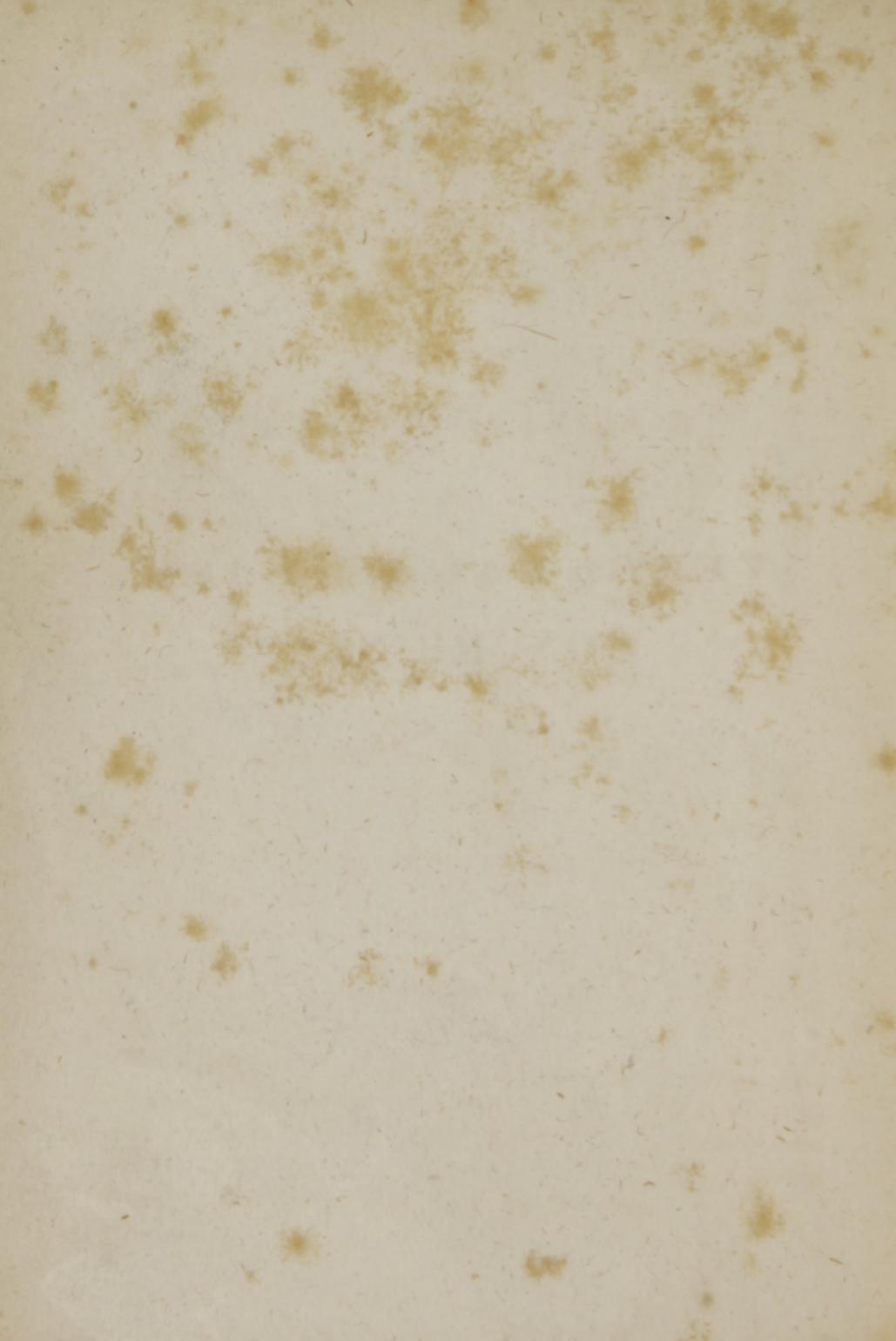
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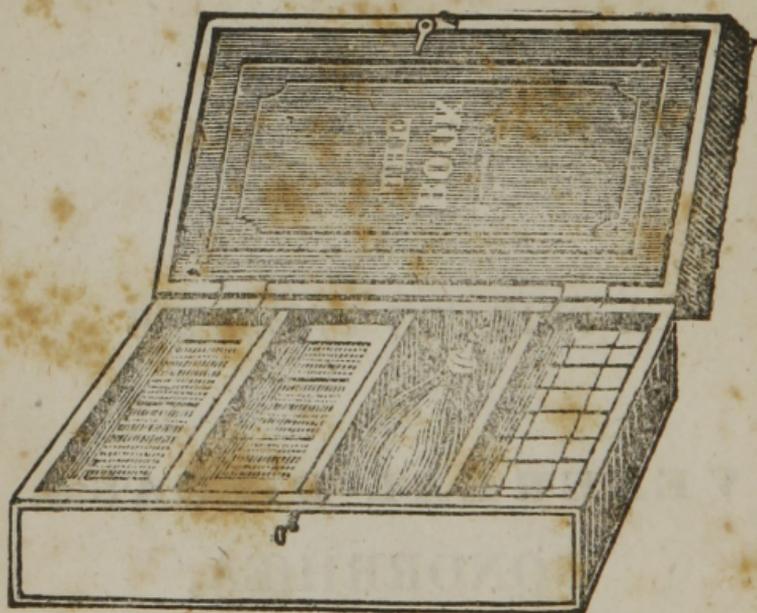
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A PRIVATE TREATISE  
ON  
VENEREAL DISEASE,  
GONORRHOEA,  
&c. &c.

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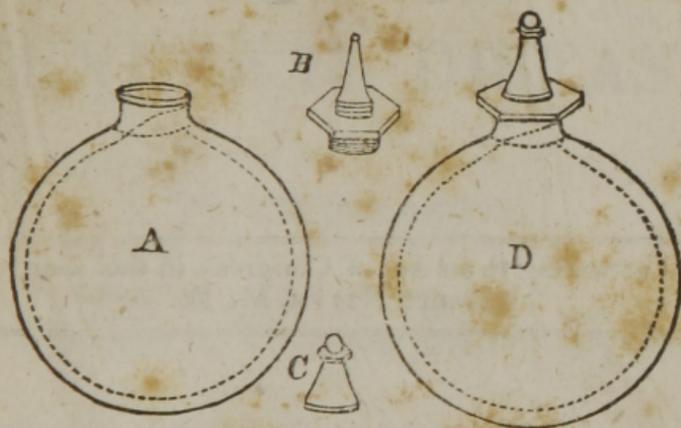


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Entered according to an Act of Congress, in the year 1840,  
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**A PRIVATE TREATISE**  
ON  
**VENEREAL DISEASE,**

IN TWO PARTS.

*The First on Gonorrhœa,—vulgarly called clap.*  
*The Second on Venereal, properly so called.*

Adapted to the use of every one, but more especially designed for those who are delicately circumstanced and require a private as well as a speedy cure.

LIBRARY.  
25762  
BY JOSEPH RALPH, M.D.

*Graduate of the University of Edinburgh;—Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London;—and author of “The Family Physician.” &c. &c.*

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SECOND EDITION,—Greatly Enlarged.

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*Sold by the author—Dr. Ralph—38 Courtland street, N. Y.: who may also be consulted confidentially, by post or otherwise, on those various and delicate circumstances and diseases which relate especially to sexual weakness in either male or female. The consultation fee is five dollars, but this is not expected when the little chest, &c.—described in page 121—is requested.*

# ANNEX

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## INTRODUCTORY.

If it were only for the purpose of knowing as much of this disease as to be able to distinguish it from others, (for there are several diseases which resemble venereal in some respects, but are not so in reality;) or, in case it should be, to be enabled to fix upon the best and most convenient way of curing it, instead of being harassed and deceived by a certain class of people, by whom the spirits and the health are too often broken down and ruined, these alone would afford sufficient reasons for publishing this little private volume. There is however another, and one of infinitely greater weight—the effect of this disease upon posterity. It is a fact which no intelligent Physician will deny, (nor, with the exception only of a heartless, advertising quack, would any human being disregard) that, *venereal disease, not properly cured, may lie so dormant and unsuspected in the constitution as to show itself in no other way than in its fatal influence upon children.* Now, to show my reader how he may detect the impostor who wishes to make him believe he has the venereal disorder when he really has not: or, if he really have it, to enable him to fix upon the best, and most convenient, and private way of curing it, is the object of this little volume, and this I have attempted in the very plainest words and manner.

For the purposes of clearness and convenience it appeared desirable to arrange it in chapters; and here it is my intention to state the subjects of them, severally, and just to mention some of the most important parts of each, so that, on running over these intro-

ductory pages, any one may fix at once on whatever may appear most useful to himself.

*The first chapter*—is, on the nature, symptoms, progress, and consequences of Gonorrhœa—vulgarly called clap. This should more especially be read by those who do not know that Gonorrhœa and venereal, are two distinct and different diseases, requiring very different modes of treatment. It will be also seen that Gonorrhœa is sometimes a very difficult and tedious complaint to cure, requiring much skilful and patient perseverance in the use of proper means; at other times it will yield more kindly and quickly, almost to any of the usual remedies. No doubt, most of the tedious cases met with are the consequence of taking certain pills and drops which are daily advertised; and others, again, are owing to peculiarities of constitution—being unfavorable to a speedy cure; but by far the greatest number of these bad cases arise from the want of knowing something of the nature and progress of the disease itself, so that the *proper* remedy should be taken at a *proper* period, and under certain circumstances only. These circumstances therefore in this chapter are carefully pointed out.

*The second*—is, on certain diseases which resemble Gonorrhœa in some respects, and are frequently mistaken for it; but which, nevertheless, are totally distinct and different diseases. This is a subject of the deepest interest, particularly as there is a class of persons, who, either from ignorance or knavery, call every thing they see upon these organs venereal. It is not however, as I have there observed, the being thus cajoled and put to inconvenience and expense, which is the worst of this, but it often leads

to painful and most unfounded apprehensions and suspicions. I have known it to interrupt the happiness and even threaten the disunion of virtuous couples.

*The third chapter*—is on the remedies in general use both for the cure of Gonorrhœa and venereal disease. It seemed proper, before entering on the cure of these diseases, to explain the value and proper use of such remedies, especially as I have often found that many had been taking medicines in one of these complaints, which was intended for the other; and also, because the same medicine which is useful in one may be absolutely useless and injurious in the constitution of an other. But here I cannot pass without a word or two upon a fact which I am certain will be granted by every thinking man,—I mean the absurdity and wickedness of selling any one a box of pills or bottle of drops for the indiscriminate cure of these complaints, and under all the various circumstances which may attend them. These circumstances I have shown to be numerous and important, arising as they do from habits of life, age, sexes, and peculiar kinds of constitution. In fact, the circumstances which may at any time occur in the course of this disease, but which do not properly belong to it, are far more dangerous and distressing than the disease itself.—In this chapter, also, is the nature of injections,—their safety, efficacy, and sometimes indispensable necessity, is explained. I have also here described my pocket, gum elastic syringe,—contrived for the purpose of convenience and privacy—the value, simplicity, and convenience of which can scarcely be conceived without referring to the plate, page 43.

*The fourth chapter*.—This is on the cure of Gonorrhœa.—The nature of Gonorrhœa and its reme-

dies having been explained, its cure is now exceedingly easy to understand and manage. Not that it is necessary for every one to read these chapters severally, on the contrary, it is sufficient only to peruse this single one on the cure of this complaint; most people however feel a pleasure in being acquainted with the *principle* on which their cure proceeds, as well as with the fact itself.

*The fifth chapter*—is on Gleet—a consequence of a badly treated Gonorrhœa. On this subject the remarks as to whether a gleet retains the infectious nature of Gonorrhœa or no, are well worthy of attention, especially as some very erroneous notions are entertained upon it. Many a person has unintentionally involved others in this complaint in consequence of such errors. This indeed I have felt to be of so much consequence as to take the greatest pains to place it in its proper light; and, that I might put every one seriously on his guard I have given the opinion, and also the very words, of one of the greatest Surgeons in the world upon the subject—Sir Astley Cooper.

*The sixth chapter*—is on stricture—a subject than which there is none of more importance in the whole range of venereal maladies. It is also one which affords the richest field for all imposters. Here you will find them persuading unsuspecting people to take their drops or pills, or some such thing, for months together, while every real Physician absolutely knows that all the medicine in the world, alone, would never cure it. This every one will see immediately on reading the remarks upon the nature of stricture. Here also he will see that the discharge which now and then attends a stricture, may perhaps be stopped, to return again

on some occasion of excitement, but that this is a very different thing from curing the disease; and that perhaps it is better not to stop it, for in this case a person is more completely off his guard, and is more likely to remain unconscious of it, even for years, or or until some of its remoter consequences draw his attention to it. Many persons have been to me with these effects who never dreamed they arose from stricture until it was explained and its existence proved to them. I have therefore spared no pains to make the nature of a stricture understood, as well as the symptoms which attend it; and it gives me pleasure here to add, that, although I consider stricture to be the most serious thing that can possibly befall an individual, yet the means of curing it are simple, easy, safe and certain; hundreds under my own immediate care can attest this truth, many of whom have been cured in as many weeks as it had existed years before.

*The eighth chapter*—is on Gonorrhœa in females, in which every necessary direction is given to enable them to cure this malady in a speedy and private manner.

*The ninth chapter*—is on Venereal disease, properly so called. The necessity of distinguishing this from Gonorrhœa, together with its general principle of cure, are here most clearly pointed out.

*The tenth chapter*—relates to certain disorders which resemble venereal disease, and sometimes arise from sexual intercourse, but which, nevertheless, are not venereal, nor can be treated as such without the greatest disadvantage, &c. &c. It is impossible to mention any part of this chapter

as more interesting than another. The heading of it implies the nature of the remarks it may be expected to contain, and these must be read in connexion to be understood and properly appreciated. This, indeed, is the case with regard to every following chapter on venereal disease. I propose therefore, with one exception, to do nothing more than merely state the subjects of them. The exception I allude to is—

*The eleventh chapter*—in which the use and abuse of Mercury, with rules for its proper management in the cure of venereal disease is given with every possible degree of plainness. As in Gonorrhœa, so of venereal, after describing its nature, and the circumstances which distinguish it from disorders that resemble it, it seemed proper, before entering on its cure, first to explain particularly the nature and properties of its peculiar remedy—Mercury. I will venture to say few persons will read this chapter without shuddering at the idea of taking Mercury from advertising quacks. Well may they disclaim, as many do, the use of Mercury in their pills and drops; this pretention however I will explain, for it will enable every one to judge exactly of its value.

As may be seen, (page 131) it was once supposed that venereal disease *could not* be cured effectually without the aid of Mercury; later investigations however, proved it *could* be. This admitted, the question then was, which was the best—the most expedient plan? Now, this latter discovery consisted, not in any new or particular medicine or remedy which could be substituted in the place of Mercury, but in a certain plan and course of management. This plan, however, was such, as very few could possibly

comply with ; it consisted in confinement in the house or bed, together with such a course of antimonial or other reducing medicines as greatly unfitted, even after the cure, for any bodily fatigue ; not to mention the frequent instances of a return of the disease after the supposed cure. Not even the warmest advocates for the non-mercurial plan, as it is called, ever pretend that there is any medicine whatever, or pill, or drops, that is a substitute for Mercury. I put it then to every man of common sense—with what honesty can any person advertise a box of pills, or bottle of drops, or any thing of this kind, to cure venereal ; or, if it be Mercury—with what feeling could he put this medicine into the hands of any one, without apprising him of all the serious incidents that may possibly attend its use, together with the means of avoiding or correcting them. I leave it however to my reader to adjudge such characters. But this I know, and will here state—the worst and most complicated cases of venereal that have ever consulted me, have all been the unfortunate dupes of some of these pretenders. For myself, conscious that Mercury is the best, the safest, the speediest, and indeed the only *certain remedy* for the cure of venereal disease ; but, persuaded also that this, of all valuable remedies, is most easily abused by ignorant and presuming people, I have bestowed in this chapter the utmost care to show its safe and proper use.

*The twelfth*—is on the *cure* of venereal disease. Here I have begun with the first appearance of it, (a chancre) following it through every stage, including the various accidental circumstances that may attend—as inflammatory swellings, bubo, &c. &c., and I trust have given in each those rules and

explanations which will be found so satisfactory and plain, as to make it next to impossible to mistake.

*The thirteenth chapter*—is on venereal sore throat.

*The fourteenth*—is on venereal blotches on the skin, &c.

*The fifteenth*—is on venereal disease in the bones. In this I have noticed particularly the progress of the disease from the throat or roof of the mouth to the bones of the nose, and have taken especial pains to point out the means of immediately stopping the progress of it, when it threatens to affect the bones,—the destruction of which causes so much inconvenience as well as disfiguration of the countenance.

*The sixteenth*—and last, is on the effect of venereal disease upon posterity. In this place it would be in vain to attempt a summary of this chapter; and, indeed, it would be of very little use to do so, as those to whom it should in any way relate, would certainly make it the subject of perusal.

As a concluding paragraph or two, I would now observe, that, among other benefits accruing from this publication, if it should only have the effect of putting individuals on their guard against the divers snares and traps which beset them upon every side on the subject of these diseases, it will be no slight one.—Alarmed and delicately circumstanced as many are, I do not wonder that they should be caught by a promise of being cured with a bottle of drops, or box of pills,—or in a day, or an hour, or any thing else they choose;—but why not exercise the same good

sense on this as on any other subject? Would you risk your health and happiness, in any other case, to one with whose talent and integrity you were perfectly unacquainted?—As to the idea that Venereal disease is of such a nature as to be safely trusted to the cure of any one who assumes the name of Doctor, nothing can be more fallacious.—Look for instance at the case related page 233. This gentleman came fresh from the hands of such a person; and he is only one of thousands.—And even in the case of Gonorrhœa, this also often proves a much more serious and distressing malady than you would suppose, to listen to the boastings of these kind of people. Hear the avowal of one of the greatest surgeons in the world upon the subject,—Sir Astley Cooper.—“*Gonorrhœa*,” Sir Astley affirms, “*is a disease which may often baffle the longest experience, and the greatest professional skill.*” If then Gonorrhœa is so serious a disorder in such hands, what must it be with persons of the description here alluded to! The fact is, as I have already stated, Gonorrhœa, in some few instances, and if taken early, is very speedily cured; but this depends, not on any particular medicine, to be made a secret of, but on a favorable kind of constitution. The best thing that possibly can be taken at such an early period, and with such a view, is the Cubebs, as mentioned page 33, and when this fails to *cut short* the disease, as I would express it, it is still the best preparatory means to any other.

It therefore seems that the cure of Gonorrhœa will sometimes prove a tedious thing in spite of very skilful treatment. In this case the only step to take is to consider well the kind of person in whose judgment and fidelity you have trusted. If for instance it is one of those who promise to cure in a day, and

boasts of wondrous remedies and secrets, depend upon it you have made a wrong selection. As to the praises such folks bestow upon themselves, or any list of long certificates, these are of little consequence; make enquiries rather of the most respectable and eminent physicians of our city; these only are capable of giving the information you require.

Of course, after these remarks, I can have no possible objection that such enquiries should be made about myself; on the contrary, I invite such; and being in the constant practice of meeting the most eminent physicians of our city in consultations, there will be no difficulty in doing it. But, in addition, (and in addition also to my rank as graduate of the University of Edinburgh, and member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, &c., as well as being author of "The Family Physician"—the result of nearly thirty years experience,) I have the happiness of possessing letters of commendation from the most eminent men in Europe to the most eminent in America—as the late Doctor Physick of Philadelphia,—Doctor Mott, of our city, and others, and which letters may be seen by any one who wishes it.

I will only now request, that those who consult me from a distance, would be more particular in describing the symptoms and circumstances which attended the *first appearance* of their disease, as well as the plan of treatment they first adopted. My consultation fee on these occasions is Five Dollars; but if the little chest of medicine is requested, I do not expect my fee for consultation.

(Every one should read the introductory pages.)

A  
PRIVATE TREATISE  
ON  
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IN TWO PARTS.

*The First on Gonorrhœa, &c. vulgarly called Clap.*

*The Second on Venereal Disease, properly so called.*

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FIRST PART.

CHAPTER I.

*On Gonorrhœa,—its Nature, Symptoms, Progress  
and Consequences.*

THE first thing to be acquainted with on this subject is the fact, that Gonorrhœa and Venereal Disease are two distinct and very different disorders. A person having Gonorrhœa, for instance, cannot give another the Venereal Disease; neither can one having Venereal Disease give to another the Gonorrhœa. Again, a Gonorrhœa never changes into Venereal; nor does Venereal ever change into Gonorrhœa. Both diseases may, indeed, exist together, in one and the same person, and then, both may be communicated at the same time, or one alone, just as it may

happen. The principal thing however to remember is, that they are two distinct diseases, and this is the more important, because, as I shall presently have to show, they require very different remedies and methods of cure. The following sketch, however, will place them in a clear and proper light.

Gonorrhœa is a specific infectious disease,—it is seated in the urinary passage, from the orifice of which there issues a discharge of matter; it is also attended, more or less, with pain and heat in making water. On the contrary, Venereal disease (which also is infectious) is not seated in the urinary passage, but on some part or other of the penis or genital organs. Further, Venereal disease begins in a little ulcer, which, in general, is not painful; whereas, in Gonorrhœa, there is no ulcer whatever. If it were possible to see into the urinary passage, (the seat of this disease) you would find nothing there but a redness and a little swelling,—the discharge, whether much or little, would be seen proceeding from the surface of the passage, without an ulcer. From this account then I presume every one will be able to tell immediately whether his complaint is Gonorrhœa or Venereal disease, and therefore I will now go on to show in what manner it begins and how it proceeds,—I mean the Gonorrhœa.

One word, however, had better first be said about the *time* at which a Gonorrhœa first appears after an

exposure to it, for many persons worry themselves with fear and dread long after there is occasion. To the question then so often put,—*when may I consider I am safe?* I reply, *after the seventh day*, if none of the symptoms presently to be mentioned should appear, you may consider you have escaped,—that you are safe. It is true there is some difference in the time of its appearing in different individuals. Some have said, for instance, they have known it to appear in 24 hours, and others, that it has been delayed for 10 and even 14 days. I very much doubt, however, whether it ever appears at this early period. Instances of this kind which have come to me, have always proved to be cases of Stricture, not of Gonorrhœa; while those delayed for fourteen days are very rare,—I have never met with one. By far the most common period is the third day. The seventh is the longest I have ever met with, and it is on the ground of this experience I venture now to say, that, whoever has passed the seventh day without any of the symptoms presently to be mentioned, may consider he is safe—that he has escaped,—however suspicious the party may have been. Thus much then as to the *time when a Gonorrhœa begins*, and now, as to its *manner of beginning*.

A person having been exposed to this infectious malady, at some period within seven days, if he should have taken the disorder, will feel a little pain

and heat in making water. This soon leads him to examine the part, and then, on squeezing it, a little matter of a whitish color is seen coming out of the urinary passage. Next day this painful heat and discharge will have increased, and the color of the matter become a little yellowish. Sometimes the pain and heat in making water will be exceedingly great, amounting to a sensation of absolute scalding; at this time the discharge generally turns to a greenish color, and, instead of being about as thick as cream, it is thin and watery. Under these circumstances also there is a painful sensation along the whole length of the urinary passage, and the penis swells, and is subject to attacks of frequent and very painful erections.

A Gonorrhœa always begins with pain and inflammation, more or less, which, after a little while abates or subsides entirely. In speaking of a Gonorrhœa, therefore, we call the beginning of it its inflammatory stage. But the degree of pain and inflammation at the beginning of Gonorrhœa, differs exceedingly in different persons; some will have so little as scarcely to complain at all, while others suffer most severely; in every case, however, after a little time it subsides, whether any thing is done for it or not. Persons (coming from some of the advertising quacks,) will often say "but the stuff they gave me removed the burning pain," when, in fact, it had nothing at all to do with it; for, unless the heat-

ing things they generally give, increase the burning pain, it subsides itself, spontaneously.

After a short time, then, or, if there has been much pain, after this has subsided, what we call the second stage commences. This consists simply of an infectious discharge, issuing from the orifice of the penis, without much pain. This discharge is more or less in quantity in different persons, and is much increased by whatever may excite, or irregularities of any kind. And, when it once sets in, there is no exactly telling how long it may continue, or how it is to terminate; but let it ever be remembered, that, as long as this discharge continues the disease may be communicated by infection.

But, thus far, I have only spoken of a Gonorrhœa in its simple form, and have mentioned those symptoms only which are essential to it, and which are never absent from it; there are however other symptoms which are only sometimes present,—which may, or may not present themselves, but which, when they do occur (and some of them generally do) form the severest part of the complaint and call for immediate and peculiar remedies. In fact, it is from the want of knowing something of the nature of these symptoms which gives to Gonorrhœa its most distressing character and leads to the worst of consequences. These circumstances which may, or may not occur in Gonorrhœa, are called occasional

symptoms, and are the following:—*a swelling of the foreskin—swelling of the glands in the groin—very frequent and painful erections of the penis—and swelling of the testicles.* The nature of these circumstances therefore are now to be explained, but the particular mode of treatment them will be given when we come to speak of the cure of Gonorrhœa itself. First, then,

*Swelling of the foreskin.*—This is the effect of inflammation which a full and irritable state, or irregularity of habits, give rise to. The structure of the skin which covers the head of the penis, (the *prepuce*,) is very loose and cellular, so that when the inflammation happens to be high, this structure fills with the thin and colorless part of the blood.

Sometimes the skin is swollen amazingly, and looks of a bluish white, being half transparent, and is very apt to create alarm. Indeed, there is sometimes reason for alarm, for when this swelling is considerable the skin cannot be pushed back over the penis, or, if pushed back, it cannot be brought forward again, so as to cover it. Now, there is not so much danger in this swelling itself, as in the consequences of it; for, if the skin cannot be pushed back, the matter under it becomes acrid and irritating, and you cannot avail yourself of cleanliness, which is always of importance. And, on the other hand, if you cannot bring the prepuce forward, it produces danger by acting as though a string were

tied around the head of the penis, preventing the return of the blood, so that it swells prodigiously,—looks blackish,—and sometimes even mortifies and comes away. This, however, can always be prevented by proper management, which will be shown, as I have already said, in the chapter on the treatment and cure of Gonorrhœa.

*Swelling of the glands in the groin.*—This also is the result of inflammation, spreading to glandular bodies situated in the groin. In every part of the body there are certain little vessels called *absorbents*, and these, in their course, run through *absorbent glands*, of which there are several in each groin. Now it happens, that inflammation in the urinary passage is communicated through the medium of these vessels to the glands in the groin, which are therefore painful and enlarged. It is however worthy of remark, that, in Gonorrhœa, these glandular swellings seldom go on to form a bubo, (which is an abscess in the groin) as they are apt to do in Venereal disease, so that they are comparatively innocent; after a little time they generally subside and disappear. We now come to the third of these occasional symptoms, which is,—

*Frequent and very painful erections of the penis.* This is a distressing and tedious symptom, the nature of which I will endeavor to explain. In fact, it is nothing more than inflammation extend-

ing from the urinary passage into the substance and body of the penis, and it seldom occurs except the inflammation run high. The structure of the penis is remarkable; it is made up of large cells, into which the blood is determined under certain circumstances of excitement, and when these are filled, the penis is erect. Now, the effect of inflammation in these cells is to glue them together, so that when the blood is rushing into them, as it occasionally does, we know, it tears them apart, and gives excessive pain. Sometimes these cells, thus glued together, will not yield, the figure of the penis is then a little crooked, as we often see. The pain accompanying this is terrible. This is what the French call *Cordee*—the cure or preventing of which we shall presently come to. The fourth and last of the occasional symptoms of a Gonorrhœa is,—

*Swelling of the Testicles.*—This I consider a very important thing, for here, the pain is so great, and the necessity of rest and lying in bed so urgent, that it is difficult to cure such cases with that secrecy which is often so desirable. Much, however, may be done to prevent it, if early attended to, and, therefore, the symptoms which precede and lead to it, are to be noticed carefully. These are, principally, first, a sense of pain running down the whole length of the urinary passage, accompanied with a feeling as if a drop or two of urine was remaining in the passage after you have finished making water,

To this there succeeds a dull pain in the groin, which goes on to effect the testicle. When these occur, no time should be lost. The first thing to be done is to suspend the testicle. This, if you have not a proper suspensory bandage, you can easily do by making a little bag of muslin, which you can pin to a bandage round the waist. At the same time take an active purge or two, and remain as quiet as possible; but more will be said upon its treatment in its proper place.

This, then is all that need be stated on the nature, symptoms, and progress of Gonorrhœa. With regard to its consequences, these I have only occasion here to enumerate, for each of these is of so much individual importance as to demand a separate chapter. The consequences then which a badly treated Gonorrhœa lead to, are—GLEET and STRICTURE; which latter again gives occasion to a train of symptoms the most lamentable that can be conceived, of which *impotence* is one.

But, before this subject is dispatched I must remark, some persons have put the question to me,—*does this disorder (Gonorrhœa) ever cure itself,—does it ever wear itself out?* To which I reply, it does. It may do so; but, it is a most terrible risk to run; for not only will it first wear out the patience of the patient, but will leave open the widest door for the consequences I have just enumerated. The

general consequence of a Gonorrhœa, if not early and properly treated, is a GLEET, and a Gleet implies a certain morbid state of the passage of the urine, which, if long continued, is almost sure to terminate in STRICTURE,—a disease, then which I know of nothing more baffling and truly lamentable.

As I intend to give at the conclusion of each chapter of this little book, a summary of its contents, to begin the sum total of the foregoing may be expressed in the following few words.

Gonorrhœa is an infectious disease, attended with pain and heat in making water and a discharge from the urinary passage. In its progress it gives rise to various symptoms, as,—excessive pain in making water,—swelling of the foreskin,—swelling of the groin,—painful erections of the penis,—and swelling of the testicle. Its consequences are,—Gleet and Stricture,—the latter of which frequently terminating in impotency.

## CHAPTER II.

*On certain diseases which resemble Gonorrhœa in some respects, and are frequently mistaken for it; but which, nevertheless, are totally distinct and different diseases.*

NOTHING can be more valuable, to those concerned, than to know how to distinguish between real Venereal disease and diseases which are not venereal, but which resemble it. Those into whose hands this little book may fall will be enabled to do this effectually, and will thus escape the advertizing schemes of a set of people the most unprincipled and detestable that were ever suffered to deceive the public. These people, either from ignorance or knavery, call every thing venereal they may happen to see upon the sexual organs. Now, the structure of these parts, in many respects, is the same as that of other parts of the body, and they are subject to the same diseases. It is a fact, and one which I will presently show most clearly, that many of the disorders these people call venereal, have nothing at all to do with that disease whatever. Nothing is so easy as to deceive an inexperienced person into such a belief. Knowing he has been once exposed, although it might be far too long ago to be the cause of his complaint, yet, if he happen to have any strange appearance on these organs, he directly thinks it must

be this disease. Indeed I am frequently troubled to convince them it is not so, but, let them go to any of the people I allude to, and they are sure to be confirmed in this belief.

There is however another and a far more serious view to take of this deception,—it is, its effect upon the mind.—The money they extort on such a plea is nothing; nor is the fine and healthy constitution which they ruin half so great an evil as the anxiety and load they fix upon the mind—it breaks the spirits. In a single man, a false impression of such a kind may be of little consequence; and there are married couples, of a moral stamina so firm and unassailable, that, mutually confiding in their own integrity, no insinuations of this kind could possibly tell upon their happiness; but, on the other hand, there are others of a less confiding disposition,—those in whom symptoms so new and unaccountable, especially if explained by insinuations so false and cruel, would leave a deep impression, if not, indeed, destroy the very basis of connubial confidence. And this is no imaginary case, nor yet a very rare one. Enjoying, as I do, much of the confidence of this city, and being known to have given much attention to this class and order of diseases, cases of this nature frequently occur to me, and, sometimes, too, of great importance. This indeed will readily be imagined when the remarks I am now about to make upon the subject shall have been perused.

*The diseases which in some respects resemble Gonorrhœa and are frequently mistaken for it, but which, nevertheless, are totally distinct and different diseases, are chiefly four. These I will now proceed to notice, and will also show their proper treatment, which is always very simple and successful.*

*The first of these complaints occurs in men, and consists of,—*

*The natural secretion of the part, accumulated beneath the fore-skin.—When this occurs it becomes irritating and excoriates the inner surface of the fore-skin, as well as the head of the penis, giving rise to some uneasiness and swelling. At this time, if the fore-skin is pushed back, the parts beneath it look quite serious,—the discharge accompanying is offensive and considerable,—the parts swollen,—and the excoriated surface presents a red and quite an angry appearance. Now, in this state, it is an easy matter to impose upon the mind the false idea of a Clap or Gonorrhœa. Indeed, as I have said before, it is sometimes difficult to persuade a person it is otherwise. Yet, all this is a very innocent affair. To be convinced that this is not a Gonorrhœa, just look to page 4,—observe the description of that disease, and compare the two. There you will find that the discharge in Gonorrhœa issues from the *orifice* of the urinary passage, from which you may always squeeze*

a little matter; but in this the discharge is supplied from the surface of the fore-skin and head of the penis. This is quite enough to show it is not a Gonorrhœa.

And, that it is not Venereal, you may likewise be as certain from the fact, that this—the Venereal—begins with one, or at most with two, distinct little ulcers, which are inclined to become deep instead of broad, and which discharge but very little matter; whereas, in this, the discharge is copious, and there is no ulcer at all—it is rather an excoriation of the skin than an ulceration. Now it is a grievous thing for a man to be told he has got a Gonorrhœa, and be treated as such, under circumstances like these.

The truth is, this case is nothing more than a little alteration in the secretion of certain glands situated under the fore-skin, occurring frequently in those who neglect to wash these parts, particularly in hot weather; and its cure is easily accomplished, simply by washing often in the day with Gonlard's Lotion, (sugar of lead wash) or brandy and water, or even plain cold water—taking, at the same time, a dose or two of cooling physic.

*The next* of these diseases is of more importance;—it is one which occurs in females, and often gives occasion to many painful and unfounded fears,

for it approaches, in appearance, much nearer to Gonorrhœa. It consists of,—

*Symptoms resembling Gonorrhœa, communicated by Females in whom no appearance of disease can be detected, or who have only those complaints which are considered innocent and common.*—This is a disorder on which I am very anxious to be plain and thoroughly understood. It occurs often in those who have a discharge resembling what is called the “Whites,” or “Weakness.” Now the Whites is a disorder to which many females, both married and single, are subject. The discharge of it varies in quantity and appearance; it may be much or little; clear, or opaque and milky; thin and watery, or thick and adhesive. In one or other of these forms, however, varying from circumstances, the Whites may continue for many years, proving to be nothing more than a secretion of what is natural to these parts, but increased in quantity or altered as above described. The circumstances which originally cause, and which vary this disease, are many,—such as weakness of these organs,—too great fulness of their vessels,—having children fast,—or too great excitement of the parts and others. But, although this disease, the Whites, may, and most frequently does, remain for any length of time without producing any corresponding malady in the other sex, yet, on the other hand, it may, and sometimes does, become infectious,—communicating the like disease to another person.

Now, the object of this chapter is to show that it does so, as it were, spontaneously,—that is to say, without intercourse with other, or infectious persons.

The opinion that disorder, giving rise to symptoms resembling Gonorrhœa, may arise spontaneously in women, may be inferred from the circumstance, that such symptoms, now and then, occur in men of the most unblemished character and truth, and who could have received it only from their wives,—persons, also, whose age, habits, and religion, place them beyond suspicion.

With respect to the former of these instances, I should think but few can have seen much practice in surgery or medicine, without having met with cases that would puzzle him to account for on any other principle. I will, however, state the outline of some as they have occurred to me.—A gentleman applied to me, for instance, and said—Sir, I have some strange symptoms of disease about me; and such, indeed, that if it were not for my confidence in another party, I really should suspect to be the symptoms of a Gonorrhœa, for I once contracted that disease and know something of its nature. Well, I said, what are the reasons which lead you to determine it is not a Gonorrhœa? He replied, the party I refer to is a lady whose word I could not question; besides, I have known her long, and am quite certain that no consideration in the word would allow her to expose

me to the possibility of such a malady. And further still, having mentioned these circumstances to her, she denied it firmly, and is desirous even that some one should see her—so perfectly unconscious is she of having any such disease. Now, my interviews on these occasions have often lead to two remarks—the first, that the female had no single symptom of this disease whatever;—and the next, that she was in the habit of being visited by another, and that he likewise was perfectly free from every symptom. These are important facts to keep in mind by those who have to form opinions of the real nature of these cases.

But in my Note Book I have a still more curious case, and which I think is worth relating more particularly. It is this. A gentleman who had formerly been my patient, consulted me on what we took to be a Gonorrhœa, and at the same time requested me to see the lady, whom he had known some time, and who assured him she was perfectly free from any such disease. I did so, and found it exactly as she had stated,—she had no one symptom,—not even of a Gleet. However, we treated his disease as Gonorrhœa—and though the cure was tedious, he at length got well. But, some time after, he renewed his visits to this lady, and was again attacked with a similar disease—symptoms which differed in no other respect from Gonorrhœa, than in their mildness. After this, however, he kept away for a con-

siderable length of time, and, although in this interval he had interviews with other females without disease, yet, in renewing once more his visits to this lady, he was again, for the third time, attacked with all the symptoms of a Gonorrhœa.

I know it may be urged in all these cases, that they occurred in females of a certain character, and therefore they might have been old cases of Gonorrhœa, degenerated into infectious Gleet,—a disease which continues almost indefinitely,—is not attended with pain,—and in which there is frequently but very little discharge—not more, indeed, than many women (and females of this description in particular) are subject to. But to this I cannot consent, for two reasons ;—first, because these cases sometimes occur in women who afford no reason for believing ever had a Gonorrhœa ; and next, because, if they had been cases of protracted Gonorrhœa—or Gleet—they would be infectious to every one alike, or very generally so. Now and then, we know, a person may have an interview with a female who has a Gonorrhœa, or infectious Gleet, and may escape ; but this is an exception to a very general rule—it does not often happen. Likewise, that one individual is more susceptible of infection than another ;—but this also is very limited,—the rule being, and pretty uniform it is, that, in such cases, the disease communicates to all. Here, then, while a common Gonorrhœa will effect all that come within its reach, or pretty gene-

rally so, this mild disorder, while it will effect some, will as uniformly suffer others to escape. It therefore affords a striking difference in its consequences, and from this we may infer there is also a difference in its nature.

My design in this section of my little book is to exculpate innocent and virtuous women from undeserved and injurious suspicions. And this I apprehend to be an object of immense importance;—for, within the limits of my own experience I have met with lamentable instances of unjust suspicion; instances too in which I am morally certain there was not a particle of truth, and which suspicion never would have gained possession of the mind if the subject had been better understood.

With this view of its importance, I therefore deem it proper to place this fact upon the best authority in medicine which can be adduced. Now, I have already shown that symptoms resembling Gonorrhœa have been communicated by females in whom no symptom of the disease existed, or was ever known to exist; but these females were not to be considered exemplary specimens of moral character, and, farther, I have stated them upon my own experience; I will now, however show, that the same thing happens in females of the highest moral character, and will show it also on the very best of medical authority. Here I might refer to the great

John Hunter, Abernethy and a multitude of others ; but, in that highly esteemed and learned work—GOOD'S STUDY OF MEDICINE,—there is a paragraph so clear upon this subject, that I cannot do better than transcribe it. In the fifth volume, page the 81st, after speaking of other diseases attended with a mucous or purulent discharge, which are now and then contagious, or infectious,—such as Dysentery, purulent ophthalmia, and others,—he says,—“In like manner, Leucorrhœa (which is the medical term for ‘the whites’ in females) as we have already observed, has sometimes seemed to be contagious; for I have occasionally found a kind of blennorrhœa (Gonorrhœa or Clap) produced in men, accompanied with slight pain in the urethra, and some difficulty in making water, upon cohabitation with women, who, upon inspection, had no marks whatever of luetic blennorrhœa, or clap; and, in some instances, indeed, were wives and matrons of unimpeachable character.” This, at any rate, will satisfy the mind that such a thing is possible.

With respect to the question,—how can a harmless secretion be changed into an infectious one, this I cannot answer any more than I can tell why the discharge from Dysentery, or ophthalmia, or common catarrh, which are generally harmless disorders should sometimes become contagious. The structure of the membrane which is the seat of the disease in all these maladies, is exactly the same as

that which is the seat of the disorder in Gonorrhœa. It may be, and often is, no doubt, from neglect of necessary washing; and to this the habit of irregular intercourse may give a greater tendency, for it is not to be denied that such instances are much more frequently observed in women of bad habits and in constancy than in virtuous persons; but this by no means proves that these are cases of genuine Gonorrhœa, nor that they do not now and then occur in persons of a strictly virtuous character.

With regard to the treatment of this complaint, it is exactly that of Gonorrhœa, for which, see chap. 4 — on the treatment and cure of Gonorrhœa. (Note 1.)

It therefore appears, that symptoms very much resembling Gonorrhœa, and which are infectious too, may be received by cohabiting with females who do not present the least appearance of that disease;— that, although these are more frequently observed in females of lax morality and habits than others, they are also known to occur, occasionally, in women of exemplary character—even in wives and matrons

Note 1.—On this subject it may be remarked that the treatment of Gonorrhœa is very much the same as that of other diseases affecting similar membranes,—as in contagious Dysentery, Ophthalmia, &c. There is no specific remedy in any of them,—such as Mercury, for instance, in Venereal. Two

general principles chiefly regulate the treatment of them all;—the first directs what ever abates inflammatory symptoms, if any such exist; the second, such remedies as supercede specific actions by setting up an action of their own—precisely as “The Black Pill” does in the cure of Gonorrhœa.

whose habits, age, and religion, place them beyond uncharitable suspicion ;—and that, these complaints are cured by the treatment proper in the milder forms of Gonorrhœa.—A third disorder which resembles Gonorrhœa, is,—

*Stricture in the urinary passage.*—This, upon excitement, will sometimes produce discharge exceedingly resembling Gonorrhœa, but without the usual degree of pain and inflammation attending that complaint. What a stricture is, I have taken pains to explain in the 6th chapter. Here it is needful only just to say, it is a contraction, or a diseased condition, of some part or other of the urinary passage, generally the consequence of a badly treated Gonorrhœa, but which often continues for a time so free from pain or any inconvenience, that it is not suspected to exist, and is only brought to light by the occurrence of some sufficiently exciting cause. Now, the act of sexual intercourse is a sufficiently exciting cause, and hence the disorder now referred to is frequently observed to follow quickly after it. I have often been consulted by persons who have remarked they are quite unfortunate, for they scarcely ever are exposed without contracting this disease ; and, what to them is most remarkable, is, that others who have visited the same female have escaped.—The fact is, that this is not a case of Gonorrhœa at all, but of Stricture ; and their friends have not these symptoms, because they have no stricture. Of

course, if such a person go to an advertising Knave, he will tell him immediately he has got a Gonorrhœa; and what is still worse, the medicines he may give him will be very likely to remove the symptoms, so that he will get the credit of curing a Gonorrhœa. But, in truth, he will no more have cured a Gonorrhœa than he will have cured a Cancer; for, with purgatives and a low diet this discharge generally ceases in a little while. It would therefore seem exceedingly desirable to have some plain and positive rule to judge by in cases like the present, and, fortunately I have one to furnish. This rule is founded on the *time when* such symptoms first appear after connexion. The discharge I am now speaking of, that is, when it is from stricture, first appears within twelve or four and twenty hours after such excitement,—a period shorter than is required in the quickest case of Gonorrhœa. Now, Gonorrhœa may be compared exactly to inoculation. There is always a process and a certain time required, in order to produce the inoculated malady. It is true that some inoculations produce their proper symptoms sooner and more regular than others; but, the usual time peculiar to each is generally known, and, unless delayed or interrupted by some peculiar state of constitution, is pretty regular. The usual period for the production of the symptoms of a Gonorrhœa is the third day after exposure to it. This however, is sometimes delayed for several days by the causes I have mentioned; and, sometimes too, it is a little quick-

ened, but, as to its appearing in twelve, or four-and-twenty hours, that it never does, and never can do. This then I consider a valuable fact,—it forms the basis of an excellent rule in practice,—the use of which may be seen by the following.—To a person for instance, consulting me on Gonorrhœa, I generally put this question first;—How long is it since you were exposed? Now, if he should say, why, it is very recent,—it was only last night, and I observed some symptoms of it in the morning; or, at any rate, if he should state that it is within twelve, or twenty-four-hours after an exposure, I suspect at once it cannot be a Gonorrhœa. I then enquire if he ever had a Gonorrhœa before, and if he state he has, my suspicions are confirmed, and I explain my reasons for them. This of course leads to an examination by the bougie, and then the truth is ascertained beyond the possibility of doubt, and he obtains a permanent and perfect cure. But the value of this true and faithful explanation is greater than at first it may appear to be; for it does not only undeceive and save an individual from paying different persons for pretended cures of Gonorrhœa, but it also saves him from the consequences of *occult or hidden Stricture*,—an evil which I deem by far more serious and distressing than any to be found in the whole range of Syphilitic malady. The object of this little section therefore, is to show, that, among other causes capable of giving rise to symptoms resembling Gonorrhœa, a hidden dormant Stricture

is one,—that this is to be suspected whenever such symptoms appear within twelve or four-and-twenty hours,—but that this is only to be known for fact, by passing the bougie. Its treatment consists in a little cooling physic, rest, and low diet ; if this is not sufficient, the usual treatment for Gonorrhœa will stop the discharge, but the only proper and permanent cure is the cure of the Stricture.—The fourth and last of these disorders resembling Gonorrhœa, is,—

*A discharge occurring in female children,*—and which frequently creates distressing apprehensions in the mind of parents. It consists in a discharge of matter from the genital organs, attended with some slight degree of inflammation and uneasiness. But this complaint in children does not originate in the parts themselves, but in some distant part, such as the gums in teething ; or in the bowels from foul and irritating accumulations there. This latter is no uncommon cause of the complaint. We know that irritation in the bowels in children is readily transmitted to distant parts, and is the cause of various maladies. If this irritation happen to fall upon the head, it produces dropsy of the brain ; or if on other parts, then other diseases take place, as sore eyes, or running sores from behind the ears, a swelling of the neck and others ; so, if it happen to fall upon the mucous membrane of the female organs, it then produces the disease we speak of. It is not,

however, that this disease in itself is of so much consequence, as it is the fear and misconceptions it may lead to. Filled with apprehensions, for instance, a mother takes her little child to some physician, and if he happen to be unacquainted with its real nature, these apprehensions are confirmed. Then suspicion falls on some one of having taken improper liberties with her, and she is threatened to confess. Perhaps, from fear of punishment, she may say that some one has. This would be very unfortunate, for such is the violence of prejudice on these occasions, that it would be totally unavailing to affirm the contrary. I have read, somewhere, of persons innocently hanged from a misconception of the nature of this malady. With regard to the treatment of it, this of course is founded on the view here given of its nature; remove the cause,—that is, scarify the gums if they are inflamed, and cleanse the bowels with an active purge or two. Nothing more is wanted except plentiful and frequent washing with cold water, perhaps sometimes with the addition of a little alum or sugar of lead.

The following then, is the substance of all that has been said upon this subject. That, there are four complaints which in some respects resemble Gonorrhœa and are frequently mistaken for it. 1st,—The natural secretion of the parts, which, collect beneath the foreskin and becoming acrid, inflame and excoriate the penis, producing a discharge;—

this however, does not come from the urinary passage, but from the surface of the skin, and may easily be detected by comparing it with what is said on Gonorrhœa. 2d,—A discharge more nearly still resembling Gonorrhœa, (and is infectious too,) is received by cohabiting with women in whom no symptoms of this disease can be detected, and this, not only in women in whom exceptions might be taken to their habits and morality, but also in those of unexampled moral character,—being wives and matrons, whose habits, age, and religion, place them at once beyond suspicion. 3d,—A discharge arising from a dormant stricture which, upon excitement, now and then becomes the cause of similar symptoms,—is known chiefly by its quick appearance after sexual excitement;—the proper and permanent cure of this, is the cure of the Stricture. 4th,—A discharge occurring in female children,—the result of distant irritation, chiefly of the gums in teething, and foul accumulations in the bowels.

## CHAPTER III.

*On the remedies in general use for the cure of Gonorrhœa,—how far these are to be depended on,—to what particular cases they are suited,—and how to use them to the best advantage.*

THE remedies for the cure of Gonorrhœa are very few in number and are pretty generally known. Notwithstanding this however, their real nature is but little understood, so that they are often misapplied. They are, internal and external. Of the first, the Balsam of Copaiva—the Cubebs—and the Turpentine, are the chief; the external or local consist of Lotions, used as injections. These internal remedies are vegetable productions, whose properties very much resemble one another. All of them impart their virtues to the urine, which, being retained in the bladder, impress upon it their peculiar effect, and this again is transmitted to the part which is the seat of the disease—the urinary passage. On the other hand, Injections consist of certain suitable stimulants, which are applied by means of a little syringe, more immediately to the seat of this disease. Both kinds are exceedingly valuable in their proper places, but they are also, both of them, either useless or dangerous if improperly used or misapplied. The object of this chapter, therefore, is to explain their use and nature more particularly.

It should be also stated, there are other remedies which are occasionally wanted in the cure of this complaint, but not always; these are, chiefly, the common remedies required to lessen pain and inflammation. Various things are used with such a view, but of such there are some which are far more suitable than others; a list of these therefore I will afterwards subjoin,—pointing out their proper use and dose, as well as make such other observations on them as may seem required. I will begin with—

*The Balsam of Copaiva.*—This, every body knows, is very often given for the cure of Gonorrhœa; indeed, this is so well known, that whoever discovers to another he has taken it, by the peculiar smell it gives the breath, is generally set down for one who is contaminated with Venereal malady. This however is not the only objection to Balsam of Copaiva;—another is, its extreme offensiveness to the taste;—and a third, its offensiveness to the stomach, so that it is rejected by vomiting, or, if not rejected, it takes away the appetite and induces a degree of Nausea which can scarcely be endured. Indeed, it is a medicine, to some, so perfectly obnoxious that they cannot even think of the time of taking it without this Nausea or Vomiting. With respect to the two first of these objections however, (its offensive smell and taste) the latter of these may be avoided by taking it in Capsules—and the former partly so. These

Capsules are made of little glutinous bags, which, being closed, contain a little of the Balsam. These little bags, when swallowed, are soon digested in the stomach, and thus the Balsam may be taken and its disgusting taste avoided. The peculiar smell imparted to the breath however is not got rid of by this means; for, especially when it disagrees, the stomach is continually expelling wind, and this affects the breath offensively and is equally betraying. But the most important of the objections to the Balsam of Copaiva (that of disagreeing with the Stomach and digestive organs) is not avoided by this ingenious way of giving it; for, when the Balsam disagrees, it does so whether it is tasted in the mouth or not. These things therefore, taken altogether, are great objections to the Balsam. But there are others still to be acquainted with. The first is, the fact, that there are many persons in whom the Balsam of Copaiva has no effect at all in curing this disease; and there are others where it will stop the discharge, so long as it is taken, but the moment it is laid aside, the running and disease returns. Now it is of no use for either of these to take the Balsam, or to continue it alone, at any rate. If such were to take a ship load of this medicine, it would never cure them. When the Balsam does good at all, it does so very soon, by lessening the discharge. A good rule in taking the Balsam of Copaiva is, to watch its effect, and if it does not, within two days, or three at farthest, very sensibly lessen the dis-

charge, lay it aside, or add some other remedy to the treatment.

There is also a *time when* the Balsam of Copaiva should not be given; this is when the inflammatory symptoms of a Gonorrhœa run high. We always look for more or less of these at the onset of this malady; sometimes indeed they do not happen, but they should always be prepared for. It is with this view we always give an active purge or two, direct low diet, and rest, if it can be had, at the beginning of a Gonorrhœa. This sometimes prevents them altogether, and if not, it abates them. After an active purging medicine, therefore, if there is no great pain and heat in making water, you may begin with the Balsam; but, if there is, it should be delayed, however many days it may require to moderate these symptoms.

Likewise, should you have commenced with the Balsam, and inflammatory symptoms at any time start up, lay it aside, and first abate them before you begin with it again.—I know that some begin with Balsam of Copaiva under any circumstances, and many times with strict impunity; but I also know that when it has been given without attention to these circumstances, it has been followed by distressing and even dangerous events—as inflammation of the bladder, testicles, &c.

But notwithstanding the truth of these remarks, the Balsam of Copaiva, where it agrees, and it is convenient to take it, is a remedy of considerable power in the cure of Gonorrhœa. Sometimes it is trusted to alone, but then it must be taken for a length of time—for many weeks together. Let it be remembered, however, that, where it does do good, it does so quickly; perhaps in two days the discharge is lessened one half, and it then goes on more gradually to diminish. But let it also be remembered, that in those cases where it is equal to the cure alone, that cure would be effected in half, and less than half the time if given in connexion with local remedies—Injections.

If the Balsam of Copaiva is fixed on as a remedy for Gonorrhœa, it should be given in the dose of about a tea-spoon full, in a little water or sugar, twice or thrice a day. With some it sets better on the stomach when made up in the form of mixture, the best prescription for which is given below—Note 2. If it happen to purge, omit it for a day

Note 2.—Sir Astley Cooper's favorite form for the Balsam of Copaiva was,—one ounce of the Balsam with one ounce of Mucilage of Gum Arabic, mixed in a bottle with four ounces of Camphor Julep, of which a table-spoon full is to be taken twice or thrice a day. To some an ounce of any simple syrup, or

Syrup of Ginger is an agreeable addition.

It is very common to give the Balsam with an equal part of Sweet Spirit of Nitre. This however is not a good mixture—the Spirit of Nitre does no good and makes the Balsam very offensive to some.

and take a dose of Rhubarb. If this will not do, give with each dose of it four or five drops of Laudanum.—It should be continued for some time after the discharge has ceased, and then left off only by degrees. This is all that need be said about the Balsam of Copaiva,—the next of these remedies is—

*The Powdered Cubebs.*—This is a species of mild aromatic pepper which is imported in large quantities from Java, and, as I understand, principally for the cure of Gonorrhœa. It is an admirable remedy if properly availed of, and is free from the offensive smell of the Balsam of Copaiva; it is also a pleasant wholesome aromatic, and generally agrees with the stomach. Neither is there the same objection to giving it in the very onset of the disease (provided high inflammatory symptoms have not set in,) as there is to the Balsam; indeed, such is its peculiar effect, that, if given freely and early, it sometimes supercedes these inflammatory symptoms altogether, and leads to a very speedy cure. If, however, inflammatory symptoms have already suddenly come on before you have had an opportunity of trying the Cubebs, it is then more safe and proper to reduce these symptoms by rest, purging, and diet, before you venture on this remedy. So also, if you had begun early with the Cubebs and such inflammatory symptoms should happen to arise, let it be discontinued for a while, or until these symptoms

have been abated by the means above referred to, and then resume the Cubebs.

The best way of taking Cubebs is in the dose of a piled up table-spoon full, mixed in a tumbler of water, and repeated twice or thrice a day. It is of no use to take them in the dose of a tea-spoon full at the time, as many do.—There is something also in the manner of mixing them. The best way is to fill a tumbler half full of water, then put a table-spoon full of the Cubebs upon the water, and in a minute or so you will find they will have sunk from the surface to the bottom, and thus are equally diffused. If you adopt any other way of mixing them, they get in lumps, which is very disagreeable.

Should the Cubebs irritate the bowels as a purgative would do, this may be checked by adding five drops of Laudanum to each dose; but if they only prove a little laxative, to this there is no objection. The virtue of the Cubebs should be separated by the kidneys and carried into the bladder, and of this you may always be assured when a peculiar smell is imparted to the urine,—a kind of violet smell,—not unlike that which the urine has on taking turpentine, or being exposed to a newly painted room.

But, although I have said so much in favor of the Cubebs, let it not be thought that they are to be de-

pended on in every case. On the contrary, there are many individuals in whom they seem to have no good effect at all; and others in whom they will stop the discharge so long as they are continued, but the moment the remedy is laid aside, the disease returns. And what was said of the Balsam of Copaiva is also applicable to the Cubebs;—viz. when they do any good at all, they do it quickly; so that if you do not see the most decided advantage from their use in two or three days, but little or none is to be expected from them. The fact is, that many cases of Gonorrhœa defy the virtues of internal medicines alone, and absolutely need the aid of local remedies. The inconvenience of its bulk is also another objection to the use of Cubebs.—This brings me to the subject of my favorite remedy,—

*The Black Pill.*—The virtues of the Balsam of Copaiva and the Cubebs have now been fairly stated, and the objections to them shown. These objections are, first, to the Balsam, its smell, being peculiar strong and disagreeable—betraying the disease for which it is taken; also, its effect upon the stomach and the bowels, which is obnoxious and intolerable to many; next, to the Cubebs, its bulky form—rendering it exceedingly inconvenient. To these again must be added, the uncertainty of their curative effect, for the influence of either of them alone is in many cases so small as to fail entirely in the cure of the disease. It therefore seemed desirable, if it

could possibly be done, to extract the virtues of them both from their disagreeable and offensive parts and unite them in one compound. And more especially so, as it had been found, that, in those cases in which one of these medicines was not equal to the cure of this disease alone, yet, that when combined they frequently succeeded well. Modern Chemistry had also shown that the active properties of a vegetable medicine frequently resided in a very small portion of its bulk. The article Quinine, for instance, (taken from Peruvian Bark) is an example of this fact, for of this a quantity not larger than a pea is even more effectual in the cure of Ague, or any of those complaints for which the Bark is given, than a whole table-spoon full of the Bark itself. In this, after divers and repeated trials, I succeeded to my utmost wishes. At first I made this Extract in the form of Conserve, but, as some of my patients could not take a Conserve, and as, in very hot weather, it became too dry, I made it afterwards in Pills—which I call “THE BLACK PILL.” This medicine I have now used for three years, very extensively, and do not hesitate to say that it is by far the best *internal* medicine that can be taken for the cure of Gonorrhœa. It contains the virtues of the Balsam, without its disgusting smell and taste; and of the Cubebs, without its inconvenient bulk; while, uniting the properties of both in one, it cures those cases which one of them alone so often proves unequal to.

Let it however be remembered, I do not recommend that the cure of Gonorrhœa should be trusted to internal remedies alone; certainly, the use of Injections should co-operate,—the cure is then accomplished in less than half the time, and far more safe and certain. But there are persons who are prejudiced against injections, and it is of great importance that such should have the best *internal* remedy. To such therefore the composition of “The Black Pill” is doubly valuable.

I will only add upon this subject, that the same precautions that were enjoined on the Balsam and the Cubebs are requisite in the use of the Black Pill;—do not begin with them until high inflammatory symptoms, if any such exist, are abated by purgatives and low diet. The dose is five, or six, or more, three times a day. They set agreeably on the stomach, and rather increase the appetite and strength than weaken either.

*Injections.*—The use of these form an invaluable part of the treatment of Gonorrhœa,—it is applying the remedy to the disease itself—the advantage of which can scarcely be doubted. Yet there are some who are opposed to injections, simply, as it would seem, because they may be abused. But carry on this reasoning to other diseases—say Ophthalmia, for instance. Internal remedies then, are very good in Ophthalmia, and sometimes will cure it, but who would

withhold the use of Lotions and other applications to the eye itself, simply because they may be misused or abused. Is there a single medicine which may not be abused? Quite the contrary, and the most valuable too are the most capable of such abuse. Oh, it is said, but they may cause a Stricture; and so may Lotions and Ointments put out the eye; but, if properly used, they will save the eye, and cure its malady, and this in less than half the time it could be cured without them. Indeed there are many cases of the eye that cannot be cured at all without them, and so of Gonorrhœa. As to the idea of injections causing Stricture, nothing can be more ridiculous; for, on the contrary, they prevent them. The ultimate result of a Gonorrhœa, *long continued*, is Stricture. Gonorrhœa implies Chronic inflammation,—this is its essential nature,—the ultimate tendency of which is to destroy the elastic principle with which the urethra is naturally endowed, and in this consists incipient Stricture. Whatever shortens the duration of Gonorrhœa, therefore, lessens the chance of Stricture. Now, Injections shorten the duration of Gonorrhœa; therefore, Injections *prevent Stricture.*

If another argument were required, I might adduce the fact, that Injections are used and recommended by the greatest surgeons in the world. This however is quite unnecessary,—it is enough to state, that, although internal remedies alone will sometimes

cure a Gonorrhœa, yet they sometimes totally fail; also, that in those cases where internal remedies are sufficient to the cure alone, that cure can be accomplished far more safely and certainly, and in less than half the time, if aided by Injections. It would therefore seem superfluous to say another word upon the utility of Injections,—it only now remains to show their proper use.

Injections should not be used in the very early or inflammatory state of Gonorrhœa; and even when this is past, it is better to begin the cure with internal medicine, and continued this a day or two, before resorting to injections. After this you may use them safely and very advantageously,—few Gonorrhœa cases can long hold out against their proper use.

Injections should not be used too strong. It is no disadvantage if it give a little tingling sensation, but if it amount to heating pain, its strength should be reduced by adding a greater portion of water to it. It is not proper however, on the contrary, to increase the strength of an injection to any great degree, but rather, if it seem to do no good, to change it for another. So, if any one which has been useful, but after a time should seem to lose its power, it would be better to change it for another than to increase its strength. Injections will sometimes lose their good effect, and for this reason several prescriptions are given for them. Indeed under any circum-

stances it is better to change an Injection now and then—the part becomes accustomed to the peculiar stimulus of one alone if long continued,—the disease is sooner baffled and destroyed when one correcting stimulus is now and then exchanged for another. It is better therefore to change an injection; you may return if you please to the one you used at first, if that agreed, only change it now and then—keeping most to that which best agreed.

Injections are chiefly mineral; there is a great variety of them, but they all act pretty much on the same principle; some however are better than others, and these are carefully selected in—note 3. I call them No. 1, 2, 3, and 4. The higher numbers may be a little the strongest, but it is not the strength, it is the effect of change, I lay the greater stress upon; it is however always as well to begin with No. 1.

Injections, to secure their great utility, require

Note 3.—The best forms of injections are the following, —at least they are the best that can be procured at any apothecary's store.

*Saturnine Injection.*—Forty grains of Sugar of Lead dissolved in a half pint vial of rain water.

*Alum Injection.*—Forty

grains of common alum dissolved in a half pint vial of water.

*White Vitriol Injection.*—Sixteen grains of white vitriol dissolved in a half pint of water.

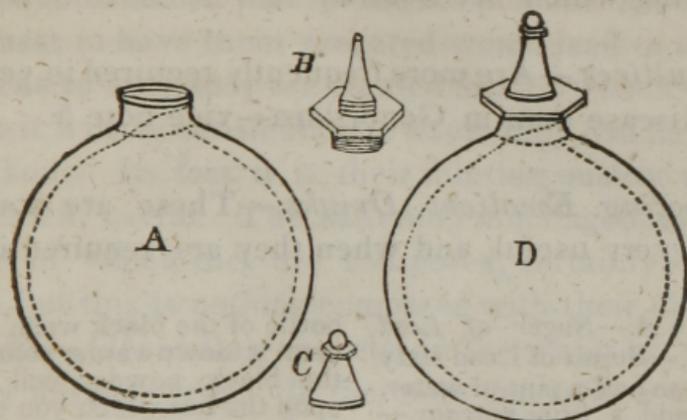
*Blue Vitriol Injection.*—Eight grains of blue vitriol in a half pint bottle of water.

attention to the manner and frequency of using them. Many times I have heard it said, "The injection does no good," when I have found upon enquiry that it had not been made to enter the urinary passage. Of course it then must fail. To use an injection properly it must pass up a certain distance. No matter how much farther, but they must go up at least two inches, and it should be kept and retained there for a minute or two, by pressing the top of the penis with the thumb and finger. The sensation an injection gives is quite enough to tell whether it has properly entered—it is as if you wanted to pass out urine; but the proof of it is, that a teaspoon full or so squirts out again when you let go your thumb and finger.—With respect to the repetition of their use, this too is an important point,—much depends on their regular and frequent repetition. An injection should be used six or eight times in the four-and-twenty hours;—oftener if you please, if they do not irritate or pain, but certainly not less than I have stated. I know, that with the common syringe, this repetition of them was often quite impossible; how could a person engaged in business and perhaps behind the counter for instance, retire often and privately enough for such a purpose. And not only was a syringe to be carried in the pocket, but a bottle of injection too, and a cup to pour it out in. It was quite impossible for one in a hundred to comply with this as frequently as was required, and hence

the use and value of injections was never properly ascertained. But these objections no longer now exist, for with my patent pocket syringe next to be described, an injection may be used just as often as is needful and with perfect convenience and privacy.

*The Patent Syringe.*—It is a little flat elastic bottle, holding two ounces, the neck of which is attached to a metallic ring. To this ring a little pipe is screwed, and over this again a little cap, so as to make it water-tight, and suited to the breeches pocket. When you want to use the injection you have nothing more to do than unscrew the cap; and when you wish to refill it, put one of the papers of ingredients (which are put up with the syringe) into the bottle by the ring, fill it with water, shake it, and the injection is made. Nothing can be more convenient and private; but the woodcut on the following page will show more clearly the use of this contrivance.

*Two of the patent syringes (in case one by any chance should break,) together with a set of the ingredients and a full quantity of the Black Pill, &c. &c., are put up in a little chest, with lock and key,—having also the book fitted in the lid. This contains every thing necessary for the cure of Gonorrhœa, and is sent by Steam-Boat, or otherwise to any part of the United States. The price is \$10. A similar little chest containing every thing necessary for the cure of Venereal Disease, is also \$10. But the complete chest, containing the medicines, &c., for both complaints,—Gonorrhœa and the Venereal—is \$15. The book alone is \$1.*

*The Patent Syringe.*

A, the bottle open.—B, the pipe.—C, the cap.—D, the syringe filled.

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The preceding remarks relate exclusively to the remedies in general use for the cure of Gonorrhœa. But it was mentioned, there were other medicines now and then required, chiefly the common remedies in use for abating pain and inflammation. To make this little book complete, however, it is necessary here to enumerate these and say a word or two upon the dose and proper use of each.

*Lotions.*—These are often very useful, sometimes

to assuage inflammation, and sometimes to assist the healing of ulcers,—for the manner of making and applying which, see note 4.

*Poultices.*—Are more frequently required in venereal disease than in Gonorrhœa—vide note 5.

*Cooling Emolient Drinks.*—These are sometimes very useful, and when they are required it is

Note 4.—*Sugar of Lead Lotion.*—Sugar of Lead sixty grains to half a pint of water. some add a little vinegar.—The best way to use it, is to apply a fold or two of linen upon and around the part, and keep it wetted with it.—The part should be covered up as little as possible.

*Spirit Lotion.*—One part of brandy and two of water, used as the above.

*Black Wash.*—Is made with calomel and lime water, and is an admirable application in many sores, particularly those of a venereal character. To make lime water,—put a lump of lime as big as an egg into a gallon of water, stir it a little, and in an hour or two strain it off the lime and keep it corked. To a pint of lime water, add a drachm of calomel, and shake it well in the bottle, when mixed it will turn black. It is the black powder that is most useful, and to obtain that, hold a piece of linen to the mouth of a small

bottle of the black wash and turn it downwards, some of the black powder will fall upon the lint which you then apply to the sore.

*Nitric acid Lotion.*—From 30 to 50 drops of Nitric acid added to a quart of water.—excellent to some venereal sores.

Note 5.—*Common Poultice*—Is best made with equal parts of crumb of bread and linseed meal boiled a few minutes in a sufficient quantity of water. It is one which will not dry and separate as bread and milk.

*Grounds of Beer Poultice.*—Made by using grounds of beer instead of water.

*Black Wash Poultice.*—Crum of bread and linseed meal, with Black wash instead of water—used to spreading chancres.

*Carrot Poultice.*—Boil the carrots well in but little water and mash them. It corrects the smell and agrees with many bad sores.

important to know what are the best and how to make them. But it sometimes happens, a person is so circumstanced that he cannot procure these—the request to have them prepared would lead to enquiries as to what they are wanted for. To such therefore it will be satisfaction to know they can be done without. In fact it is their diluting quality which is chiefly useful. The softening mucilagenous qualities of which they are composed, certainly has its use, but this is nothing compared with their diluting quality—depending entirely on the water on which they are dissolved. If therefore you take a watery drink of any kind, as common water, the end is answered—that is, if you take plentifully of it. From half a pint to a pint of water may be taken eight or ten times a day—this is at the command of every one and it is of consequence to know it. A near approach to these mucilagenous drinks however, can be easily and pleasantly made. Just take an ounce or more of gum arabic, in large lumps, in the waist-coat pocket, and consume it during the day; put a lump in the mouth every now and then as you would do sugar candy; it is a very pleasant thing and gives to the simple water drank the softening effects of the various drinks described in the following note 6.

Note 6.—*Barley Water.*— three quarts of fresh water, and boil it down to two quarts. Some add a few figs or a little liquorice root toward the end of the boiling. It may be repeated,—none of

To make this properly, take a tea-cupful of pearl barley—boil it a few minutes, then throw away this dirty water, and add to the pearl barley

*Purgatives.*—Next to bleeding, purgatives form the most active agent in reducing inflammation.—There is however, much in the selecting a proper purgative in particular diseases. The best that can be selected for the disease now in question, is the purgative Diuretic of my chest, next to be mentioned; but where this cannot be had, those mentioned in note 7. may be substituted.

these cooling, diluting fluids, can be taken to excess, in the early or inflammatory stage of Gonorrhœa; and the occasion for taking them is just in proportion as the pain and heat in making water is great: when these have subsided, their use may be laid aside.

*Flaxseed Tea.*—Take of bruised flaxseed, or linseed, (not linseed meal) two ounces, or two or three table-spoonsful, (there is no occasion to be very exact in quantity) and put this to a quart of water, which is to stand simmering by the fire for an hour or two; then strain, and, if more agreeable, sweeten it, and let at least this quantity be taken as common drink during every 24 hours.

*Alkaline Drink.*—Another excellent remedy to abate the pain and heat of making water is the carbonate of potash, or of soda. Procure an ounce of either of these, and dissolve one quarter of it in a quart of common tea, and

take this quantity during the day. Soda water is also a good remedy, a glass may be taken three or four times a day.

Note 7.—*Epsom Salts*—Is a good cooling purgative, an ounce is the usual dose, taken in water. This is the purgative that most people take on finding they have got a Gonorrhœa. It is not however the best; for much of that quantity of salts passes through the bladder—adding to the saline irritating quality of the urine, and thereby increasing the scalding pain in urinating. It is better to take one of the rougher purges below, but this will do if no other is at hand. It is not generally known that a very small quantity of Epsom salts, if taken in a larger quantity of water, will act more pleasantly, certainly, and effectually, than a larger dose in the usual quantity of water. A tea-spoonful for instance, in a tumbler of water, instead of an ounce

*The Purgative Diuretic Pill.*—This is the purgative of my chest; it is the one I give generally and find it the most easy, comfortable and efficient of any composition I ever met with. Five pills taken at bed time is the usual dose;—this operates in the morning, and those who take it seldom fail to speak of its excellent effect. It may be taken also with great advantage in almost any disorder in which a cleansing purge is necessary, particularly where the stools are of an unnatural color and are offensive.

*Opium.*—Is a valuable medicine under many circumstances. The usual dose is one grain in the

in a small tea-cupful of water. Also, by repeating this weaker solution of salts, it is a very cooling and proper medicine in a hot and feverish state. But the best of all medicines for cooling, reducing, and preparing the system for a mercurial course, as in venereal disease, is to combine Epsom salts with antimony, as in the following.

*Epsom Salts and Antimony.*—Add two ounces of Epsom salts and two grains of tartarized antimony to half a pint of hot water, and take a wine glass full of it two or three times a day, or as often as may be necessary to keep up a moderate degree of purging.

*Senna and Salts.*—Is an

excellent purgative medicine either alone or taken in the morning after a dose of Calomel the night before. Take a handful or an ounce of senna leaves, and one ounce of Epsom salts, and add them to a little more than half a pint of boiling water, and when cold, strain it and take a tea-cupful for a dose. (A little bruised ginger would warm and prevent its griping, which all purgatives will sometimes do.)

*Jalap and Calomel.*—Fifteen grains of the former and five of the latter, taken in sugar or molasses. A larger dose is sometimes given.

*Seidlitz Powders.*—Is a pleasant way of taking a mild dose of Saline medicine.

form of a pill ; but it is given in different forms.— See note 8.

*Mercurial Medicine.*—Of this there are many preparations, but for the most useful, safe, and convenient of these—See note 9.

Note 8.—*Laudanum.*—Of this the dose is from five to thirty, or fifty drops.

*Dover's Powder,*—Is given to assuage pain, it is a soothing and fever medicine—the dose is from two and a half to twenty grains.

Note 9.—*Mercurial Medicine.*—*Calomel and Opium.*—Calomel sixty grains—Powdered opium fifteen grains—made into forty pills, of which two may be taken every night, and sometimes one in the morning.

*The Blue Pill.*—Is a mild and very excellent preparation of Mercury, as well in other diseases as in venereal. The dose in the latter is ten grains at night and sometimes five in the morning.—The dose however is regulated by various circumstances, all of which are carefully referred to in chapter 11th—“On the management of mercury.”

*Blue Ointment*—Is another excellent form in which to exhibit mercury and is preferred by some, eminent sur-

geons, to any other ; but the trouble and inconvenience, as well as the soiling of the linen it gives rise to, is an objection to its general use. When this is fixed on, from half a drachm to a drachm is rubbed into the thigh every night, and sometimes night and morning. But in the manner of using mercurial ointment I must be more particular. In the first place, it should be rubbed in by the patient himself, but, if from debility or any cause he should not be able, then those who rub it in should have their hand guarded with a bladder, and the best way to fix it is the following. Get a pigs' bladder, and after being steeped in warm water turn it inside out ; then soften it well with lard or sweet oil, and put it on the hand like a glove, tying it round the waist with a piece of tape. Still it is better that a patient rub it in himself. Take therefore a quarter of the quantity to be used in the hollow of the hand and rub it briskly up and down the inside of the thigh till it has entered the

*Corrosive Sublimate.*—This is a very active preparation of Mercury, and should be used only in urgent cases. There are forms of venereal disease however, which require a very quick effect of Mercury; when it attacks the throat or nose for instance, in some constitutions, it spreads so rapidly, that, if we were to wait the slower operation of the milder mercurials, it would eat away the parts before the Mercury could be brought to act upon it; and it should be known, that, when the soft parts covering the roof of the mouth or the thin bones of the nose are once gone, they do not grow again—they are gone forever. It is therefore most desirable

skin, when the hand will not pass so smoothly; then take another quantity, and so on till it is all rubbed in. It is common for it to make the thigh a little sore, or to bring out a crop of pimples on it by rubbing; in this case change the thigh, and if the same thing happen again take the inside of the arm; any part will do where the skin is thin. It is a good thing also to wash the old ointment off now and then with soap and water—the skin will take the ointment better for it. The rubbing may be either night or morning. Throughout this course of rubbing, wear a flannel pair of drawers next the skin,—the same pair the whole of the time.

*The Specific Pill.*—But far better than the Calomel,

the Blue Pill, or the Blue ointment, is the compound called “The Specific Pill,” which is contained in the chest for venereal. It is a mild mercurial, and one which always agrees. I have used it now for many years and can depend on the mercurial action of this medicine better than any other. It is continually referred to in the pages of this little volume. But, use what form of mercury you will, it is sometimes quite necessary to have the aid of another, and then I prefer the Blue ointment in addition to my specific pills; this necessity however, does not often occur. The usual dose of the “specific pill” is two at night and one in the morning.

to have some remedy that will very quickly put a stop to its progress. When this is done, however, this active medicine should be laid aside, and the cure completed with a milder and safer preparation. It is not a remedy to be relied upon for the cure of this disorder, as it is to check and arrest it when the destruction of important parts are threatened, and this it will speedily do. An eighth, or at the utmost, a quarter of a grain may be taken three or four times a day; but for the manner of taking it more particularly, see Note 10.

*Fumigating Mercury.*—This, like the corrosive

Note 10.—*Corrosive Sublimate and Muriate of Ammonia*, (*Sal Ammoniac*).—Of each six grains—dissolve them in sixty drops of water, then add crumbs of bread enough to make into forty eight pills—One of which will contain an eighth of a grain, and may be taken two or three times a day. But if a larger quantity is to be made, the following prescription is better, as the crumb of bread would become too hard and perhaps would not dissolve in the stomach.—*Corrosive Sublimate* twenty grains—*starch* half an ounce—*Gum arabic*, two drachms—*water* enough to make into a mass for one hundred and forty-four Pills—each of which will contain one eighth of a grain of *Corrosive Sublimate*.

Some add one drachm of *Opium* to the mass—it prevents griping. The best time of taking them is after meal.

If a liquid form is preferred—then dissolve one grain of the *Corrosive Sublimate* and one grain of *Muriate of Ammonia* in four ounces of distilled water—and take the eighth part (a table spoonful) for a dose. Any pleasant syrup may be added if agreeable. The *Muriate of Ammonia* makes it dissolve quicker in water.

A very excellent Tonic and anti-venereal medicine in scrophulous and weak constitutions is one grain of the *Corrosive Sublimate* to one ounce and a half of the *Compound Tincture of Bark*, of which one twelfth, or one eighth part, taken in a glass of water twice a day.

sublimate, is chiefly valuable in cases of spreading venereal sores, particularly of the throat and roof of the mouth, and, when it has attacked these it is indeed, a valuable remedy. Its effect is much more speedily seen than that of the sublimate, but the manner of using it, hitherto, has involved so much trouble and impossibility of privacy, that, invaluable as it is, it has seldom been availed of. The preparation used for this purpose is the Red Sulphuret of Mercury, (red cinnabar.)—The directions for using which, have been the following:—take a red-hot common heater and place it on a brick;—then throw on this half a drachm of the red cinnabar, when fumes will instantly arise; these are directed to the throat or nose by breathing in the fumes through an inverted funnel held over them. In this manner fumes may be applied once or twice a day. This plan however, will instantly be seen to be quite impossible with many without betraying for what purpose it is done, and therefore the following contrivance which I call a fumigating candle, will be estimated highly.

*Fumigating Candle.*—For this contrivance I am indebted to a late work on Venereal disease by Mr. Colles, an eminent surgeon of Dublin. This plan of fumigating by the burning of a candle is rather hinted than described, but its real value struck me so immediately, that I lost no time in putting it in practice, the result of which proved most satis-

factory. The plan adopted is to combine the cinna-  
bar with wax, and make of this a candle of the com-  
mon size, an inch or two in length, divided by a line  
around it into four parts. With this there is nothing  
more to do than to light the candle and inhale the  
smoke arising from it, this contains the Mercury in  
sublimation,—a penetrating way of applying Mercu-  
ry to parts otherwise of difficult access, and which  
has a most immediate effect. It has also an excellent  
effect on the female genital organs, as well as on  
sores which frequently occur about the fundament.  
For this purpose the candle is placed in a cham-  
ber utensil, or night stool, over which the patient  
sits awhile. When the candle is burnt down to the  
line it is to be blown out. Each candle, an inch or  
two in length, contains four mercurial fumigations.  
It is a most convenient and speedy way of arrest-  
ing venereal in these parts. I have effectually stop-  
ped the progress of it in the throat in 12 hours; and  
have cured excrecence and sores about the anus in  
as many days as they had existed months before.

*Bark.*—Occasionally, in the treatment of Vene-  
real disease especially, it is necessary to support  
and re-invigorate the constitution. In cases of great  
weakness, or when a venereal sore takes on a spread-  
ing and unkindly character there is this occasion.—  
Nothing succeeds better in these instances than the  
Peruvian bark,—sometimes alone, but more general-

ly combined with remedies such as are mentioned in note 11.

*Sarsaparilla*,—Is a well known valuable medicine in the treatment of Venereal disease. Not that every case of Venereal requires sarsaparilla,—far from it; but there are states and conditions of the constitution exceedingly unfavorable to mercury, (the specific remedy) but which by its aid, are rendered capable of bearing mercury well.

There are also conditions of the constitution in which it is advantageous to give the sarsaparilla and the mercury together,—the constitution bears the mercury better, and the disease is more completely and more certainly cured thereby. It will be seen therefore, that the sarsaparilla is not given to cure the venereal,—it has not the power for this,—but it enables the constitution to bear the mercury which will, and this under such circumstances which would render it dangerous to give, or to continue that remedy without it. It is true, venereal symptoms will disappear under a course of sarsaparilla alone, but they will return. This

Note 11.—If the Bark alone is given—a teaspoon full of the powder in a glass of wine or wine and water, is a proper dose—and repeated two or three times or oftener in the day. Another way of taking the bark—especially in unkindly spreading sores

is the following:—Decoction of Bark, half a pint—Volatile Ammonia, two scruples—Compound Tincture of Bark—Six drachms, Tincture of Opium, one drachm, of which a wine glass is a dose, taken every third or fourth hour.

fact experience abundantly confirms. Innumerable cases are on record, where, under the sarsaparilla, the symptoms of venereal in the constitution have disappeared, and returned again and again, until at length a course of mercury has been entered on, when they have disappeared forever.

Remember, therefore, sarsaparilla is not given to cure venereal disease, but only to enable the constitution to bear that remedy which will ; also, that sarsaparilla is not required in many cases, but only in those of weak and irritable constitutions, or in those in whom mercury is found to disagree—rendering the patient feverish and irritable.

With respect to the manner of taking sarsaparilla, many preparations of it are in use ; some of them are very troublesome, inconvenient, and expensive ; and it does not seem to me, that these latter have any great advantages above the former. The most simple, convenient, and least expensive is the powder ;—a good large tea-spoonful of which, in milk and water, I have found, as far as I could see, to answer all the valuable purposes of this medicine ; but in note 12, I will give the other forms, leaving it to circumstance or partiality to fix on either.

Note 12.—*The Powder of Sarsaparilla*, is taken in doses of a teaspoonful mixed in a tumbler of milk & water, or in any thing more agreeable--three or four times a day.

## CHAPTER IV.

*On the Treatment and Cure of Gonorrhœa.*

IT is reasonable to suppose that those who have read the preceding remarks on the ordinary remedies for Gonorrhœa, will prefer those I recommend to any others. These are put up together in a little chest—including my pocket syringe, on which

*Simple decoction of Sarsaparilla*,—may be made in this way. Boil two ounces of the sliced or bruised root in three pints of water till it is reduced to a pint and a half (which is a wine quart bottle), after boiling an hour or two, it is recommended to take it out of the water, and bruise it again in a mortar—then finish the boiling—strain it and fill a wine quart bottle with it. This quantity should be drank daily—half a pint at the time. As a larger quantity can be made with but little extra trouble, most will see the advantage of making two or three bottles at the time. Some make the proportions of the decoction stronger, but this I take to be the medium and the best. But there is an easier way of making the simple decoction,—it is by boiling three drachms or the *Extract of Sarsaparilla* for

a few minutes in a pint and a half of water.

*The Compound Decoction of Sarsaparilla*.—This is of the same nature as the famous *Lisbon Diet Drink or Decoction of the Woods*, and is made by adding to the simple decoction a pint and a half of the following ingredients;—Guaiacum rasped, sassafras and liquorice root, of each two drachms, mezereon root, one drachm: then boil them together for about ten minutes and strain again. To be taken as the simple decoction.

*Syrup of Sarsaparilla*.—This, if you can get it good, and with a proper portion of the extract, is a pleasant way of taking it,—from half, to a full wine-glass may be taken in a tumbler of water, three times a day,—or it may be added to either of the decoctions to make them stronger.

so much convenience and utility depend. But beside being more convenient and certain, they will also be found cheaper in the end than procuring medicine from time to time at any apothecary's store.— In this chapter on the treatment and cure of Gonorrhœa, therefore, I shall refer continually to the remedies of my chest; but as this may not be in the possession of every one, I shall also refer to those other, though inferior remedies, already mentioned and described.

A Gonorrhœa, as stated in the second chapter, commences with a discharge from the urinary passage, attended more or less with pain and heat in making water. These symptoms generally appear in about two or three days from the period of exposure to it. There are also other circumstances which may or may not appear, and may be therefore called occasional symptoms; these are,—excessive pain in making water,—swelling of the foreskin,—swelling in the groin,—painful erections of the penis,—and swelling of the testicles. Now, the treatment under all these circumstances must be considered; but it will add to the plainness of the subject if these be considered separately. I will therefore first describe the treatment of the simplest case of Gonorrhœa, and when that is done, will take those other circumstances—or occasional symptoms, in rotation.

In every case of Gonorrhœa there are two distinct and separate stages ;—the inflammatory or painful, with which it begins ;—and the specific, or that consisting in a continuation of infectious discharge, but without much pain and inflammation.

It is true, that in some cases, the first, or inflammatory stage is very slight, but there is always something of it, and though there may be scarcely any, it is always right to guard against it. For this reason I recommend that in every case of Gonorrhœa an active purgative should first be given. Take five or six of the purgative diuretics of the chest, or any other in note 7 you please. If the pills are taken at bed time, they will probably operate briskly in the morning, if not, repeat the dose. But if, notwithstanding their purgative effect, low diet, a free use of some cooling drink, (note 6,) and as much rest as you can command—the pain and heat in making water should come on, or, having already been complained of, should increase, it will be proper to repeat the purgative again, before advancing further with any other remedy. This pain and heat, if at all considerable, must be abated first. I will suppose, however, that a purgative dose or two being taken, it is very moderate, or, if it had been pretty severe, abated, that now therefore is the time to commence with other remedies, to begin to lessen the discharge. Begin with the black pill,

five or six of them three times a day. In a day or two it is probable the discharge will lessen; but whether it do or not, provided the pain and heat in making water should not return, begin with the injections precisely as mentioned in page 37. There is no occasion to enlarge this little book by repeating these directions here,—they are given in the fullest and plainest manner. At the same time continue the black pill. Under this plan, sooner or later (but remember it is not equally soon in every case) the discharge will cease entirely. When this happens leave off the pills, or take but half the dose a few days more, then leave them off entirely. Next, begin to lessen in frequency the use of the injections, but do not leave them off too suddenly.

One of these remedies (the injection or black pill) should be continued for 10 or 14 days after the discharge has disappeared. If the case should happen to be more tedious than common, the pill may be omitted—more than are contained in the chest need not be taken—the injections will finish the cure of it alone.—This is the treatment of Gonorrhœa in its simple and common form; but, as I have said before, there are other circumstances which may or may not occur, and which must now be mentioned separately. Before however finishing these remarks on the cure of Gonorrhœa,—it may be as well to say a word or two on the difference there is found in the

time of curing this complaint in different individuals. Even under the same degree of active and judicious treatment, and this especially adapted to each peculiarity of constitution, the time required in one will be ten times longer than in another.—Neither is it always easy to foretel the individual in whom the cure will prove so tedious. The fact itself however, is noticed by every author of experience, and it is well to know it, that such cases may be endured with patience and perseverance. As an instance of good authority for this statement, I will here transcribe the words of Sir Astley Cooper on the subject:—he states,—“Gonorrhœa sometimes continues for so long a time, notwithstanding all the means which may be employed for its cure, as to be an opprobrium to our art.” Again, “Gonorrhœa is a disease which very often baffles the longest experience, and the greatest professional skill.” And, he remarks still further on this subject,—“You will generally find the cure of Gonorrhœa difficult in proportion as the constitution of the patient is disposed to Scrophulous affections. If a patient has pimples in his face, enlargement of the glands of the neck, a thin delicate skin and irritable fibre, you may expect to have great difficulty in curing him of Gonorrhœa,”

Now, if this be true (and no one of much experience will doubt it) who can wonder at the fre

quent cases of misery, disappointment, Gleet, and Stricture, which result from trusting to that swarm of advertising people who fill our little daily papers; for, if Gono:rhœa may prove so difficult under men of so much faithfulness and skill, what can be expected from persons of the description I allude to.

There is however one advising hint I cannot forbear to give to those who are laboring under a long continued Gonorrhœa;—be sure that the person whose care you are under is a man of integrity and skill; do not be dissatisfied merely because the case is tedious, but be satisfied its tediousness is not the consequence of ignorance. Neither pay the least attention to what you may have heard of his curing other persons; for, as I have shown in a former chapter, Gonorrhœa is sometimes of most simple and easy cure, and many of these are not cases of Gonorrhœa at all, though they are sure to call them so. Nor, in your enquiries, should you ever trust to what they say about themselves. If it were not too serious a subject, it would be quite laughable to read the long imposing titles which some of those will give themselves;—but rather enquire of some respectable physician as to who and what they are?—I do not hesitate to say, there are no two diseases in the whole range of medicine, which more truly require the assistance of a physician of integrity and skill, than Gonorrhœa and Venereal. I now pro-

ceed to those other circumstances which occasionally occur in Gonorrhœa,—the first of which is,—

*Excessive pain and heat in making water.*—

This is nothing more than a higher degree of the first or inflammatory stage of Gonorrhœa which has been already noticed, but which must be subdued before the remedies for stopping the discharge are entered on. The means for reducing inflammation are,—purging, low diet, rest, and the freest use of diluting drinks, for which directions are given in note 6 and 7. You cannot make too free a use of dilutants. The burning pain arises from the saline nature of the urine passing over an inflamed and irritable passage. The urine is loaded with salts—it is like brine; if, therefore, you dilute it with perhaps a gallon or more of water, it is easy to imagine how its stimulating property must be diminished. Sooner or later, by the means above directed, this heat and pain will considerably abate, and then, and not till then, can you safely proceed to lessen the discharge.

*Swelling of the Foreskin.*—The foreskin, called the *prepuce*, will often swell prodigiously, but this, of itself, is of very little consequence. A soft rag wet with brandy and water, simple water, or any cooling lotion, as in note 4, and wrapped about the part, together with a dose or two of purging pills, is all that is required. The rag should be wetted

often. It is of some advantage too if the penis is kept upright, which can easily be done by pinning or fastening it to a bandage around the waist. But this swelling sometimes is so great that the foreskin cannot be pushed back from over the glans or head of the penis. This condition of it is called a *phymosis*, and, sometimes again, when it is pushed back it cannot be drawn forward, and this is called a *paraphymosis*.

Now, both these states are of great consequence, particularly the latter. The chief thing to look to in the first (the phymosis) is cleanliness, and here the patent syringe in the little case is of the utmost use in washing out the humours that collect beneath the foreskin, and which, by becoming, acrid and offensive, increase the malady greatly.—It is necessary therefore to inject some proper fluid under the foreskin several times a day. Any thing that will wash away these humours is better than nothing, so that warm or even cold water may be used; but the best thing for this purpose is a lotion made of no. 1, of the injection powders—for this is cooling and healing to the part as well as cleansing.

The paraphymosis, is of still more consequence; indeed, you should loose no time in endeavoring to reduce it,—that is, to bring the foreskin forward again over the glans, or head of the penis. With this object you proceed in the following way. Take

hold of the glans, which is always very much swelled, with the fingers and thumb, and steadily press it, gently increasing the pressure in order to squeeze back some of the stagnant blood and lessen its size. It is better if you first hold the hand in very cold water. Immediately after thus diminishing its size, apply the two thumbs to the glans, and grasping the foreskin with the fingers, steadily push back the glans while you pull the foreskin forward. A little force may be necessary, but you will almost always succeed; if not, the only thing a surgeon could do, would be to cut the skin on each side, where it is the tightest, and then it will easily pull over; this might be done with a sharp pen-knife or razor, after this apply a poultice. In both these cases, of course, it would be proper to live low, keep as quiet as you can, and to purge freely.

*Frequent and very painful erections of the penis.*—This is what the French people call *Cordee*, and a very painful thing it is. I have already pointed out its nature in page 7,—it occurs particularly at night—the penis often being quite crooked at these times. When *cordee* is disposed to come on, it cannot always be prevented entirely, but it can always be relieved and rendered tolerable. Further, a *cordee* once come on, it is often the last symptom to leave a patient.

The best way to prevent a *cordee* from coming on

is to prevent inflammation, by rest, purging, and low diet; the best way to relieve it when it has come on, is to take two or three of the anodyne pills in the little case, at bed-time, or those in note 13 below. After a few nights, see if you can leave them off, but if the pain come on again, return to them. With a view also of relieving the inflammation of the penis, on which this symptom depends, it is a good thing to emerse it in a basin of warm water for a quarter of an hour on going to bed, and afterwards to wet a soft rag with brandy, or vinegar and water, or common water, and wrap it round the penis. Some contrive to have a bottle of cold water near the bed, which they hold between their legs whenever it awakens them.

*Swelling of the glands of the Groin.*—This is of less consequence in Gonorrhœa than in Venereal disease;—it is a very rare thing in a Gonorrhœa for these swellings to form into matter and break, as they do in Venereal. Brisk purging with the pills,—as much rest as possible,—and at night a rag wet with brandy and water or vinegar and water laid on them, is all that is required; under this plan these swellings almost always subside. I have in-

Note 13.—Those who have not the little case, may imitate the anodyne pills in the following way. Get an apothecary to make up forty grains of camphor.—twenty of the extract of Hyosciamus

and ten of Opium in twenty pills—of which take two or three at bed time. If this cannot be done let thirty or forty drops of Laudanum be taken in a little water.

deed sometimes seen them form matter and break, but it has always been in scrofulous habits, and has been owing to the constitution rather than the Gonorrhœa. In such a case should tumours threaten to form matter, leeches to it would be proper and desirable.

*Swelling of the Testicle.*—When this complaint happens, it generally begins about 10 or 14 days from the commencement of the discharge, but it may occur at any time. At first there is an uneasy feeling about the part which you might judge to be the situation of the neck of the bladder—just behind the *Scrotum* (the purse.) Then there is a swelling of the back part of one or of both the testicles, and when the inflammation proceeds into the substance of the testicles, there is great pain and fever. From the moment an inflamed testicle is threatened by these symptoms give up every means for the cure of Gonorrhœa and turn your whole attention to this single circumstance.

In the cure of this affection, the first thing to be recommended (when it can be done) is rest, and resting on the bed is preferable to any other. The next, to support the testicles by means of a suspensory bandage.—If you have not this at hand, it may easily be contrived.—Make a bag of soft linen large enough to hold the swollen parts, and then sew or pin it to a bandage or pocket-handkerchief round

the body. If the testicle is suffered to hang by its own weight, this alone will prevent its cure and greatly augment the pain.—Next, take 5 or 6 purgative pills.—Frequent and repeated purging is a powerful means of relieving this disease, and this may be followed up either by repeating the pills, or doses of Epsom salts. Lotions also are of great use, and the best of all is the common evaporating spirit Lotion ;—it is made by mixing one part of brandy to two of water, and applied by keeping a soft rag and the suspensory bandage constantly wetted with it. Bleeding by leeches is exceedingly useful where the pain and inflammation are great, but many persons are placed in such circumstances as not to admit of their use. There is however another way of taking blood from the part which might be resorted to in very urgent cases, or might be practised at sea, where leeches are not always to be had ;—it is as follows.—Stand before a warm fire and pull up the scrotum so as to put the skin on the stretch,—you will then see several veins of a blue color:—Take a lance or very sharp pointed pen-knife and puncture five or six of them ;—then, with a sponge and warm water bathe the part, and you will be able to get more blood than by leeches and with far less trouble and risk of exposure. The bleeding ceases on lying down, if not applying cold water will soon stop it. Sometimes, even under the best possible treatment, great pain and inflammation will continue and you are under the necessi-

ty of taking opiates. Forty or fifty drops of laudanum may be taken at bed time. The best form however, of opiate medicine is, if it can be procur'd—15 grains of Dovers powder, with two of Calomel at bed time. This is as far as I would advise any one to go on his own judgment. In very many cases these means will stop the progress of this symptom, and, indeed, remove it; but, on the other hand, there are some cases in which it will not,—the pain goes on and is attended with fever and perfect inability to go about. In this case I would advise, if possible, to call in the aid of medical assistance; but, in many cases, this is quite impossible,—you may be at sea, or in the country, or where you cannot command this assistance, and therefore I will pursue this subject and describe the best measure to adopt in such a case in note 14.

Note 14.—If rest, low diet, purgative medicine, lotions, and perhaps leeches to the part, do not succeed in lessening the pain and inflammation, then a very copious bleeding should be resorted to. Indeed bleeding would be proper in any case, but we do not always have recourse to it, hoping to succeed with the means before mentioned. From one to two pints of blood may be taken from the arm and repeated if not successful in allaying the pain, swelling, and fever. At the same time, large doses of Tartarized Antimony should be taken. Eight grains may

be dissolved in half a pint of water, and an eighth part of this may be taken every second or third hour. This is a large dose, at first it may vomit or purge, but this should be no objection to continuing it, unless the vomiting should be excessive,—it will generally cease after a day or two. There is no medicine which has such power to subdue inflammation, and especially inflammation of the Testicle, as Tartarized Antimony, and so important and so painful is this inflammation, that a little inconvenience or nausea and vomiting should not hinder

## CHAPTER V.

*On the Nature and Cure of Gleet.*

A *Gleet* is almost always the consequence of a badly managed Gonorrhœa. Instead of following up the cure of that disease by the injections which are here so particularly dwelt on, the discharge is suffered to go on from month to month, and the effect of this is to entail a permanent weakness of the parts affected.

from its use and benefit. If the pain should be very great, and prevent sleep at night—three or four of the anodyne pills may be taken at bed time,—or twenty grains of Dover's powder with two grains of calomel. If this is not at hand, forty or fifty drops of Laudanum may be substituted. Leeches are always of use—fifteen or twenty on the part and afterwards cover with a warm poultice. At other times, if it can be had, ice may be used. Sometimes cold applications will do when warm ones will not; at others warm will answer when cold will not. If one has been tried without success always try the other. When ice is used let it be powdered and put into a bladder half full of water, and lay it on the inflamed and swollen

testicle. It is astonishing how quickly this will sometimes relieve the pain and inflammation. There is a way of obtaining cold when you cannot procure ice. Just mix equal parts of Sal ammoniac, Saltpetre, and Glauber Salts, and put into a bladder of water, instead of ice: as these dissolve much cold is produced. I have dwelt longer on this subject than on some, as it is a severe complaint. I have found it so in my practice. A summary of the treatment of inflamed testicle then is as follows. Suspend the testicle,—rest,—purge,—leech,----and apply cooling lotions. If pain, inflammation, and fever, still run on—Bleeding, Leeches, Tartarized Antimony, and the application of cold.

It is important to understand the nature of this malady, as well as how to cure it, especially as a very serious error respecting its infectious nature, prevails with many. It is a very common thing to hear it said that a Gleet is not infectious; but this is very wrong, and often leads to terrible disasters;—virtuous and unsuspecting women are unintentionally involved in this complaint in consequence.—A person who is about to marry, for instance, may not have had Gonorrhœa for six or nine months, or longer; but a slight discharge—so slight indeed that he has scarcely observed it—may have continued all this time. But he does not dream of its infectious nature until the saddest consequences show themselves. So also, unfortunately, does a similar cause of unhappiness frequently occur in those who have been abroad or from their family for a length of time. Indeed, the consequences of this error are so very serious that it merits any pains and trouble to set the matter in its own true light, and perhaps I cannot do this better than by giving a case or two as related by Sir Astley Cooper.

On this subject, then, Sir Astley observes,—  
“Gonorrhœa, when neglected, sinks into a Gleet, and  
“is known by the change of the color of the dis-  
“charge, and the pain attending the inflammatory  
“stage ceasing. In this state, is the discharge in-  
“fectious or not? I doubt myself whether a Gonor-  
“rhœa ever loses its power of causing infection as

“ long as any discharge from the urethra remains,  
“ and I will give you my reasons for this opinion. A  
“ married gentleman went to Lisbon from this coun-  
“ try, [England] and whilst at a distance from home,  
“ departed, as too many do, from the path of virtue,  
“ and went astray. The Portuguese lady with whom  
“ he cohabited, gave him the Clap. He returned to  
“ England, and, after the expiration of five months  
“ and three days after first observing the Gonorrhœa,  
“ he called on me, and asked whether he might re-  
“ turn home with safety to his wife. He said he  
“ had a little discharge, and wished to know, if, after  
“ having had it five months and three days, it were  
“ possible for it to be infectious. I replied—‘Cer-  
“ tainly not; you may go home—there is no danger  
“ of your giving it to your wife.’ He went home,  
“ and unfortunately gave his wife a severe Clap. I  
“ attended both the parties afterwards, and was ex-  
“ tremely sorry for what I had done;—but I thought,  
“ at the time I gave the advice, that a Gleet was not  
“ infectious. But I think differently now,—and be-  
“ lieve that, after a continuance of several months,  
“ the discharge *is* infectious.”

Another instance.—“ A gentleman from the north  
“ of England, and who had been recently married,  
“ came to me, and said that he had communicated a  
“ Gonorrhœa to his wife. Shocked at such an oc-  
“ currence, I said, ‘How could you think of acting  
“ in such a manner?’ ‘Why, sir,’ said he, ‘for four-

“teen months prior to my marriage, I had a Gonorrhœa; I made various attempts to get rid of it, and had a variety of advice about it, but a yellow discharge always continued. I was told by every body that it was not infectious,—and not until after such repeated assurances did I get married; the consequence, however, is, that my wife has a severe pain in making water, and a copious discharge.’ I visited her, and found her in this state; she was some time under treatment before she quite recovered. From what I have seen, I do hold that a medical man is not warranted in saying that a discharge of a gleet kind is not infectious.”

On these two cases thus faithfully related; then, every person will be able to form his own opinion on the infectious nature of a Gleet; I think they are sufficient to make every reflecting conscientious person take care how he gives advice in such a case, particularly if his patient is a married man.—Indeed, it is from this error, or from a total indifference as to its consequence, that we have so many cases of Gonorrhœa,—they are twenty to one, compared with cases of Venereal. In fact, the common women of the town pay no attention to a Gleet. After the first or inflammatory symptoms of a Gonorrhœa have subsided, they mix with society as though nothing ailed them. In the patients of the Hospital called the “Lock,” in London, for instance, nothing is more common than to see the Venereal and the Go-

norrhœa in the same female; but it is the Venereal which brings them there. As to the Gonorrhœa, or Gleet, they will tell you they have had that a long time, and thought nothing of it, but having got the Venereal, in the form of chancres, they became alarmed, and anxious to be cured. So also, when the Venereal is cured, they seldom stop in the Hospital for the cure of the Gonorrhœa, or Gleet, but go out again promiscuously in the town and spread the Gonorrhœa in every quarter.

I do not however, after all, say, that every Gleet is infectious, but, they are so generally, and there is no mark whatever by which it can be said that this is infectious and that is not,—this can only be known by its consequences. How serious therefore to say to any one, especially to a married man, or one about to marry, that a Gleet is not infectious. But it is incumbent also to state, that there is a discharge from the urethra, in some measure resembling a Gleet, which is not infectious. A discharge of this harmless kind may proceed from two causes which may be easily understood. In the first place, it may proceed from a little abscess which occasionally forms in the urinary passage, and breaks; and the other is, a discharge proceeding from a Stricture. Now, the nature of these two causes of discharge must be understood, and then a suspicious gleety disorder will be easily detected and distinguished from either of these.

First—With regard to the discharge from the little abscesses above-mentioned, it should be known, that, in the whole length of the urinary passage are situated, here and there, little sacks for the purpose of secreting a lubricating fluid; these are called,—*lacunæ*. After a Gonorrhœa, these little lacunæ are sometimes affected with common inflammation, which forms into abscesses, and when these burst and their contents are discharged, the running ceases. Now, the circumstance by which these abscesses may be distinguished from a Gleet, is this;—the discharge from these lacunæ stops entirely for a week or two, and then, when another breaks, it comes on again, suddenly, and again ceases as before; but the discharge from an infectious Gleet never stops;—it may increase, from excesses or irregularities of any kind; and it may decrease, so as to become very trifling,—but it never ceases altogether. This, therefore, affords a good rule of judging between Gleet and a discharge from these abscesses in the urinary passage.

And next,—With respect to the discharge arising from Stricture, this will be easily detected by considering the symptoms proper to Stricture; and, should any doubt exist, this may easily be removed by the use of a Bougie. For the symptoms proper to Stricture, and for the use of the Bougie, the reader is referred to the next chapter, which treats expressly on those subjects.

*The Treatment and Cure.*—A Gleet is a very troublesome disease to manage. If there were no other reason, I might safely infer this from the numbers who come to me with this complaint, having had it on them, more or less, for a length of time. These patients generally state they have tried a great variety of means, and are quite disheartened. I cannot always learn particularly what these means have been, but two important things I do know; the first is, that whatever they have been, they have always failed; and the next, whatever has been the state and condition of their case, the means I am now about to mention have always succeeded. I think it right to premise these remarks because it may be thought the plan I recommend is very troublesome; it may be so; but then, I would repeat, this plan succeeds when every other fails,—and I am quite sure no better can be availed of.

In the first place then, begin with the Black Pill;—or, if preferred, either of the other remedies mentioned in chapter III. At the same time also begin with the Injection. Both the internal medicine and the Injection are to be used exactly as for Gonorrhœa. To save unnecessary repetition therefore, you are referred to chapter IV, on the treatment of Gonorrhœa.

But the most troublesome part of the treatment I recommend, is the use of the Bougie. Many persons, I know, may not be able to procure them, and

others may not like to venture on their use. It will be satisfactory therefore for such to hear that I do not consider the Bougie absolutely necessary, but only state, that, cases which have been very tedious and obstinate under every other means, have got well very quickly when the use of the Bougie was added to them.—Instructions for the use of the Bougie I shall give in the next chapter, on Stricture; here I would observe only, that it is not required to begin with the small size, as in Stricture, but to select a medium or full sized Bougie, and pass it in the manner there directed every day; or, if it give uneasiness, (which is not usual) every other day, as long as the disease continues. It often happens there is a little increase of discharge on first using it, but this soon goes off. The stretching of the urinary passage by the bougie, and the stimulus thus afforded, expedites the cure of Gleet exceedingly. Those therefore who have been long tormented with this complaint should not think the trouble of the Bougie too much to get rid of it. When, however, it cannot be procured, or is exceedingly disagreeable, it may be dispensed with.

There is another medicine sometimes taken for the cure of Gleet—the Cantharides, or Spanish Fly. I have sometimes given it, by way of change, in cases which have proved unusually obstinate—see note 15.

Note 15.—The best way to take this medicine is in the form of pills, which should contain one quarter or one

The following then is a summary of what has now been said on Gleet. It is a discharge of a bluish or yellowish humor from the urinary passage—sometimes clear—sometimes opaque;—there is no pain attending;—it is almost always the consequence of a badly treated Gonorrhœa. Its treatment is like that of Gonorrhœa, but the use of the Bougie is a valuable addition;—this however is not essential to its cure—it expedites it only. Another addition to the treatment is, the internal use of Cantharides, or Spanish Fly.

half of a grain of the powder in each; one of these pills should be taken night and morning, and, after a little while, three times a day. It is better to make the cantharidas into pills with one or other of the thicker kinds of turpentine; the best of these is that called Chio turpentine, of which five grains should

be allowed to each pill; if this size is too large, it may be made into two instead of one.

It should be continued a considerable time to do any good. If it produce heat and frequency of making water, leave it off for a day or two, and take flaxseed tea, or barley water.

## CHAPTER VI.

*On Stricture,—its Symptoms, Nature, Consequences, and Cure.*

When a person comes to me with a Gonorrhœa that has continued an unusual length of time,—upwards of two months, for instance, I consider this to be a sufficient reason to suspect he may possibly have a *Stricture*, and that it is my duty to ascertain for fact whether it be so or not. Now, the early symptoms of *Stricture* are a scattering of the urine in making water, or a splitting of the stream, or a smaller stream of urine than formerly. If these, or any one of them, is acknowledged, my suspicion is increased. But if he says he has not noticed these, I am still not certain he has no *Stricture*, for these, sometimes, particularly the smallness of the stream of urine, will come on so gradually that he may not have noticed it. Until the stream becomes remarkably diminished, a patient is very apt to believe and say it flows as usual. I have had patients tell me this, when, on examining the passage, I have found a considerable *Stricture*, and then, reflecting on their former way of making water, they have acknowledged that the stream had become diminished. But, if still in doubt, there is another question I often put;—it is, if they remember, when they have done making

water and have buttoned up their clothes, whether a single drop or two of urine ever passes afterwards, so as to wet the shirt a little. This is the very first of all the symptoms of a Stricture, and the answer to this question has frequently determined me, and correctly too, upon this subject. If, however, to all these questions a negative is given, so that he has neither a scattering of the urine, nor a diminished stream, nor a drop or two which passes after he thinks he has finished making water, then he has *no Stricture*, and you may boldly proceed to cure the disease on the principle of common Gleet.

On the other hand, if he states he has these symptoms, or any one of them, this will afford sufficient reason to suspect a Stricture, and no faithful physician will proceed one step further without ascertaining for fact whether it be so or not. This can be done only by passing a bougie,—a safe and simple means in proper hands, but which will be mentioned more particularly presently.

Nothing can better serve to distinguish the disengenuous, advertizing, boasting knave, from the good physician, than the difference of their conduct in the case of Stricture. The former will never trouble himself or you with the sound of Stricture, but will sell you drops, or pills, or some such thing, as long as you will take it, and in the end leave you in mental misery and incurable disease; the latter

will not rest until he has ascertained the case,—he will then explain its nature, show the utter inutility of medicine alone, and conduct you, by a rational, safe, and easy course of treatment, to a perfect cure. None but those who see it daily can form the least idea of the misery escaped by falling into the hands of such a man.

But, so far I have spoken of Stricture only in its early stage,—at the time when its symptoms are so few and give so little inconvenience as to allow its existence to be overlooked; in its advanced stage however, the symptoms are very numerous, and some of them most deeply interesting. The interesting nature of these symptoms arises from their remoteness from the seat of the disease itself, so that when they present themselves, they are never once suspected to arise from Stricture, and, consequently, never get relieved. Many serious diseases, which, from their having proved unyielding under a variety of modes of treatment, have been thought incurable, and have been so because they have arisen from Stricture, which was never thought of.—As an instance;—a few months ago a captain of a merchant vessel from Havana, came to me with a recent Gonorrhœa; but who, in a little while, I perceived had got a Stricture also, from a former Gonorrhœa. Of course I soon attacked the Stricture, but, as the cure of this proceeded, he told me with the greatest pleasure and surprise that his eyes were better. Now this was

the first time he had spoken of his eyes, though I had noticed they were very red and irritable. He then told me that his eyes had been bad for years—that he almost always wore a shade, and that they were frequently so bad at sea that he could not open them at all in common day-light. This, therefore, was a case of Ophthalmia from Stricture, but which had given him so little pain or inconvenience, until a fresh attack of Gonorrhœa occurred, that a Stricture was never once suspected. By the time the Stricture was cured, the eyes got well entirely, and I believe will never trouble him again. But this is nothing new in the treatment of Stricture; nothing is so common as to see complaints which had resisted every former mode of cure, particularly diseases of a dyspeptic nature, entirely disappear on the cure of Stricture. The symptoms denoting confirmed and longer standing cases, therefore,—indeed every thing relating to this subject, is deeply interesting.

As I have said before, a contracted stream of urine, more or less, always attends a Stricture, but this creeps on so gradually, and with so little disturbance, that it often quite escapes the notice of the patient. But, as the narrowness of the strictured part increases however, this alteration or contraction draws attention, for it becomes very small, or divides into two, or sprinkles on the ground; and, in very bad cases it passes only drop by drop, and that not without much straining. Sometimes it is necessary to make

a great effort at the beginning, and afterwards it will flow in a full enough stream; at other times the desire comes on so quickly that you cannot retain the urine for a moment. This is when the bladder participates in the disease. The bladder is always more or less disposed to this participation, so that many patients are obliged to get up in the night, or oftener than they were accustomed to do.

In many cases of Stricture also, there is a discharge from the urinary passage, but this does not happen in every case. This discharge may be only a little more of that mucus which is natural to the part, or it may be real pus or matter. Whatever it is, however, it varies from many circumstances of excitement. When the discharge is considerable, it is often taken for a Gonorrhœa, especially as this may be attended with burning pain in making water, and Cordee, all of which is very apt to follow the excitement of sexual intercourse.

There are also various sensations and other symptoms which may or may not occur. These are exceedingly well enumerated by Mr. Bingham, of London,—a very sensible writer on Stricture,—from whose work I will transcribe the most important,—leaving out however all technical words. Nothing, correctly detailed, can be uninteresting to one afflicted with Stricture.

Mr. Bingham observes—“ Various kinds of sensations also, are produced in different degrees, by Stricture in the urinary passage: as, an itching of the penis or the parts about, and a fluttering or pulsating sensation in some part of the passage; numbness in the thighs is another symptom; as are also a smarting or burning pain in the head of the penis, and darting pains shooting to and from the fundament to this part, or up to the back and loins; pain in the hip, down the thighs and on the inside of the knees, frequently occurs from Strictures in the urinary passage, and pain has also been known in the sole of the foot from the same cause.”

Again he observes—“ Sexual intercourse is apt to aggravate the symptoms of Stricture whatever they are. Sometimes this act is attended with pain and inability to emit the seminal fluid; at other times only part of it passes, and the remainder steals away when the erection has ceased. Retention of urine has many times been brought on by sexual connexion, in patients troubled with Stricture.”

“ The penis is variously affected by Stricture. Sometimes the erections are excessively frequent and troublesome, and these may or may not be accompanied with seminal emissions during sleep;

“at other times the erections are weak and inefficient, and, occasionally, altogether wanting.”

“Sometimes swelling of one or more of the glands in the groin, and enlargement of the testicle, indicates the existence of Stricture in the urinary passage: and another symptom is, hardness to be felt externally in the situation of the Stricture. Inflammation and a gathering in that part of the middle between the anus and the testicles are also symptoms of the disease.”

“It has been stated upon high authority, that strictured patients cannot comfortably cross their legs; but whenever I have had an opportunity to notice this, there has been, beside the Stricture, disease of the prostate gland,” (a hardish body situated at the entrance of the bladder, just where the urinary passage begins, and which is exceedingly liable to enlargement in elderly people) “or inflammation about this part.”

The sympathy between the organs of generation and those of digestion is very great, giving rise to many remote affections of a dyspeptic nature. In other words, a stricture in the urethra is capable of disturbing the stomach, and through this medium, of inducing other and remote complaints, all of which therefore are correctly placed among the symptoms of stricture. These complaints are chiefly of a nervous

character, as head-ache, low spirits, diminution of wonted clearness and energy of mind, and other hypochondriac feelings ; and so evidently are these the effect of stricture, that they cease as its cure proceeds, while they resist every measure short of this. A knowledge of this fact is of great importance too, in the treatment of strictures, for, as a stricture in the urethra has so much influence on the stomach, in like manner the stomach influences the stricture. Now, we can at all times prescribe for these disturbances, and hence the cure of stricture is so much expedited by attending to the stomach throughout its treatment. My own practice verifies this statement daily.

Sores about the head of the penis and foreskin, much resembling Venereal and frequently mistaken for it, are also among the symptoms of stricture.—The late Mr. Abernethy in his work on Syphilis, has admirably shown this fact. To what he has stated I can also add my testimony, for instances have occurred to me in which these sores have proved unyielding under many surgeons and different modes of treatment, but which have got well speedily on treating them accordingly.

Sores and other affections of the throat are sometimes symptoms of stricture,—they occur on the same principle, viz:—the sympathy existing between the organs of generation and the throat—so

that disorder in one will produce disorder in the other. Many curious facts might be stated on this subject, but as I observed, being rather curious than of practical importance, I will state them in a note (16.)

The last symptom I will mention, is a hardness and diseased condition of the testicle from stricture.— This indeed may arise from other things than stricture, but when it thus arises, and this I often find to be the case, it never can be cured but by the removal of the stricture.

A summary then on the symptoms of stricture may be stated thus;—that, in the early stage, or when its progress has been slow or almost stationary for a length of time, the symptoms of it chiefly relate to the size of the stream of urine, or to the manner in which it passes; this however only affords a ground of suspicion of a stricture.—But, in more confirm-

Note 16.—The sympathies between the organs of generation and the throat in both sexes are very striking. Not only is the beard upon the chin prevented if the testicles are removed before the age of puberty—but also the development of the throat is hindered, so that the voice fails to attain the deep and tenor tone of men. It is a curious fact, that, when the corresponding organ of the female is removed (as in the ovaria in spaded animals) the voice becomes deep and

rough in women, and hair shoots out upon the lips and chin. Young women who have beards are generally less prolific than those who have none. Bingham mentions a case which came under his own knowledge, of a young lady who had a beard, but lost it after her marriage.— All this shows the intimate connection which exists between these distant organs, and accounts for many morbid actions occurring in the throat simply from sympathizing with a stricture.

ed, or longer standing cases, the symptoms are much more numerous and important, as have been described; still these alone do not prove the existence of it, for all these symptoms may arise from other causes. It is therefore needful to have some other means of coming to the point, and this is amply furnished in the *Bougie*.—A bougie is a soft smooth instrument, which, if no stricture or disorder in the passage hinder, can be passed without pain or inconvenience through the urinary passage to the bladder—  
—but which, if there be a stricture, stops and proves the fact.

*The Nature of Stricture.*—This is easily explained. The urinary passage is composed of a dense skin, having an elastic power, so that when the urine is forced into it by the bladder it enlarges to transmit the stream.

Gonorrhœa, essentially, is a state of inflammation, and the effect of inflammation, when long continued, is to alter the natural condition of the part in which it may be seated. Now, in the present instance, it alters and destroys the elastic power with which the urinary passage is endowed, so that it no longer yields to the flow of urine as it ought to do, and hence the stream is lessened and its force diminished.

Also, there are certain portions of the urinary passage, it is well known, more liable to inflammation

than others, and, accordingly, Stricture is most frequently found to be seated in these very portions.

Again, long-continued inflammation is known to thicken any part in which it may be seated, and this is the case in Stricture. Beside the loss of its elastic yielding power, therefore, the passage also becomes thick and callous; so hard and thickened is an old bad Stricture as to threaten an actual obliteration of the passage, for the urine passes in the smallest stream, and sometimes only drop by drop.

On the nature of a Stricture also, it should further be observed, there is no natural cure for it. When a Stricture once begins it is sure to go on increasing, either rapidly or slowly. Fortunately, however, we have the means of curing it by art, as will presently be described.—Neither is it curable by medicine; all the medicine in the world, alone, would never cure a Stricture.

On the nature of Stricture then, it may be said, it consists, at first, in a loss of the dilating power of the urinary passage, by which the stream is lessened; and next, in a thickening of the parts, by which the stream is constantly diminishing; and, that it is curable by art.

*The Consequences of a Stricture.*—These are truly lamentable,—not only being distressing to en-

ture, but, some of them totally incurable,—admitting only of relief. I speak however now of old bad cases such as have been suffered to run on for years, or badly treated.

Beside those sympathetic disorders then which were noticed in speaking of the symptoms of a Stricture, there are consequences which are more immediately connected with it, and these I next propose to state.

One of the first of these consequences is, the effect which straining has upon the bladder. The more resistance the Stricture offers to the flow of urine, of course the more exertion must the bladder make. This leads to a thickening of its coats and to other conditions of it which make it irritable and incapable of retaining but a very little urine, so that the calls are frequent and pressing,—disturbing sleep and rest. From the same cause also, the kidneys are very apt to be diseased.

The next effect of so much straining is produced upon the passage itself, just behind the strictured part. The force of the urine, as may easily be imagined, dilates the canal and forms a pouch or bag in which a portion of the urine lodges. But this, which always happens more or less, may lead to lamentable consequences. In the first place it may render the passing of the bougie impossible; for, when the pouch is large, the orifice leading out of

it may not correspond exactly with that leading into it, so that the bougie may easily pass in, but not pass out or through it. And, in the next, the urine lodging here is very apt to irritate and produce disease. Disease arising from this cause is of the most distressing and permanent kind; matter forms in the subjacent structures and makes its way out, both by opening into the passage, and also by opening externally, ulcerating through the parts between the thighs. But the worst is, the passage it thus makes will not heal. It is difficult and sometimes quite impossible to prevent the urine passing through it. This is what is called a sinus, or *fistula in perinæo*. I scarcely know a more disagreeable and inconvenient thing than a sinus in these parts,—the person is obliged to squat down in making water to do it comfortably. But to form a true and clear conception of this malady (and every one should do so, in order to avoid that class of people who produce it) it is necessary to see it in a plate, and with this view I have selected the one on the following page from one of the best and latest authors on the subject, and from this it will be correctly judged how serious a thing it is to neglect a Stricture. Indeed, so true is this that a very eminent writer on this subject,—Sir Everard Home,—Surgeon to the late King of England, in his third volume, has a chapter upon,—*Diseases of an incurable nature, the consequence of long-continued Stricture, before the proper means of removing it had been adopted.*

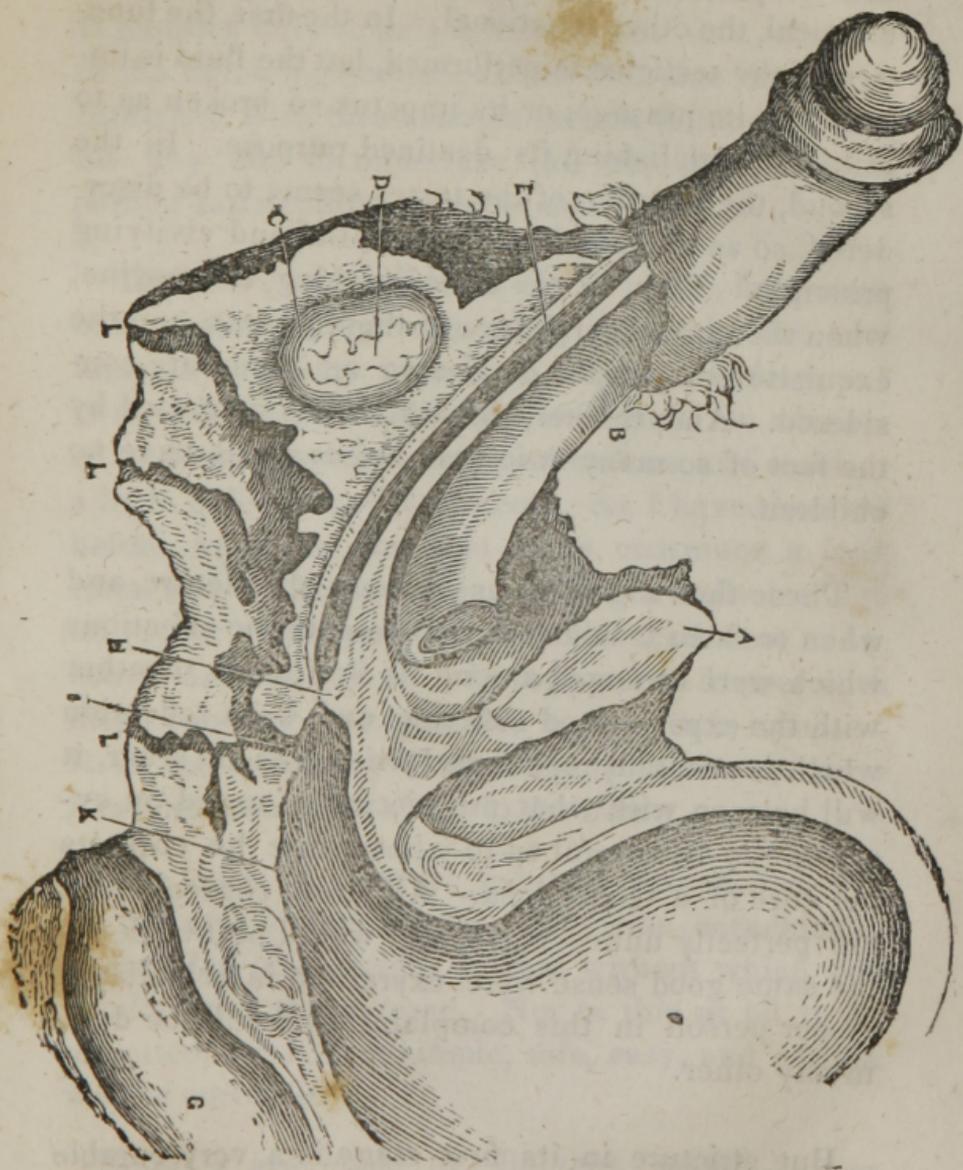
## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE.

- A, The section of a bone.  
 B, A part of the penis.  
 C, The scrotum.  
 D, The testicle.  
 E, The urinary passage.  
 F, The bladder, much thickened in consequence of straining to make water.  
 G, The lower gut.  
 H, The strictured part, the source of all the disorder of the other parts.  
 I, The ulceration behind the stricture, from whence the urine has been discharged into the sinuses passing between the thigh and scrotum.  
 K, The urethra and neck of the bladder dilated behind the stricture.  
 L, L, L, The several openings through which the matter and urine have continually flowed.

Among the consequences of stricture also may be noticed, a shrinking and dwindling of the penis with but little erectile power. It is not easy to account for this, but of the fact itself I am well assured. On the removal of the stricture it resumes its wonted size and firmness.

A similar state of wasting of the testicles is also a consequence of stricture.

Impotence is another and the last to notice.— This may occur with, or without, the loss of sexual inclination. There are two ways in which a stric-



ture may be the cause of impotence—the one mechanical, the other functional. In the first, the function of the testicles is performed, but the fluid is impeded in its passage, or its impetus so broken as to fail in accomplishing its destined purpose. In the second, the function of the testes seems to be disordered, so as to have lost its essential and vivifying principle. This is no difficult thing to imagine, when the nervous structure of these organs, and the exquisite sympathies depending on them, are considered. And, further, this opinion is supported by the fact of so many strictured persons who have no children.

These then are the consequences of stricture, and when to them is added those sympathetic affections which were arranged among its symptoms, together with the expense, and suffering, and keen reflection which is naturally connected with this disorder, it will be seen with what propriety it is urged on every one to be careful as to whose care he entrusts the cure of a Gonorrhœa. All these consequences are perfectly unnecessary, and would be avoided if the same good sense were exercised in selecting a proper person in this complaint as would be done in any other.

But stricture in its first stage is a very curable disease, and fortunately, with many, this first stage continues for a length of time. It is fortunate also,

that its principle of cure is simple, easy, and certain. It requires only to be acquainted with this, as given in the following section, and at the same time to be furnished with these simple means, in order to enable any one to undertake the cure himself with perfect satisfaction and success.

*The Cure of Stricture.*—It is in the first stage only, that a patient can safely undertake the cure himself. At this time it is soft and yielding, and is therefore called a dilatable stricture. In advanced and bad cases it is hard and callous, and requires a little difference of treatment. As I have observed before, however, the first stage continues a long time, and the inconvenience of it generally leads to its proper treatment before it has had time to become hard and callous. In my practice I meet with fifty cases that are dilatable to one that is not.—It is the treatment of the dilatable stricture therefore that I am now about to describe.

The cure of stricture can be accomplished *only* by the use of the bougie. Medicine occasionally assists, but the bougie is that without which you cannot cure the disease. Nor is this at all to be regretted, for it is a simple, safe, easy, and certain way of curing it.

Bougies are made of different materials, but those which are soft and pliable are the safest and best for a patients own use; indeed, I seldom

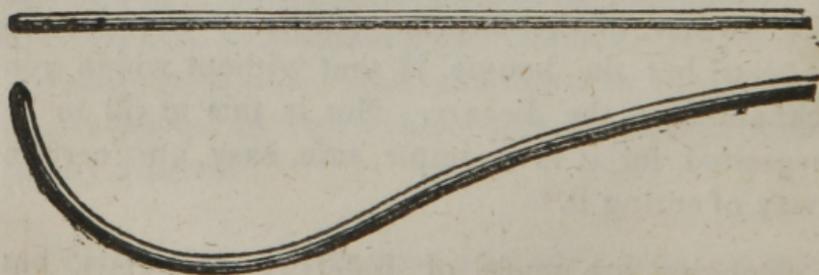
use any other myself. These are made of a composition of wax, spread on a strip of linen, and rolled up into the proper form, and are called *common bougies*; or are made of India rubber, and are then called *Gum Elastic*. There are other kinds as metallic, caustic, &c., but the former of these are not so safe, and the latter are only required in bad cases, such as no patient should undertake himself.

Common wax bougies as well as common gum elastic, are straight, but when they are to be used are bent into a certain form. This is easily done after holding them before the fire a moment, or in the warm hand. The following plate will show the form and figure of a common bougie, as well as its curve. It is of some consequence to give it this certain degree of curve.

## PLATE.

*Shewing a straight, and a curved common wax Bougie.*

## FIG. 1.



## FIG. 2.

Fig. 1,—A Straight Bougie. Fig. 2,—A Curved Bougie.

*(For the convenience of those who consult me at a distance, I have put them up in sets, in a little case, containing also a small bottle of oil, &c., together with necessary instructions. This little package, including my consultation fee, is \$10—and is forwarded by steamboat or otherwise, as requested.)*

Now the manner of using the bougie is the following.

We will suppose it the first time of using one, the object being to ascertain for fact, whether there really be a Stricture, and if so, where it may be situated. Soft bougies, until you bend them, are straight. You therefore select either a wax or elastic straight bougie, of a medium size, and, holding it in the hand or before a fire, you warm it a little, so as to give it the curve represented in the plate. You may take which kind you please, but surgeons generally begin with the wax, because, from a certain tact and management, they can sometimes take an impression on the point of the wax bougie, and thereby tell the shape and size of the Stricture. However, this is not so easily done, and if you should find you do not succeed with one, then try the other. I can sometimes succeed with the Gum-elastic when I could not with the wax. But, in giving the Gum-elastic bougie the proper curve, you will find, from its elastic property, it will become straight again.

Do not mind this—for, having given it the curve while warm, it will more easily assume it when it meets with the corresponding curve of the passage. You next rub upon it a little olive oil, or lard, or candle grease, and then proceed to introduce it.—Take the penis between the thumb and finger of the left hand, and stretch it forward a little,—rather pointing upwards. Then, with the bougie between the thumb and fingers of the right hand, introduce it by the orifice, and pass it steadily on, with a gentle and continued progress, till it reaches the bladder, which can easily be told by the ceasing of any feeling of resistance. In passing the bougie down, do not undertake to give a definite direction to the point, but rather hold it between the thumb and finger so loosely that it may take its own direction.—But, suppose you pass it smoothly down a certain distance, and then it suddenly stops. In that case you are not to withdraw the instrument immediately, but to hold it steadily to the part, gradually, and to a limited and reasonable extent, increasing your pressure. This is the strictured part, and, if it be dilatable, and not very much contracted, it will presently pass through, and you will have accomplished then, one step towards its perfect cure. There may however be a second stricture, or a third, which, if there be, must be treated in the same way, but this does not often happen. It should be also known that a Stricture may be situated in any part of the urinary passage, but there are some parts more frequently its seat

than others. The most frequent seat of Stricture is somewhere within three inches before it terminates in the bladder.—In this first passing of the bougie therefore, we ascertain three things,—the fact, whether a Stricture exist or not—whether there are more than one—and where its situation is.

But suppose you come to a Stricture, and, after perhaps a second trial, you find you cannot pass it. In this case then you are to withdraw that bougie and try a smaller one, exactly as before; (remember, a medium size was recommended to begin with) and if this will not pass, then take a smaller still. But it may happen that the smallest will not succeed. Indeed the part may be so irritated by these frequent attempts, that it will not pass on the first trial at all. I have frequently succeeded well on the second when I had failed in the first. In general there is but little pain in passing a bougie, and the degree of force directed is so limited that there will be very little felt, except the Stricture be in what we call an irritable state, which is known by its giving pain immediately on touching it. What I mean is, you must not give much pain by the mere force of pressure. Neither should you go on with an attempt at any time if it is disposed to bleed. A drop or two of blood is of no consequence; the part is so delicate and vascular that a drop may appear on a slight occasion; but, if there is more than a drop or two, this should induce you to lay aside

the attempt for the present. In some cases you may not be able to pass the smallest size till after various attempts made at intervals of several days; this however but seldom happens; when it does, you must pay attention to your state of health and habits. Particularly must you attend to the state of your stomach and bowels. Take a moderate dose of the purgative diuretic pills from the case, avoid a stimulating or full diet, and rest as much as possible. A warm bath too is very advisable, but if this cannot be had, bathe the parts well with hot water and a large sponge every night, or night and morning. These directions however will seldom be required, still it is necessary to give them.

But I will suppose, which is generally the case, that a middle size bougie, or a smaller one, has passed on the first attempt. If it pass pretty easy you withdraw it and immediately pass a larger one. With this be contented—it is pretty well for the first attempt, and now it should be considered, when, and how often, it should be repeated. The repetition of a bougie should always depend on the degree of irritation which the last attempt has caused. If there be but little or none, it may be repeated on the following day, but if any considerable degree of pain and irritation should be caused, this must be suffered to subside before it is repeated. After the first, and sometimes after every trial, there is felt a little heat in making water which soon goes off; and some-

times a little increase of discharge (if any had existed before) may be observed; neither of these are of the slightest consequence; as the cure goes on, the discharge will cease, if not, it is easily made to do so permanently.

The Bougie then is to be repeated either on the following day or a few days after just as the part may feel. You begin now, first, by taking the bougie you last used and pass it as before; it is presumed this will pass easier than at first; you therefore then select a larger size and pass it through the stricture into the bladder, keeping it there for about ten minutes. If it give much uneasiness however, you may withdraw it sooner, but if it do not, and it is convenient to spare the time, keep it there for half an hour. In some instances I have recommended it to be kept in for hours, and some have continued it all night with the greatest possible advantage and ease. In this case it should be fastened to the penis with a piece of tape. Thus you go on, increasing the size of the bougie every day or two, or as you find the part enlarges until you can pass the largest or next to the largest size with ease. There may always be some little uneasiness in this operation, but by comparing it with what was formerly felt, you can easily tell when the passage has been widened to its natural dimensions.

When the passage is restored to its natural di-

ensions,—or, when a full size bougie can be passed into the bladder with tolerable ease and readiness, you then begin to leave them off, but this must not be done too suddenly. If, up to this time you had passed it every day, now do it every other day, and after a few times use it only twice a week, and then but once. It should be known there is a disposition in a stricture to return, but this disposition is effectually removed by this plan of repeating the bougie for weeks and even months after it is cured. Indeed, I find it is entirely for want of attending to this practice, that so many cases of stricture prove so tedious. I urge it therefore upon every one to continue the bougie for weeks after a Stricture is cured, and even then about once a month for some time afterwards. This then is the final and permanent cure of a stricture, as well as the removal of every symptom and circumstance which had depended on it.

We sometimes hear of Spasmodic Stricture. On this subject much misconception has existed. It may be advantageous however to know that the muscular fibres around the mouth of the bladder, designed to retain the urine, and also those fibres a few inches up the passage, designed to throw out the urine with a jerk, are both under the influence of a Stricture, and when this Stricture is rendered irritable by any cause, the action of these muscular fibres is quickly disordered. It is in this way that spasm

in these muscles is so often brought on in persons after drinking,—the excitement of wine and company having made the Stricture irritable. In this state perhaps he goes out of the room to make water, but finds he cannot make a drop. The fact is, the moment a drop of urine touches the irritable strictured part, the muscles of the mouth of the bladder are thrown into a state of spasm which prevents the urine passing. Neither can you always draw it off, in this case, by the catheter or hollow bougie. The best plan is to foment with warm water and take an opiate. If this will not do, bleeding and the warm bath must be superadded. So also, in passing a bougie, if the Stricture has been rendered irritable by any such cause, the moment it presses on it, these muscles are thrown into spasmodic action which hinders its passing through. In this case keep the bougie gently pressing on the Stricture for eight or ten minutes,—it will frequently succeed by this means,—if not, desist, and give an opiate, &c., as before directed. In some hours afterwards perhaps you may pass it easily.

But there is another state of things for which the bougie is a remedy, beside a Stricture, and that is, a simple state of tenderness (without a Stricture) in some point or other of the passage. Being led to examine the passage from symptoms warranting the suspicion of a Stricture, it is found that the bougie passes perfectly well, so far as obstruction is con-

cerned, but, that in passing some certain point a great degree of pain is felt. This disorder is different from a Stricture, inasmuch as it consists merely in a morbid or increased degree of sensibility, but it is to be treated exactly as though it were a Stricture. Pass the bougie, a medium, or above a medium size, every day, or every other day, as the degree of irritation will admit, and keep the bowels and digestive organs in a regulated and healthy state. The effect of this treatment, very generally, is to lessen and ultimately remove this morbid sensibility. If therefore, on every time of passing it, you find the pain and tenderness becomes less and less, you may depend upon a perfect cure, as well as the cessation of every symptom which originated from it.

Thus have I finished the subject of dilatable Stricture,—its symptoms, nature, consequences, and cure. It is gratifying to have been able to point out an easy and practical remedy for so formidable a disease. But, this remedy has often been doubted by patients. They have said,—is it possible that an operation so simple can cure a disease so incurable and dangerous under any other means?—The best answer to this, it might be replied, is the daily occurrence of the fact; but, as some may not have had an opportunity of witnessing an instance of it, and as the intelligent and discerning mind of others may require some explanation of the power by which it does so, I will endeavor to give this explanation in

a note (17)—repeating however,—*there is no other way of curing Stricture.*

With regard to the confirmed or callous Stricture, I will not go into the minutiae of its treatment, because I do not consider that the cure of this should ever be undertaken by the patient. The object aimed at, however, is to promote absorption of the callous body, and for this purpose metallic bougies are more useful, and these should be continued in the part for

Note 17.—Every part and structure of the body is endowed with its own peculiar power of action; also, every part is endowed with a restoring power, the activity of which is aroused by every deviation from the natural and healthy condition of a part. This is no fiction. Indeed every restoration from disease to health is an illustration as well as a proof of such a principle. Numerous as are the laws which regulate and maintain the healthy actions of the body, these are not more numerous and important than those which influence and control its morbid actions. A Stricture is, essentially, a morbid action—a deviation from the healthy and natural condition of a part;—it has lost its natural power of elasticity, and if that morbid action which destroyed this elasticity could be removed, the principle I allude

to would instantly restore that power.

Now, the Bougie does this. The pressure and excitement of the bougie, upon this delicate structure, breaks up and destroys this morbid action, and the healthy one immediately succeeds—the natural elasticity of the passage is restored.

On the same principle also are the confirmed and callous strictures cured. Every part of the body is endowed with the principle of absorption. The bougie, in this case, not only destroys the morbid action essential to the Stricture, but powerfully excites the action of the absorbing vessels, which is the means of removing that callosity. Indeed the cure of Stricture is affected by the bougie on the same general principle on which every other disease is cured,—it interrupts or destroys a morbid action, when a healthy one succeeds.

some hours at the time. The caustic bougie is altogether unfit for private use, and is only required in very peculiar circumstances, when it is a valuable means.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Gonorrhœa in the Eyes, and Gonorrhœal Rheumatism.*

This subject is introduced, not for the purpose of inducing a patient to undertake the cure of these complaints himself, but of apprizing him of their real nature and dangerous tendency, particularly the former, and urging him to lose no time in securing that surgical and prompt advice they need. Fortunately, these complaints are not of every day occurrence. Now and then, however, a person who is under treatment for a Gonorrhœa will be suddenly seized with a most severe Ophthalmia. This complaint runs on with great rapidity, and, if not speedily arrested, it accomplishes the total loss of sight. It begins with great severity of pain and a copious discharge of matter. In such a case there is not a moment to be lost—the advice of a surgeon should be sought. But, as it is possible, and, especially if the physician or surgeon have practised principally in the country, that he may not have seen many cases of this kind; and also, for the benefit of those who may be at sea, and cannot obtain the advice and assistance of a surgeon; or, again, for those who may be obliged to wait some time for his arrival, I will give, in the

form of a note below (18), an outline of the treatment which is recommended by the most experienced and competent men in Europe.

Note 18.—In Mackenzie's Practical Treatment of the diseases of the Eye, he directs the following for this kind of ophthalmia.—“Abstinence from all stimulants; blood-letting, both general and local; and the exhibition of purgatives, or emetic-purgatives, and diaphoretics, are to be had resource to in the early stage.” The discharge is to be frequently and carefully removed by injecting under the eyelids, a lotion made with a grain of the muriate of Mercury to an ounce or more of water; the globe of the eye is to be touched once or twice a day with a solution of Lunar Caustic—(four grains to an ounce of water; or, six grains of blue Vitriol to an ounce of water. These are to be used with a camel-hair pencil.) Also, the lids are to be kept from adhering by anointing the edges of them with the red precipitate Ointment. “Counter-irritation ought to be employed from the very first, by means of mustard poultices and blisters to the nape of the neck, between the shoulders, or behind the ears.” “If the pain of the eye is pulsative—or the parts around it are affected with pain coming on at night—Calomel and Opium should be given, so as to affect the mouth. Warm for-

mentations, the vapor of laudanum, opiate friction of the head, and the like, will seem to moderate the pain; but our chief reliance must be placed on depletion, counter-irritation, scarification, and smarting applications to the globe of the eye itself for removing the disease. Snipping out a portion of the chemosed membrane (the outer membrane of the eye, whose vessels are gorged with blood) so as to procure a considerable flow of blood, is highly serviceable.”

“Bleeding alone must not be depended on.”

“This inflammation,” (says Mr. Barcet, another eminent and practical man) in the few instances that have come under my observation, is of the most violent and intractable description, and has produced the total destruction of the organ of vision, in the space of two or three days, notwithstanding the most vigorous employment of general and topical bleeding, and other antiphlogistic means.”

To the truth of all this I can attest, upon the ground of my own observation and experience, and I judge it therefore exceedingly desirable that persons should be aware of the dangerous nature and rapidity of this complaint, that they may not be induced

With respect to the manner in which the eyes become affected with Gonorrhœa, there has been a difference of opinion. Three explanations have been given of it. First, that it was owing to carelessness, such as inadvertently rubbing the eye with the fingers after handling the penis under the discharge of Gonorrhœa; next, that it was owing to the Gonorrhœa affecting the constitution, when, like Rheumatism, it may change its seat from place to place; and thirdly, that it was the consequence of stopping the discharge of Gonorrhœa too suddenly.

Respecting the two latter explanations, these certainly are possible but very doubtful causes. With regard to the former, that is, innoculating the eyes by applying Gonorrhœal matter to them, this, beyond a doubt, has been known to be a cause.

Formerly I was not so well aware of these facts, but I find they stand upon unquestionable authority, and in order that others may judge correctly and be careful on this point, I will relate an instance or two in a note (19).

to trifle away the only chance of cure, for it is on the prompt and decisive treatment in the early stage alone that the invaluable sense of sight depends.

Note 19.—Mackenzie, on diseases of the Eye, page 344, states—"A patient was bro't

to me from the country with violent Ophthalmia. This patient having Gonorrhœa, while engaged in removing the discharge from the urinary canal, a drop of the Gonorrhœal fluid was by mischance thrown fairly in upon his left eye, and excited the severe puro mucous ophthalmia un-

With respect to the question whether or no there are such diseases as Ophthalmia from too suddenly stopping the discharge in Gonorrhœa; and Ophthalmia arising from the constitution embued with Gonorrhœal disease, it is not necessary here to determine; many persons think there are, and I have no proof to offer that it is not so; moreover, the cases we occasionally meet with here and there in the various periodicals would seem to corroborate such opinion. As I have already said however, if there really be

der which he was laboring. The Gonorrhœa still continued when I saw him. The inflammation of the eye subsided under appropriate means, the eye cleared to a degree far beyond my expectations, and a considerable share of vision was preserved."

Mr. Allan relates the following remarkable case. "A gentleman, aged 17 years, had had Gonorrhœa a few days, when violent inflammation of the eye, attended with a discharge similar to that from the urinary canal burst forth. The gonorrhœal running from the penis continuing unabated at the same time. In a few days his brother, aged 14—who never had had venereal disease in any way but who slept in the same room, was attacked with a similar ophthalmia in both eyes. In addition to my own attendance, Drs. Munn and Mr. Is. Bell, of Edinburgh, were called in, and notwithstanding every means that could be

devised, the elder brother lost the sight of both his eyes, and the younger brother of one. No doubt the younger used the same towel, or wash-hand basin, or the like."

Again, the very eminent and practical Astruc relates a case exceedingly in point. "A young man had been in the habit every morning of bathing his eyes with his urine while it was yet warm, in order to strengthen his sight. Although he had contracted a Gonorrhœa, he did not abstain from this custom, apprehending no harm from it; but the urine partaking of the infectious matter, quickly communicated the same disease to the mucous membrane which covers the eye and eyelids (the conjunctiva). The consequence was a severe ophthalmia, attended with an acrid and involuntary discharge of tears and purulent matter, but which yielded to the same remedies which removed the Gonorrhœa."

such cases they are very rare, and I have no doubt that many of those cases of Ophthalmia, as well as Rheumatism, which are there related, have been diseases which happened to occur at a time when the patient was laboring under Gonorrhœa, and had really no other connexion than their accidentally occurring at the same time. But, as I have said, as some persons think otherwise I will give in the following note 20, (principally for the perusal of medical men) the peculiar treatment which such persons have adapted who have thus thought.

Note 20.—*Treatment of those cases of Ophthalmia which are supposed to arise from too suddenly stopping the discharge.*—Of course this kind of Ophthalmia includes only that in which the discharge is stopped. On this subject Mr. Makenzie (page 376) observes—"The only point in which the treatment of this ophthalmia differs from the former, is in the attempt, so much recommended by some authors, to restore the suppressed discharge of the urethra. This is to be done by introducing a bougie into the urethra, covered with some of the purulent discharge from the eye, or with Gonorrhœal matter from another subject. Even the simple introduction of the bougie may perhaps produce the effect so much desired; for any stimulus applied to the lining membrane of the urethra, provided it be

of sufficient activity to determine an irritation and a secretion of mucus, may produce a running similar to Gonorrhœa. If this plan is adopted the bougie must be retained in the urethra for several hours at the time, till the effect is produced."

*With regard to the treatment of those cases of Ophthalmia which are supposed to arise from the constitution being embued with Gonorrhœal disease,*—Scarcely any thing is recommended which differs from the treatment of a similar state of ophthalmia from cold or any common cause.

The discharge from the urinary passage may be present, or may not; and, it is worthy of remark, that when it has come on, not having been observed when the ophthalmia began, in many cases, the occurrence of discharge from the urethra has made no dif-

I fear I shall incur blame for having carried out this note to so great a length, but the consequence

ference in the symptoms of the ophthalmia. Notwithstanding this however, a celebrated writer upon Gonorrhœa—SWEDIAUR—advises “the use of the Bougie for a couple of hours,” with the intention of bringing on discharge.

This kind of ophthalmia, too, is less severe than the former, or that arising from matter applied immediately to the eye;—it is of a more chronic nature, and begins in the eyelids in the form of little ulcers from which a yellowish matter exudes; while in the former kind, the whole surface of the globe of the eye and inner surface of the lids are affected with redness and swelling,—the matter discharged also is profuse and frequently acrid and excoriating to the outer lid and surrounding skin.

Abernethy, in his *Surgical Lectures*, calls it *irritable Ophthalmia*, and ascribes it to an irritable state of the constitution in which the bowels and digestive organs deeply participate. When this state of the constitution is brought on, either by the Gonorrhœa, or the means adapted to cure it, he states that either this Ophthalmia, or Rheumatism, may occur; or that they may both occur, alternating with each other, even alternating with the disease of the urethra, and that the proper way

of treating it, beside soothing applications to the eye, is to give five grains of blue pill every night and a dose of castor oil in the morning, keeping the patient on a strict spare diet. In support of this opinion he gives the following case.

A gentleman who had been anxiously endeavoring to get appointed commander of a frigate while in the country, at length received instruction from the admiralty to take command of a frigate then lying at Falmouth. He lost no time in placing himself in the mail coach for London. Just before he left Edinburgh he had caught a Gonorrhœa. In January his eyes became inflamed; and when he reached London, he had a violent Ophthalmia, with purulent discharge. He was in a dreadful state both of body and mind, could not bear the light, and had great pain in his eyes. In this state he consulted Mr. Abernethy. He stated also that when the discharge from the urethra stopped, the eyes became bad, and when the eyes got well the Gonorrhœa returned. In this state Mr. Abernethy directed him to keep quiet in a darkened room, to wash his eyes frequently in the course of the day with tepid poppy water, to take five grains of blue pill every night, and a dose of

of delay or any misconception of the nature of this malady, especially that of innoculating the eye with

castor oil next morning, and to live strictly low. "During the first six days he mended very slowly, and not considerably. But on the seventh day, when Mr. A. called, he found the patient sitting up in his room, the window uncovered, and his eyes almost well. Mr. A. expressed his surprise, and asked how this change had so suddenly happened, to which he answered, that he had had a number of very copious stools in the night, and that his complaints had left him. It seemed to be a sort of critical secretion from the liver and the whole of the alimentary canal, followed by an almost immediate removal of the irritable inflammation of the eye."

Mr. Abernethy also takes occasion to warn persons against mistaking this Ophthalmia arising from an irritable state of the constitution and digestive organs, for that following innoculation, or the immediate application of Gonorrhœal matter to the eye, for the means recommended for the first would add to the irritability and debility of the constitution, and increase the disorder. His words are, that, "if the surgeon is frightened at this irritable ophthalmia, supposing it to be one of the dreadful cases in which the eye is clapped, and proceeds to bleed and purge the patient

severely, he will only make the matter worse. Moderate bleeding," he says, "may be useful, but the chief object is to attend to the patient's health. No means are so likely to be useful as setting the digestive organs to rights, and sending the patients to the country."

*On the treatment of Rheumatism, from the same supposed Gonorrhœal taint of the Constitution,* but little can be recommended in addition to what is approved in Rheumatism from other causes. The history of a case of this kind will best convey what is meant by this disease.

Major —, aged 25, contracted Gonorrhœa. In a fortnight he was seized with swelling of the testicle. When this abated pain and swelling of the right knee began; on travelling in an open carriage on the second day the other knee, foot, and joint of the great toe swelled. The pain was excruciating. He then came under the care of Sir Henry Hallford, (the king's physician) but no treatment seemed to possess any power in removing the complaint. Now, in addition, his right eye was suddenly attacked by a very violent inflammation which threatened destruction to the organ. He then gave up medicine and

Gonorrhœal matter, is so dreadful that I cannot possibly omit it. It need not however incommode the

went into the country for the restoration of his health, and after being there for about three weeks, the Gonorrhœa again increased without any abatement of the other symptoms. The joints so stiff and swollen he could hardly crawl about. Warm bath and a residence by sea were recommended. From the former he experienced little apparent benefit, but after a tedious convalescence of two years he found himself able to join his regiment in Spain.—He recovered the use of his limbs and had no return of his complaint though exposed to many hardships in the campaign of 1812, &c. &c. Two years after he again contracted Gonorrhœa, a very violent one. In a fortnight the discharge began to abate and violent inflammation attacked the great toe and foot. The disease then proceeded to his knees. As the violence of the inflammation of the knee abated, the left eye was attacked by violent Ophthalmia, and excited great alarm for its safety. It seemed to be deep seated in the coats of the eye. The sight of the right eye was also impaired. At the end of two years more, his knee joint was stiff and much swelled, and the urinary passage was all the time subject to returns of Gonorrhœal discharge.

I have given this case to show how possible it is for Rheumatism to occur when a patient is affected with a Gonorrhœa, and how easy it is to suppose it is the effect of Gonorrhœa, merely because it happened at such a time. But after all I see nothing in this case that differs from Rheumatism from common causes, and the present differs in no important point from others I have seen which have been thought to arise from Gonorrhœa. Rheumatism is frequently a tedious complaint; its peculiarity is, shifting from place to place, and in this way it will sometimes assume the character of inflammation of the eye, then of the joints, and will also sometimes alternate with disease of the urethra. Respecting the treatment of Gonorrhœal Rheumatism, if there be such, I am not aware of any particular in which it differs from the treatment of Rheumatism from any common cause. As it is possible however that some connexion may exist between the inflammation of the urethra and inflammation of the eye, in cases of the latter kind, occurring when the patient has Gonorrhœa at the time, I think the recommendation of Swediaur to employ the bougie is a safe and justifiable remedy.

general reader, for being given in a note he can easily pass it by, while, should he be threatened with this formidable turn of the disease, he would derive important advantage from its perusal. But, indeed, if by the prompt and decisive means which are urged in every instance of this kind, I should be so happy as to save the sight but of one individual, I would willingly incur that blame of every other.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Gonorrhœa in Females,—Its Nature and Treatment.*

THERE is no difference in this disorder in females but what arises from the difference in the organs which are the seat of it. Generally speaking, however, the inflammation attending is more diffused; in some cases it extends to the lower part of the belly, which makes it painful on pressure; also the urinary passage being shorter, it is more apt to produce irritation in the bladder than in males, so that there is a greater inclination to make water.—There are no ulcers in this disease, although the discharge is sometimes so irritating as to excoriate or take off the skin. There is almost always a swollen state of the external parts. There are however, some curious circumstances relating to this disorder in females which should be known,—the following are of this nature.

Generally speaking, the disease is milder in women than in men.

Also, a female may have a Gonorrhœa without her knowing it. This happens from the complaint

being of a milder character, and from her not discriminating between this disease and certain slighter forms of discharge which many females are subject to. It is most likely to occur in women of unrestrained intercourse, as such persons generally have the slightest forms of this disorder.

The same female may give a Gonorrhœa to one person and not to another. This arises from the habit and character of the person himself.—If he have pursued a life of free and unbridled intercourse, he is much less liable to receive infection than a fresh and healthy person of a contrary character; the latter will frequently take a Gonorrhœa from a female who has only a slight gleet discharge, when the former would escape it.

Again, a female may receive a Gonorrhœa from one person and give it to another without having it herself. This may appear strange, but it is a fact:—it happens in this way. A female has an interview with a person having a Gonorrhœa, and soon after sees a fresh and healthy person; this latter comes in contact with the infectious matter before it has had time to engender the disease, and removes it; the consequence is that *he* takes the Gonorrhœa and *she* escapes it; it is an incident which often leads to very puzzling surmises.

In the last place,—a female may always know, or

at least have reason to suspect she has an infectious disorder, when she has lately had a Gonorrhœa and a discharge remains, greater, or in any way different from, what she was accustomed to before she had the Gonorrhœa. Indeed, it is on this important truth, that the necessity of a speedy and perfect cure of Gonorrhœa is urged; for it is this remaining gleet and slight discharge which is the cause of most of the Gonorrhœas we meet with; and when the advice here given becomes more generally known and acted on, we shall but seldom hear of Gonorrhœa or Clap at all.

*The Treatment of Gonorrhœa in Females.*—

With respect to internal remedies, it should be known that neither the Cubebs, nor the Balsam of Copaiva, nor any of the other Balsams, are so useful in the cure of Gonorrhœa in females as in males,—they cannot therefore be depended on.—After subduing the inflammatory and painful symptoms by repeated doses of the Purgative-Diuretic Pills, together with the free use of diluting drinks, low diet, and rest, just as in males, *a speedy and effectual cure must then be looked for from the use of injections.* The injections, however, which are most serviceable in females are a little different from those of males; and, on this account, as well as that the quantity necessary to be used at each time is greater than in males, it will be proper here

to give receipts for making them,—especially as the ingredients can so easily be obtained.

The best cooling wash for this purpose is the common sugar of lead lotion, called the white wash ;—it is made by adding one drachm of sugar of lead to one pint of rain water,—adding also a table-spoon full of common vinegar to it.—On account of its cooling quality this lotion is generally used to begin with, especially as there is often some little remaining pain at that time. This too is a good lotion to be applied to the swelling of the external parts, and may also be used advantageously as an internal application. For the latter purpose a small piece of soft sponge wetted with the same should be introduced a little way and suffered to remain. It should be frequently removed to be washed and moistened afresh with the lotion.

Another excellent wash or injection, and which is more calculated to stop the discharge, is one of common green tea, made pretty strong.

A third injection, and still a little stronger, is made of three drachms of common alum dissolved in one pint of boiling water. If a little gum arabic (half an ounce) be added to this it will improve it.

A fourth and yet stronger injection is made by

adding one drachm of white vitriol to the one last mentioned.

A fifth injection is made by putting a lump or two of camphor (as much as the bulk of a nutmeg,) into a pint of hot water; when cold, strain the water from the undissolved camphor and add to it twenty grains of blue vitriol.

A sixth and last is made by boiling one ounce of bruised oak bark in a quart of water, till reduced to a pint and a half—then strain, and add to this, alum two drachms, and white vitriol one drachm.

These injections of course must be used by means of a female syringe, which can be procured at any apothecary's store, and they should be used about six times a day, and continued until the Gonorrhœa or any other discharge shall have entirely disappeared, and then must be discontinued by degrees.

With regard to the syringe for females in common use, this is a very poor contrivance. In order to have the full effect of an injection, the syringe should hold enough to fill the passage, and when filled it should be retained there. My own syringe is made to answer both these purposes, as many have happily experienced; for, after using the common syringe for a length of time to no good purpose, they have succeeded with this contrivance to their

fullest wishes. And, not only is this syringe so useful in the cure of Gonorrhœa and Gleet, but is equally so in the cure of that weakening complaint the whites, and female barrenness,—a subject on which some further and important observations may be seen in note 21 below.

Note 21.—A few remarks upon that insidious disorder termed 'Female Weakness,' or 'Whites,'—though not properly belonging to this subject may nevertheless prove useful here. This disorder consists, essentially, in a state of weakness, originating sometimes in a debility of the general system, and sometimes in the sexual organs alone. It may be induced by various causes, such as,—any long continued illness,—a damp unhealthy residence,—having children too fast,—sexual excesses,—Gonorrhœa, &c. &c. But in delicate and nervous females it frequently comes on without these intervening causes, and becomes as it were the settled habit of the constitution. It does not however thus invade the constitution without disturbing one of its most important functions, for it leads eventually to barrenness. There is also a most unfortunate coincidence to struggle with in those who are the subjects of this complaint, for it affects the constitution in such a way as to react upon, and increase the original disorder.

If, for instance, it originate in weakness of the sexual organs, this, sooner or later, involves and debilitates the constitution, and thus keeps up and augments the original weakness; or, if it begin in general nervous debility, this weakening discharge occurring, greatly augments that nervous debility. There is scarcely a complaint under which the constitution suffers more, and has less power to overcome without the aid of suitable assistance. This may be clearly seen by reflecting on the influence which the uterine system is wont to exert upon the stomach and digestive organs.—That train of distressing symptoms which so frequently occurs in a state of pregnancy, is a striking illustration of this fact. Numerous as these are they all proceed from the effect the uterus has upon the stomach, enfeebling and deranging its digestive functions. The very same effects are produced by this complaint, the "whites," but with this difference, the disorder of the digestive organs from pregnancy is but for a limited duration, while that

The apparatus now alluded to also affords a most convenient way of curing Gonorrhœa in females

from weakness of the sexual organs is unlimited and perpetual. Again, by tracing the sad inroad this disorder makes upon the constitution, it will be further seen how justly it merits every care and anxiety to remove it; for, beside the disappointment of a family, which it is frequently the cause of, there is nothing which more certainly fades the youthful countenance, and prematurely leads to the failings and infirmities of age. The first effect of this never-ceasing influence on the stomach is to weaken its digestive power, by which the blood becomes poor and watery. This is seen by that pale and sunken countenance, or bloated state of body, which always more or less attends it. Then follows an unequal circulation of the blood, the strength of the body, being not sufficient to maintain its equal distribution, some parts have too little and some too much; the feet are generally cold, marking too low a circulation in them, while the head is almost always overcharged, frequently leading the sufferer to suppose that bleeding would do good, than which, by the way, nothing would be more disastrous. Head-ache, however, arising from this cause, is one only of a long train of nervous symp-

toms, varying in degree and kind, but continuing to harass and embitter life to its very latest moments. A just and clearer apprehension of so serious a disorder, therefore, than is generally entertained, can scarcely fail to secure a due and proper attention to the following account of its cure and treatment. In the first place, as this is a disorder which so greatly weakens the digestive organs, and through these the constitution, so the constitution scarcely can be strengthened, while the original disease is suffered to remain; it therefore becomes expedient to prescribe both for the local weakness of the sexual organs, and that of the general constitution at one and the same time, and this makes the use of a syringe absolutely necessary.—But upon the kind of syringe used very much depends.—The syringes in common use, as I have observed before, are not adapted to the purpose, and it is chiefly on this account that we so frequently hear of incurable and tedious cases. Having been myself physician to a Dispensary in London, instituted chiefly for the disorders of women and children, I have had abundant opportunities of observing this fact, and here I would repeat that they

where it is necessary to do it privately; for being intended professedly to cure the Whites, it is frequently availed of to cure the one disease under the name of the other.

*For the convenience of those who consult me at a distance, the female syringe, together with ingredients for making the injections and every other necessary medicine, including also an explanatory treatise on these diseases, are put up in a little mahogany chest with lock and key, and which is forwarded by steamboat or stage, to any distance. The price of the Chest complete is \$20 00 The female syringe and ingredients for the cure of Gonorrhœa alone, is \$10. My consultation fee, without the Medicine, &c. is \$5.*

With these remarks I finish the subject of Gonorrhœa and Gleet in females, and when it is con-

are deficient in two respects; in the first place they do not hold fluid enough to fill and moderately distend the passage, and next they have no means for retaining the injected fluid for a due and proper time. These deficiencies lead to the contrivance of my "FEMALE SYRINGE," and which I am happy to say is found to answer most completely. Many who had failed with the common syringe in connexion with a variety

of other means, have perfectly succeeded with this more convenient, simple, and efficient apparatus.

The treatment of this complaint therefore consists in the use of injections, together with such internal remedies as tend to re-establish the vigor of the body, but more especially the function of the sexual organs, a more minute account of which is given in the Treatise which accompanies the Syringe.

sidered that so long as any discharge remaining after Gonorrhœa exists, so long there is a possibility of preading the disorder to a second person, a sufficient reason will be seen for laying so great a stress on curing Gleet at once, and doing so by injections, for it scarcely can be cured in any reasonable time, without them. We now proceed with *Venereal disease*, properly so called.

## SECOND PART.

ON

# VENEREAL DISEASE,

(PROPERLY SO CALLED.)

## CHAPTER I.

*Veneral Disease,—Its distinguishing marks,—  
Its Nature,—Progress,—And General Principle of Cure.*

*Veneral Disease*,—In the first place, should be carefully distinguished from Gonorrhœa. In common conversation, the word venereal is often used in a general way to express both the one and the other, but this is not a proper way of speaking, for no two diseases can differ more, either in their nature, train of symptoms, consequences, or modes of cure. It is true, as was stated in the second chapter, that *Veneral*, (which also by some is called the pox) is caught in the same way as Gonorrhœa, and that both may be taken at the same time, if the female happen to be affected with both diseases; still let it be remembered they are distinct and very differ

ent complaints. And this is the more important to explain, inasmuch as I find continually, that among those who apply to me, very many have been taking, in Gonorrhœa, the medicines that were intended only for the Venereal; and, in Venereal, nostrums intended for the Gonorrhœa. Now the medicines that are proper in Gonorrhœa never can cure Venereal, neither can those proper for Venereal ever cure a Gonorrhœa,—hence so much waste of time and disappointment. And this is not the worst of it, for this mistake cannot be made without injury to the constitution, so that when the proper and necessary medicines are given in either complaint, especially in Venereal, the constitution is less able to bear them with impunity.

In place then of a disease beginning with pain and heat in making water, and a discharge issuing from the urinary passage, as in Gonorrhœa; the Venereal disease begins with an ulcer or sore on some external part or other of the Genital organs. It may begin in any part, but it is seen most frequently on the extremity or nut of the yard, or upon the internal surface of the skin which covers it, for the reason that the texture of the skin in these places is thinner than elsewhere; and, as the skin forms a bridle under the head of the yard making a little fold which is calculated to retain the Venereal fluid, the sore is perhaps oftener found there than in any other place.—There may be at first more than

one sore, but this does not often happen.—These parts are subject to other diseases beside the Venereal, and which are infectious too, but these appear in crops, while the real Venereal generally commences with one solitary sore, and that usually appears at some period between the 2d and 7th day after exposure. The little ulcer then begins and proceeds in this way. First, there is a little pimple, but this is so small and attended with so little pain that it is often not observed until it breaks. When it breaks, however, it forms an ulcer which differs from every other ulcer in these parts or elsewhere, and is what is called a chancre. Now, the principle difference between a Venereal chancre and other ulcers, is, that the Venereal chancre is surrounded with a hard thick feeling substance which extends around and underneath it. This is so peculiar to the Venereal ulcer that you may always judge of its nature by it. If therefore at any time you are in doubt about the nature of a sore upon the genital organs, just take hold of it between your thumb and finger, and pinch it up a little, and, if you find it has this hard-feeling edge and base, then it is Venereal, you may be quite sure it is so. But, although you may be quite sure a sore is venereal if it have this hard feeling edge and base, you are not to be quite sure it is *not* venereal if it be wanting; for, as I shall presently have to show, this hardness is sometimes slow in forming, and sometimes it forms imperfectly. It is however a valuable criterion, for whenever it is pre-

sent it settles the question at once—it is Venereal. But, as I have just now said, a sore on the genitals may be Venereal, and yet not have this thick hardfeel,—what is to be done then? The following. If it be a recent sore, wait a little and do nothing to it but watch its progress and keep it clean—washing it often with water or soap and water. If it is Venereal, in a few days in all probability, it will form its peculiar edge and base. There are but very few instances of Venereal sore which do not in some degree or other, present this character. But if this should not appear, or only in a slight degree, then some other characters must be looked for. Now, another peculiarity of a Venereal chancre is to eat deep into the part, rather than to spread; then, again, the surface of the sore is of a yellowish brown color—or is as if it were coated with a tough layer of matter of this color,—it is quite different from other florid red sores which are frequently seen on these parts. Also, except any thing has happened to inflame or fret it, there is very seldom much pain about a Venereal sore. Perhaps the most correct description of a clear and well marked Venereal chancre is that given by John Hunter—a great and eminent surgeon and the first writer who gave to the world any definite and systematic view of this disease. His words are these “a Venereal chancre is a sore of a somewhat circular form, excavated, without granulations, (that is without little red points or eminences on the surface of a sore, which

“denote its healthy and healing state) with matter adhering to its surface, and with a thickened edge and base.” It will be well to keep this short and correct description of a Venereal chancre in mind, as it will serve to compare ulcers of any other kind with it. It is not however to be supposed that every venereal chancre will exactly agree with it in every respect, for peculiarities of constitution and other circumstances have their effect upon a chancre, as well as upon sores of any other kind, and will sometimes prevent their perfect development of character, still there will be always enough about Venereal sores resembling the picture of it given by Hunter, to show their true nature, and those features which are wanting to make the resemblance perfect, may often be accounted for. For instance, the sore may have commenced in a little laceration or tearing of the skin,—Venereal matter having come in contact with it. In this case it is sometime, a week or two before it looks like any thing more than a common tear of the skin, and when the hardness does form, it forms slowly, in this case also, the ulcer, instead of being circular and deep, is irregular, superficial, and broad. Still you see it does not heal up by simply washing, as a common sore would do. So also, if the person has been foolishly dabbing with mercury,—that is to say, has been taking enough to influence the sore, but not to cure the disease, this, it is well known will prevent the formation of its true character for a while, but when it is left off, and the

part merely kept clean for the sake of watching its progress, this characteristic hardness of edge and base, or some other venereal peculiarity will appear, so as to enable you to judge safely as to its real nature. Let it however be remarked, it is not said, that a sore upon the genital organs in no case can possibly be Venereal without this peculiar hardness of its edge and base, for rarely exceptions do occur. The Venereal disease for instance, has been communicated without any sore at all, the matter having been absorbed by the thin and tender skin without ulceration. And again, the chancre has appeared in some rare instances after a swelling in the groin had taken place for many days. And further, there have been known such things as Venereal sores whose edges have been thin, having no hardness at all; but all these are very rare occurrences, and such would not have been worth while to perplex the reader with, were it not for the necessity of acknowledging candidly the fact. When these deviations occur, we also get assistance in forming an opinion from our knowledge of the character of each party—the time the sore appears after exposure,—and any peculiarity of constitution or circumstances we can become acquainted with.

This therefore is all that need be said on the distinguishing marks of the Venereal disease, especially as I shall refer to the subject again in the next chapter—that on diseases which resemble Venereal,

*The Nature of Venereal Disease.*—But little however need be said on this subject. Venereal disease (in many books called Syphilis) is well known to be infectious. It is communicated very much like inoculation of small pox, only in that case it is done by slightly cutting the skin with a lancet and then applying small-pox matter to the sore, whereas in Venereal the matter is so infectious that it is received without a breach of the skin, especially in those parts where it is very thin, as on the genitals; it is however much more sure to take if the skin of these parts should be torn or abraded.—It is most generally communicated by sexual intercourse, though it may be given and taken in a more innocent way, such as kissing, or suckling an infant, and in these unsuspected ways it has been most disastrous and fatal. It is a disease which scarcely ever, perhaps never, wears itself out, but, unless cured by art, continues for years, undergoing different forms until the miserable sufferer dies, generally as though he were in a decline. If however mercury has been taken but not in such a way as to cure the disease, the patient then may live many years, and the original disorder become so altered as scarcely to present any symptoms by which its Venereal character can be judged of. Further, it differs from most other contagious diseases, inasmuch as they, when they have once occurred, leave the constitution protected against their recurrence for ever. The small pox, measles, hooping cough, and

others do this; and even typhus fever leaves the constitution safe from a fresh attack for a long while; but with respect to the Venereal disease, this may be cured and taken afresh a hundred times; and, indeed, may be taken again the next moment after being cured, if exposed at such a time.

*The Progress of Venereal Disease.*—This is a subject worthy of much attention.—The symptoms of this disorder are divided into two classes—the primary and the secondary symptoms. The primary are those which appear first, and consist of the Chancre, of which we have spoken, and swelling in the groin, called Buboës. The secondary symptoms are those which arise out of the constitution when the disease has not been thoroughly cured in its first stage, but has been left in the constitution. It is a curious fact, that there are certain parts of the body that this disorder attacks in a regular order of succession, and it seldom attacks one of these parts before the other out of that order; when therefore a chancre has been only healed up, as by caustic, or an ignorant and ineffectual use of mercury, without really curing the disease, then, at some period, usually before the end of the second month after laying aside all remedies, it will appear again, not however in its original place, the Genital organs, but in the throat, and sometimes the throat and skin together, and this is called the constitutional or secondary form of the disease. Then, if mercury is again resorted to,

but not so as thoroughly to cure the disease, the skin and throat may appear to get well, but after another period it will be seen again on the skin, sometimes in the same, and sometimes in a little different form of blotch, or scab, or sore. Thus it may appear and disappear many times upon the skin, until at length it assumes a totally different form,—such as tumors and thickenings of the bones, attended with severe pain at night. This then is the usual order in which the secondary symptoms of Venereal disease appear,—first in the throat, then the skin, or throat and skin together, and then in the bones; it is generally a long time however before the bones become affected.

*The general Principle of its Cure.*—This consists in introducing mercury into the system; and the principle on which this remedy cures, is, by instituting a peculiar action in the constitution, and maintaining that action for a certain time, or for a period which experience has taught is sufficient effectually to destroy the morbid action—the disease itself. Formerly it was supposed there was no other possible way of curing Venereal disease but by mercury, but this, later observation has shown us to be incorrect. More than twenty years ago it was stated as a fact, that Venereal disease could be cured without mercury, and, as much and serious mischief was frequently observed from mercury, given by ignorant advertising people, that announcement was joyfully received. Many however doubted it, and some con-

tinue still to doubt it, but the fact itself is well established, and from it has risen what is called *the non-mercurial treatment*. Allowing, however, all that may be claimed for the non-mercurial treatment, the question is,—which is the best?—Many things, we know, are possible, but may not be expedient. Now, my own opinion is, decidedly, that the mercurial treatment is the best, the most convenient, and the surest, and I think so for these two reasons;—first, because the non-mercurial treatment requires retirement, chiefly in bed, and induces so much weakness from antimonial medicines and low living, that it is often a long time before the patient can return to business or ordinary labor;—and next, because the evils said to arise from mercury have not necessarily arisen from this medicine, but from the ignorance of those who have given it. It is the abuse and not the proper use of mercury therefore, which should be feared.

And further, with regard to the first of these reasons—the inconvenience of, and the weakness induced by, the non-mercurial plan,—in this I am well supported by Dr. Colles of Dublin, who is considered to have written one of the best practical works on Venereal disease that has ever yet been offered to the world, and whose opinion I will give in his own words, (note 22) and which I would re-

Note 22.—Upon the subject of the non-mercurial treatment of Venereal disease, Dr. Colles observes—“I shall not, with my limited experience of this plan of treatment, at-

commend to the perusal of those who have any doubt upon the subject.

tempt to enter into a detailed account of its application to particular symptoms; I shall only offer a few general remarks. When this plan first attracted the notice of the surgeons of Great Britain, both my colleagues and myself adopted it in our Hospital. In general we confined this treatment to men who had not used any mercury; but, as in Dublin it is extremely difficult to meet with venereal cases in the Hospital who have not applied to some apothecary, or received medicines at a dispensary, we could not adopt it as the general practice of the institution. However, we tried it till we all became convinced of this fact,—that it was not suited to patients who were obliged to earn their bread by labor; for we saw that after they had left the Hospital, and got into employment, they generally found themselves weak, and unequal to their usual labor; and often, at the end of two or three months, they returned emaciated, pale, and enfeebled, in consequence of the hectic form of fever which was about to usher in a new series of venereal symptoms. Their stay in the Hospital also proved, in general, very protracted; so that they became impatient of this treatment, especially when they saw others with similar symptoms, in the same ward, have

their complaints more quickly cured by the use of Mercury. In private practice also, I employed it for a time; but not finding it superior in point of quickness of cure, or of security against a relapse, and observing that these relapses were more frequently reiterated, in a short time I ceased to employ it, except at the express solicitation of the patient. But I had many opportunities of witnessing the results of the practice of some of my brethren, who adopted it more fully. Of course I could not know much of those cases in which this practice was successful; but in many of those who suffered from secondary symptoms, and from relapses of the different series of secondary symptoms, I had melancholy proof that this treatment was too often unequal to remove syphilis. No doubt fewer of the non-mercurial patients complained of affections of the bones, than those who had been ineffectually treated with mercury; but I saw instances of closed pupil and blindness, produced by venereal inflammation in the eye, which had been neglected, not having been considered as venereal symptoms. I have seen many cases where soft parts of the throat had suffered severe mutilations; and, above all, I had too many opportunities of watch-

Dr. Colles, however, does not deny the value of the fact itself. Every fact is valuable, and this especially as it lead to the correction of an error which prevailed for many years, viz.—that the constitution, unaided by mercury, had no power to cure Venereal disease. Now, the principal value of this fact is this,—that it presents a second line of treatment for this disorder; and, as there are constitutions, or peculiar combinations of disorders with Venereal which utterly forbid the use of mercury, so the value of this second line of treatment in such cases becomes, indeed, incalculable.

ing the very slow and silent, but sure inroads, which the often repeated attacks of secondary symptoms made on the constitutions of the patients; of witnessing the phenomenon, that the venereal disease, from year to year, showed itself with less striking characteristics, while other diseases appeared to spring up; so that, for some months before the death of such patients, it would require a close examination to discover the one or two slightly marked symptoms of syphilis which remained; and also required close research to trace the symptoms of apparently the last and fatal disease to its true source, the infection of syphilis. But on tracing the state of health, from the primary ulcer down to the final and fatal disease, I could clearly see that at no

period was the unhappy sufferer altogether free from venereal disease; so that both the patients and their friends, in many instances, lost sight of the original syphilitic disease, and referred the death to some other apparent cause, such as dropsy, or some disease of the lungs. Nor is it to be wondered at, that non-professional persons should form such an erroneous opinion, seeing that the course of some of these fatal cases had occupied a period of four or five years, between the appearance of the primary ulcer (the chancre) and the fatal event. In a word, after the experience of one years' full trial of the non-mercurial plan, we have since, in our hospital practice, only employed it rarely, and generally in very mild slight cases of primary symptoms.

And, again, with respect to the inexpediency of the non-mercurial plan, we have on this point the generous testimony of one of the first who proved that the disorder could be cured without the aid of mercury. In general, even great men are too much wedded to their own discoveries, and are blind to the real merits of those they wish to supercede, but it was not so with this eminent individual, for we hear him frankly state, that, though he had proved the efficacy of the non-mercurial treatment, he would by no means recommend the plan. Mr. Rose, of whom I now speak, also, was surgeon of one of the regiments of the Guards, and from the strict discipline of their hospital practice, he had the advantage of knowing that the men took nothing but what he directed. His observations and opinions therefore are peculiarly worthy of respect and confidence. Now, the facts which Mr. Rose related, and which may be seen in Sir Astley Cooper's Lectures upon Surgery, are these;—he found that the first appearance of Venereal—the Chancre—could be easily cured without mercury, but that out of every three patients so treated, one was afterwards afflicted with secondary, or constitutional disease. If, again, these secondary symptoms were still treated without mercury, and disappeared, they would come again, and again disappear. But not being satisfied with this, Sir Astley Cooper put the question to him,—“Now, Sir, said he, if a gentleman were to come under your care, what would you do,—would you give him mer-

cury or not?" To which Mr. Rose replied, *I should certainly give my patient mercury!*—And Sir Astley then goes on to say, "*I advise you to do the same.* I will not declare that those persons are dishonest who recommend a contrary practice; but, "if they had seen what I have, I am sure they would still place their reliance on the use of Mercury."

And also with regard to my second reason for preferring mercury, I repeat that most of the evils which are laid to the charge of mercury have arisen, not from its proper use, but its great abuse. It is astonishing to see what ignorance respecting the use of mercury prevails, especially among that boasting class of advertising people, some of whom may be seen to have three or four advertisements in one little paper daily. It is however highly important to be acquainted with several facts regarding mercury, as well as with certain rules to regulate its dose and its continuance or discontinuance under the varied circumstances which occur, and this I will endeavor to give as plainly as possible in the chapter following the next, on the subject of *the use and the abuse of mercury.*

## CHAPTER II.

*On certain complaints which resemble Venereal disease, and sometimes arise from sexual intercourse, but which, nevertheless, are not Venereal, nor can be treated as such without the greatest disadvantage. Persons affected with these complaints are often cruelly imposed on by advertising people.*

In Chapter the 3d I undertook to show that the genital organs are subject to several disorders resembling *Gonorrhœa*, which are not really so, but which, however, either from ignorance or knavery, are taken for that disease and treated as such. The evils arising from this dishonorable conduct are there also correctly pointed out. But, if the consequences of taking every casual disorder of these parts for *Gonorrhœa* be so lamentable, the misfortune of taking them for *Venereal*, and treating them accordingly, is ten times more disastrous. It will therefore be my object here, first to show that such innocent diseases do occur, and next, how to know them.

That the genital organs are subject to other diseases beside the *Venereal*, must be evident to every one who will for a moment consider the struc-

ture of these parts.—The external organs, for instance, are covered with a continuation of the same structure which covers the surface of the body, and therefore must be subject to most of the diseases which the skin is subject to. If, therefore, a cut or tear were to happen to these parts, this would proceed in the same manner it would do in any other part of the body. Suppose, for example, a simple cut were to happen on any other part; this, in good health, if kept clean, would soon get well. But suppose the health were not good, or, instead of being protected from any cause of irritation, putrid and offensive matter were applied to the wound,—would it then get well? Certainly not, but would inflame and degenerate into what the surgeons call “an ill-conditioned ulcer.” Now this happens continually to the genital organs. Under excitement perhaps a little laceration or tear takes place, but this, in good health and kept clean, soon gets well; if, however, on the contrary, cleanliness were not observed, or if any offensive and acrimonious discharge of the female were applied to the laceration, then it would not do well, but would inflame and become an obstinate, suspicious, ill-conditioned sore. Still, it would not be *Veneréal*, and to treat it as *Veneréal* would be to expose the patient to the possible destruction of the parts, and certainly to much needless anxiety and suffering. Some females are very apt to have the natural secretions of the sexual organs increased in quantity, and when, from any accidental cause,

they are altered in quality also, irritation and ulceration after connexion are the frequent consequences of it.

Another cause of ulceration arises from want of cleanliness in men. Sometimes the natural secretion under the fore-skin becomes increased in quantity, and, if it is suffered to accumulate, it irritates and inflames. The discharge from this cause may be considerable, and then it is often taken for a Gonorrhœa; at other times it ulcerates rather than excoriates, and then it is taken for Venereal disease.

Again, a Stricture in the urethra, as has been already noticed, is, now and then, the cause of little ulcers on the penis, which are very apt to be mistaken for Venereal sores.

There is still another kind of ulceration arising from Venereal disorder partly cured by mercury and partly uncured. The organs of generation, as well as other parts of the body, are subject to them. They have however but very little of the nature of Venereal in them, nor are they to be treated as Venereal. Many call these ulcers "Pseudo-Syphilitic, or Bastard Venereal," of which I shall presently have to speak.

There may be also other disorders of these parts which are occasionally mistaken for Venereal, but

those which I have mentioned are the most common, and with a little care can easily be distinguished. Indeed there is something so peculiar in Venereal disease—something so unlike diseases of any other kind, that, if its progress be not hastily interrupted by ignorance or officiousness, it will be easy to distinguish it from every other. The first thing is to get acquainted with the genuine peculiar character of a true Venereal sore, and, in any particular case in which there is a doubt, just wait a little, and if it be Venereal, it will put on this peculiarity of character so satisfactorily as to leave no doubt about it.—The five disorders then which I have stated to be most frequently mistaken for Venereal, are,—simple laceration,—sores arising from acrimonious secretions in the female,—ulcers from the secretion of the foreskin of the male,—ulcers from a stricture in the urethra,—and sores from improperly cured Venereal disease. I will therefore now explain how you can detect them, and how they should be treated.

First,—*Simple laceration of the skin during sexual excitement.*—It will be of great service in this inquiry to keep in mind what was said in the former chapter on the true Venereal Chancre. The description there given of it is in the words of the great John Hunter, and which I will repeat. A genuine Venereal ulcer, he says, is “*a sore of a somewhat circular form, excavated, with matter adhering to its surface, and with a thickened*

“*edge and base.*” It was also observed, that a genuine Venereal sore did not always put on these peculiarities *immediately*, nor did it always put on every one without exception at all,—one or other of them might be absent, or might form imperfectly. Give it a little time however, and a true Venereal sore will assume this character, or if in any point it should chance to be defective, still there will be enough of what is peculiar to this kind of sore to enable you to recognize its true and specific nature.

Suppose then you had a simple tear upon the penis. You would first consider how long it was since you had been exposed. But perhaps this might be only a few hours,—six or eight;—in that case of course you would consider it to be a laceration, and it would have been seen immediately if it had been looked for. But still, the other party might have been diseased, and Venereal matter may have been superadded. Now this possibility gives occasion to the advice I am now about to press. *Do nothing but keep it clean with cold water and watch it.* Never in such a case consult that class of people who call every thing they see upon these parts Venereal. This tear, it is true, may be Venereal, but it is impossible, at this early period, for any one to say for certainty whether it is or not, and a mis-statement here, whether from ignorance or knavery, would involve the direst consequences.

It is most desirable to impress this fact—the obscurity and uncertainty of these early appearances—deeply on the mind, and to do it more effectually I will subjoin the words of that eminent physician, Dr. Adam Smith, upon the subject. In his learned work on morbid poisons, page 111, he says—“In whatever part a chancre occurs, its first appearance is often uncertain, depending on the constitution, or the state of it at the time the irritation commences. It is seldom we see the first vesicle which is formed; more commonly, especially if the disease is on the glands, this vesicle is broken and discovers an excoriation, and sometimes a slough. In either of these states, it is not easy to ascertain the real character of the disease, and all prudent, perhaps I might say all honest men, suspend their opinion and treatment beyond what may be necessary for the immediate symptoms, till the part shows a disposition to heal, or discovers its true character.”

He then goes on to say—“Nothing can be more certain than the true character of a Venereal Chancre, and nothing cured with more certainty. The difficulties and intricacies attending this form of the disease, have arisen from indolence, ignorance, or artifice. Those who have not industry to attend to the discrimination of ulcers on these parts, or who have not had opportunities of distinguishing them, may be mistaken: but unfortunately there

“is a class of men too often applied to in these cases, whose only object is the advantage they can make of their patient, and who indiscriminately condemn whatever ulcers are found in these parts. This is the more disgraceful, not only because in the early stage it is often impossible to ascertain what such ulcers may be, but because the use of mercury will exasperate some, and induce a degree of uncertainty on all whose character has not shown itself before the use of the remedy.”

In a case of laceration, or an abrasion of the skin of the penis after an exposure to disease, therefore, your business is to wait and watch its progress, doing nothing more than keep it clean by washing it with water. If the sore is on the head of the penis, or beneath the fore-skin which covers it, it would be as well to apply a little piece of lint, simply wetted with water, and draw the fore-skin over it. Thus watching it, and doing nothing that would change its natural course and outward character, you will soon arrive at a knowledge of its real nature. If it be a simple tear, and nothing of Venereal in it, then it will soon get well, as any other common sore would do. But if Venereal matter should have been superadded to the tear, then, sooner or later, generally in a few days, it will assume the character given by Hunter of a Venereal Chancre, or present at least some of its peculiarities; and, again, if it should neither heal nor exhibit any of the proper

characters of Chancre, but present the appearance of a common ulcer, then we may conclude it is one of those other disorders which are frequently communicated by sexual intercourse, but which have nothing of Venereal in them. I have already said that certain vitiated secretions in females, or neglect of cleanliness, will produce such ulcers, these however are not the only causes of them.

If then a laceration or an abration of the skin upon the Genital organs should be Venereal, it will be known by its putting on the peculiar character of a Chancre, as before described. The first thing usually observed is a hardness both around and underneath it. This you can feel by pressing on it with the finger, but by pinching it up between the thumb and finger, it is very sensibly distinguished. You cannot well mistake this feel, it is so peculiar, and, as far as I know, it belongs to no other recent sore but the true Venereal.

The next thing is, that simple laceration, if it enlarge at all, does so by spreading superficially; whereas a Venereal sore enlarges by eating deep into the substance of the part, and the middle of the ulcer is always the deepest part, while the edges of it are a little elevated above the surrounding skin, as well as hard.

Neither does the peculiar color of a Venereal sore

always show itself immediately, but after a time, and very shortly after the symptoms I have mentioned have appeared, it is covered with a toughish adhering kind of matter of a brownish yellowish color, which a simple laceration never presents.

Another thing to remark upon these lacerations or abrasions, is, that when they are inoculated with Venereal matter, that is, when they are Venereal, their peculiar Venereal characters do not show themselves so soon, nor in such regular order, nor are they always so well defined, as when the disease appears in its natural way—when it is absorbed through the skin and first appears in the form of a little pimple, without a tear or an abrasion of the skin, and on this account it is prudent to wait for several days, perhaps eight or ten, before we settle whether they really be Venereal or not.

In the event however of having waited a reasonable and sufficient time, and none of these Venereal characters appear, then, if they should not heal, but are inclined to inflame or spread, it will be proper to adopt some means of healing them.—If pain and inflammation attend, washing and bathing them with warm water, or milk and water is very good, and after this the common white wash (sugar of lead water) is a proper thing—some may even require a poultice. But if they simply remain stationary, without much inflammation, then gently

stimulating lotions would be proper, such as brandy and water, or the Zinc Lotion, or Black Wash, (page 44;) or, if they still remain unhealed, touch them with Blue Vitriol daily, or with Lunar Cautic every other day. Also, take an active purging dose or two of pills.

The second.—*Sores arising from the natural secretion beneath the foreskin, which in hot weather or from want of cleanliness accumulates, becoming acrimonious and irritating.* The effects of this irritating secretion are frequently such as to be taken for Gonorrhœa, as I have described in the 2nd chapter; in this case the head of the penis is excoriated and the discharge of matter very copious; at other times it causes ulceration instead of excoriation, and then it is that it is apt to be taken for Venereal disease. Now the same means which were advised on the subject of detecting a suspicious laceration of these parts are to be depended on in this case, viz.—cleanliness and watching. If the sore be Venereal it will show itself by assuming the distinguishing marks of that disease, just as was described in laceration, but in a shorter time. If not it is probable it will heal under the plan of simple cleanliness. If, however, it should not heal, and still present none of that hardness so peculiar to Venereal, then a stimulant plan, similar to that recommended in simple laceration, should be resorted to.

The third.—*Sores arising from sexual intercourse with females of uncleanly habits, or having certain mild disorders totally unconnected with Venereal disease.* In this place I need do little more than repeat the fact that such disorders do occur, referring those who doubt it to what was said on this important subject in the second chapter,—that which treats on disorders which resemble Gonorrhœa, but which have nothing of the nature of that disorder in them. It is a subject of immense importance. Here, however, it is proper to observe, that while in some these irritating fluids will produce disorder resembling Gonorrhœa, in others it produces sores which are frequently mistaken for Venereal disease. But these may easily be detected.—Just compare these little ulcerations with what was said about the Genuine Venereal sore or chancre. Not that it is necessary to keep in mind the whole of these peculiarities, for there is one of them alone of much more value than all the rest together—it is the *hardness of its edge and base.*—Now the sores we are considering have not this hardness; it is therefore only necessary to ascertain this fact to be pretty certain they are not Venereal.

With respect to the treatment of them, the more simple this the better, for although they will not always heal with simple remedies such simple remedies should always first be tried. I would therefore first advise that nothing but lint soaked in cold water

be applied to them. This is best suited to those which are situated between the foreskin and the head of the penis, for here the prepuce can be drawn over and made to cover it; but if they are situated on the outer parts, white cerate may be spread upon the lint and this lapped round the penis and confined there. You are not however to expect that these will always heal like common sores, for it must be remembered they originate in a kind of animal poison, though not Venereal. If therefore they do not heal under this simple means we must advance upon the stimulating plan, just as in the two former species. I should therefore begin with the black wash, and if that did not succeed, I should try a lotion of white or blue vitriol, soaking a piece of lint instead of the cold water with it. In some instances I have dipt my finger in the powder of white vitriol and held it to the sores for a minute or two or more with very good effect. In other slow and tedious cases I have applied the blue vitriol itself daily, or have touched them with the Lunar Costic every other day.

These sores in general do not require the internal use of mercury; indeed, some of them are greatly exasperated by it, while others are as greatly benefited; in such however the mercury is given in a milder form than in venereal.—In every case it is of especial service to regard the state of the digestive organs, that is, the stomach and the bowels.

If these are in a disordered state, which is shown by a whitish looking tongue, and this furred in the morning at its root, with a brownish coat, the bowels at the same time being irregular and the stools of an unnatural smell or color, depend upon it there will be difficulty in healing them while this continues. Nothing however is easier than to correct this state. The best way to do it is to take Rhubarb and Soda for a week or ten days, with a blue pill every other night. An excellent mixture of this kind will be seen below (Note 22),—but if this could not be easily procured, the rhubarb alone would do. Just keep a piece of Turkey Rhubarb in your waistcoat pocket, and every morning nibble off a portion a little larger than a pea, or just enough to keep the bowels rather more relaxed than natural. Simple as this remedy may seem, it is astonishing to see the good which thus results, and not only in this, but in a vast variety of maladies accompanied with these symptoms of disordered stomach.

The fourth.—*Sores on the penis in consequence*

Note 22.—*The Rhubarb and Soda mixture.* Take of powdered Rhubarb half a drachm;—Carbonate of Soda, two drachms; compound tincture of gentian 6 drach's;—mix with water enough to fill a half pint vial—of which take the sixth part, or a wine

glass full, twice a day. Should it operate more than as a laxative, that is, quite in a purgative manner, take it only once a day, or in a smaller dose. At the same time take also five grains of the blue pill every other night.

*of stricture in the urethra.* When speaking of stricture in a former chapter, it was stated, that among a number of consequences arising from that disorder, ulcers on some part or other of the genital organs was one. The fact itself is strange, but admits of explanation. It depends on a law of sympathy—a power of the nervous system which produces disease in one part, from a disorder seated in another; thus, disorder of the stomach produces pain and diseases in the head; and in that painful disease the stone, the pain is felt, not in the bladder, the seat of the disease, but in the tip of the penis. In like manner a Stricture occasionally produces irritation and disease, of the penis, or in the testicles, or elsewhere.

The late Mr. Abernethy of London took much pains to explain the nature and treatment of these ulcers. He was led to this from meeting occasionally with very obstinate sores on the penis which did not correspond with what he called pseudo-syphilitic, (a kind of sore I shall presently have to mention,) and which at length he found to originate in stricture of the urethra. Further, in the correctness of this opinion he became afterwards fully satisfied by finding that ulcers of this kind which had resisted every means that could be devised, or which if healed, would afterwards re-appear again and again, were speedily and permanently cured on the removal of the Stricture. My own experience also

warrants me in saying that Stricture does occasionally produce this obstinate and often-recurring kind of ulcer on the penis; and, indeed, accordingly, whenever I meet with sores of a peculiarly unyielding nature, being also deficient in other features proper to Venereal, I am always inclined to suspect they originate in Stricture; and further, if, upon enquiry, it appear my patient never had the true Venereal, but only a Gonorrhœa, my suspicion is confirmed, nor do I rest, until by passing a bougie I ascertain the fact, whether it be so or not.

With respect to the treatment of this kind of sore it is scarcely necessary to say, that it consists in a removal of the Stricture. When this is done, and even while it is doing, these ulcers generally heal under any simple dressing,—if not, those dressings already recommended under the stimulant plan never fail to heal them once for all.

The Fifth.—*A species of sore upon the penis the result of an ineffectual course of mercury for the cure of Venereal disease, the same which Mr. Abernethy has denominated “Pseudo-syphilitic, or Bastard Venereal.”* This is a difficult part of the subject to write about, but it does not, I think, properly concern the general reader. Indeed, I should not have mentioned it at all, but for a wish to make this little volume as complete as possible, and also to interest the medical as well as the general read-

er. Those who are afflicted with the obscurer forms of Venereal disease, should never undertake their management themselves, but, if possible, should consult the most experienced surgeon to be found.

Mr. Colles, that practical and excellent author on Venereal disease so often alluded to in this little work, justly observes, there is no *class of complaints* which does not occasionally fail to present its distinguishing characters, or, presents them so faintly as scarcely to be recognized. Now, it is just this that creates the difficulty; for, when a suspicious or irregular sore presents itself it is hard to tell whether it is one of these Venereal sores which has failed in exhibiting its distinguishing character, or one of a Pseudo-syphilitic kind.

This bastard sort of Venereal we are now considering is supposed to be a compound of Venereal disease, partially cured by mercury, blended with some other disorder of the constitution, such as Scrophula. The great source of this kind of disease is the use of mercury by unskilful people. Being known almost to every one that mercury will cure the Venereal disease, persons of every grade of ignorance presume on this and give it indiscriminately and inefficiently. There is scarcely a shoeblack who will not prescribe it to his acquaintance if he is fool enough to take it, and hence, almost exclusively, that perplexing host of pseudo-syphilitic maladies. The

fact is, although mercury is the safest and most certain remedy for the cure of Venereal disease, there is no article in medicine which requires a more skilful and experienced mind in prescribing it; or, closer attention to the rules which will be given in the following chapter for its proper management. And it may be further added, neither is there any one disorder which calls for profounder knowledge in every single department of medical education, than that for which mercury is so peculiarly the remedy—the Venereal disease. Who then can wonder that these perplexing and destructive cases should so frequently occur.

Mercury, therefore, given ineffectually, fails in curing the Venereal disease; in this case, after a time, it re-appears, and mercury is again resorted to. Still, however, given as before, the disease again appears, not perhaps exactly in the same form, for being interrupted thus repeatedly, it loses much of its external Venereal character, so that it is not so easy to tell whether it is Venereal or not. At length however these repeated ineffectual modes of giving mercury break down the constitution, and thus excite in it whatever malady it should be disposed to. This, very frequently, is some or other form of scrofula, and this disorder, scrofula, blending with Venereal, forms this Pseudo-Syphilis—appearing, sometimes in the bones, or in blotches on the skin, and sometimes in little ulcers on the penis.

Now, in order to detect the nature of these sores, it is necessary to ponder well both over the history and the treatment of each case. It is of course essential to ascertain that there has been, at some time or other, real Venereal disease; and also, that mercury has been given for its cure. It is also expedient to be certain they do not arise from stricture, for a person may have had Gonorrhœa and Venereal too, and, the Venereal being cured, these sores may arise from stricture, the result of the Gonorrhœa.

With respect to the treatment of them, I can do little more than speak of this in general terms. It consists in giving very small doses of mercury and continuing it for a considerable length of time. This also is combined with such remedies as support or recruit the general health and strength,—such as Bark, Quinine, or Sarsaparilla. Change of air, especially to the sea side, has been found exceedingly useful. Also, all that has been said on the utility of maintaining a regular and healthy state of the stomach and bowels in diseases generally, applies especially to this case. Indeed, I have known many obstinate disorders of the genital organs greatly benefited or entirely cured simply by attending to this one object, and I should consider that that case was under no unpromising course of cure which was under the simple treatment of the Rhubarb and Soda Mixture, together with the Blue Pill, as directed in page 149, and continued for some months. In such

a case the mixture might be omitted after a week or two, or only resorted to as the state of the bowels might require, while the blue pill should be continued regularly every other night.

## CHAPTER XI.

*On the use and abuse of Mercury, with rules for its proper management in the cure of Venereal disease.*

THIS subject will be rendered plain and useful by arranging it in the following order.—How far is Mercury to be considered a specific for Venereal disease;—What is the *general* effects of Mercury on the constitution;—Is any preparation necessary for its safe and successful use;—What is meant by *Salivation*;—How far is salivation necessary for the cure of Venereal disease;—At what period of a mercurial course should salivation be produced;—What is the best form of Mercury to use, and on what principle should the dose be regulated;—How long should a course of Mercury be continued;—What are the difficulties which now and then occur to interrupt a regular and satisfactory course of Mercury;—and, what are the bad effects which Mercury may possibly produce, denoting that it disagrees and must be discontinued. These therefore will constitute the different sections of this chapter.

HOW FAR MERCURY IS TO BE CONSIDERED A SPECIFIC FOR VENEREAL DISEASE,—is a subject well worthy of consideration. Now, if by specific is meant a reme-

dy which always, without exception, and under every variety of circumstances, cures any particular disease, then Mercury has no such claim, for there is no such remedy in nature.—The Peruvian Bark is said to be a specific for the Ague, but there are cases of ague continually occurring which the Bark will not cure; and beside, the Bark may be given so injudiciously, and under circumstances so adverse to it, that, if given before these latter were removed, it would not only fail to cure the ague, but exasperate or make it fatal;—and this is just the case with regard to Mercury in Venereal disease. All that can be justly said of Mercury then is this,—that it so generally cures the Venereal disease as to be given for it with the greatest imaginable confidence; but, that there are cases (rare indeed to meet with) in which it seems to fail; and also, there are many occasional circumstances so adverse to its good effect as to require to be removed before it can be entered on, or persisted in, with safety; and further still, that even then, and in all cases, Mercury is a safe and efficacious remedy, only when given in a certain judicious way and manner. To give this remedy then in a safe and efficacious manner, it is necessary next to consider,—

WHAT IS THE GENERAL EFFECT OF MERCURY ON THE CONSTITUTION.—The general effect of Mercury is to excite the constitution; so much indeed is this the case as to induce a fever, called MERCURIAL FEVER,

This febrile state, however, in general, is but a slight disturbance, and does not interfere with the ordinary pursuits of business. But, it may however easily be imagined that the habit and constitution might be so excitable and full, as to be quickly thrown into a high degree of fever, and hence the necessity of *preparation* for a course of Mercury. And it should also be observed, that in this case, it would not only be to endure this higher degree of fever without occasion, but also to miss the object for which Mercury is taken, for these higher degrees of fever seem to prevent the curative effects of Mercury, so that, after a certain period, the disease is often seen to return, and this how long soever the Mercury may have been continued.—By preparing the constitution for the effect of Mercury, also, we succeed in curing the disease with much less of this remedy than otherwise would be required.—I feel I cannot lay too great a stress on the necessity of preparing the constitution for a course of Mercury, for I am persuaded it is too little insisted upon, and that this is the cause of much unnecessary inconvenience as well as failure even in the cure of the disease.—It therefore becomes a proper enquiry,—

WHAT IS THE PREPARATION NECESSARY FOR THE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL USE OF MERCURY.—In general, all that is required is to reduce the system moderately by repeated doses of some purging medicine, and to observe a lower diet. Of course the

extent to which this should be carried should be determined by the healthful state and condition present. Persons who are most frequently the subject of this complaint are the young, the robust, and sanguine, and these always bear depleting well; but even in the more delicate this preparatory measure should never be totally omitted. In these latter cases, for instance, I would recommend to take a purgative medicine for four or five days at any rate, but not in such a manner as to weaken and unfit for business. Almost any active purge will answer, but the best of all is that of Epsom Salts and Antimony, as directed in page 47; and the next to this is the Senna and Salts; but even Epsom Salts alone will do. Of course it should be repeated once, or twice, or thrice in the day, just as it may prove active or otherwise. With the more robust however I would continue the purging longer, carry it on brisker, and the diet lower. In many of these latter cases also, perhaps in all of such, it would be advantageous to undergo a copious bleeding, but this is not insisted on, especially as such a measure might lead to unwished-for inquiries and attention.

Keeping this effect of Mercury in mind, we likewise see the propriety of avoiding labor and exertion, both of mind and body, as far, at least, as can be done conveniently. There is no doubt but it would be better for every one, upon entering on a course of Mercury, to keep his room, as well as lower his diet,

and there are cases so bad and complicated as to render such a measure absolutely necessary; but with the great majority of patients this is altogether out of the question, all that is required being that they keep as much as possible in the house in wet cold weather, particularly at night, and that they avoid unnecessary labor. I have thought it as well however just to state the fact, leaving it for every one to do the best he can in this respect.

This also seems the place to mention, that a course of Mercury should not be commenced while a person is laboring under other disorders; or, rather, that there are many complaints which require first to be removed, and others which should be remedied and relieved if possible. Inflammatory complaints of the chest, and Dysentery, and Diarrhœa, are of the former kind, while Consumption, Dyspepsia, and a general low emaciated condition, are examples of the latter. If, for instance, you were to begin and persist in a course of Mercury while there was pain in the side or chest, with a cough, or what is called *Bronchitis*, it is ten to one if it did not convert this malady into incurable consumption. Such symptoms therefore must be first removed by bleeding, blisters, &c.; and, if commenced while laboring under Dysentery, or Diarrhœa, the Mercury would increase such maladies, and never affect the constitution beneficially; these therefore also must be first removed by such medicines as Rhubarb and opiates, suitably repeat-

ed.—So also if Consumption or Dyspepsia were present, a watchful attention should be paid to the effect which Mercury might have upon these symptoms, so as to be ready to control or mitigate them. And, in the last case—a low emaciated nervous state of constitution—this should be recruited by such means as change of air, milk diet, Sarsaparilla, and the like, before a course of Mercury could be entered on with safety and success. But, beside the general effect of Mercury on the constitution, and the necessity of preparation for it, it has also a particular effect upon the salivary glands of the mouth, called *Salivation*. This shall therefore next be stated,—

WHAT IS MEANT BY SALIVATION.—When Mercury is given for the cure of Venereal disease, it is begun with in certain medium doses, and repeated daily, or night and morning, with the expectation that in a few days, it will produce a soreness of the gums; but, if this is not produced, nor any indications of it, then the dose is rendered larger, or some other preparation of the medicine is superadded, and thus it is increased, under certain limitations, until this soreness is produced.—But a simple soreness of the gums is not a salivation,—it is only the commencement of it, and, if the Mercury were left off as soon as this soreness should be first complained of, it is probable it would soon get well, when the difficulty of re-producing it might be great. At any rate, it is not likely it would be done without a larger

quantity of Mercury than otherwise would be needed. It is therefore deemed expedient to continue with the Mercury, either in the same or smaller doses until a moderate but perfect salivation is established.—Now, in a case of moderate but perfect salivation, we observe the following:—the gums are swollen and tender—inclined to separate from the teeth, and sometimes a little ulcerated; the cheeks also near the double teeth are inclined to ulcerate, and present a kind of leaden color; further, there is always some degree of pain on eating solids, so that the softer articles of food are naturally selected; the spittle too has a disagreeable taste and smell, and is more or less increased in quantity, giving rise to frequent spitting, and, not unfrequently, it will drivel from the mouth at night while sleeping. All this however does not come to pass at once. The first symptom of a salivation is a disagreeable or coppery taste in the mouth, with a slight degree of swelling of the gums, but after this it may be several days, although full doses of Mercury are continued, before it completes this state. At the same time, nothing is more desirable than to secure this point, for then the danger of the disease, as well as the various untoward circumstances which frequently attend a course of Mercury, may be considered to have passed away, while the cure of the disease is safe and certain.—It is true, that, in many cases, if the Mercury were now to be entirely omitted, this tenderness might still increase for many days, and

at length attain to a full and satisfactory salivation; but which, it is still more probable, might die away and get quite well. On this account it is deemed advisable to continue on with Mercury, although at the risk of causing a greater degree of soreness of the mouth than might be wished for. Not that I approve of violent salivations; quite the contrary, as will presently be seen; but it is not an easy matter always to hit the exact degree we aim at.

Perhaps there is no period in the treatment of Venereal disease which requires more steadiness and caution than that between the first effect of Mercury on the gums and its full effect upon the salivary glands. While therefore it is wise to be firm in continuing on with Mercury under the complaint of soreness, it is necessary to be watchful of its more slow or rapid progress. If, for instance, this soreness of the gums were stationary, the dose should be increased;—if steadily advancing, it should be diminished; but if rapidly progressing, it should of course be omitted.

THE NECESSITY OF SALIVATION.—Having shown what Salivation is, and, withal, that it is an inconvenient thing, it seems proper next to enquire how far it is a *necessary* part of the treatment.—There are those who consider this effect as an essential point in the cure of Venereal disease by Mercury, and who are not satisfied if it be not produced, however much or long continued the Mercury may

have been. But this is going certainly too far, for I have met with many in whom it was found impossible to produce a salivation, and yet the disease was perfectly and permanently cured. Allowing this, however, there still remains no doubt but a salivation marks the salutary influence of this medicine, and affords the only proof that it is acting favorably on the constitution and disease. And further still, it is a fact, that among those in whom the disease returns after having taken Mercury, it is found that in a great majority of such a salivation never was produced, or properly maintained. Without agreeing therefore with those who consider a salivation to be absolutely necessary for the cure of the disease by Mercury, I do not scruple to recommend it as an important object. With respect to those cases in which it may be found impossible to produce a salivation, and the means to be pursued in such, these I shall notice when I come to the subject of *peculiarities of constitution.*

AT WHAT PERIOD SHOULD SALIVATION BE PRODUCED.—This also is a point of some importance, for if it be produced too suddenly, it cannot be depended on, and there is a disadvantage if delayed too long. The most favorable period at which a salivation can be produced is within the fourth and tenth day from the commencement of the course. To accomplish it, if possible, within this period is an object even of anxiety, and to this end the dose is to be promptly

and regularly augmented, as will presently be shown.

WHAT FORM OF MERCURY IS THE BEST TO USE, AND ON WHAT PRINCIPLE SHOULD THE DOSE BE REGULATED.

—The best of the preparations of Mercury perhaps is that in the form of ointment, (page 48) but there are many objections to the use of this, as have been already stated. Some form of mercurial medicine to be taken internally, is generally more convenient. Of this kind the Blue Pill, or Calomel, is in common use; but, that which I prefer, and use myself almost exclusively, is THE SPECIFIC PILL, (page 49). This is a mild, safe, convenient, and effectual form of mercurial medicine, of which a sufficient quantity to cure any case of Venereal disease, however long it has been standing, is put up in my little private chest, and which I frequently forward to the most distant States. With respect to the dose of mercurial medicine, this, as might be supposed, must vary under different circumstances, and must be diminished or increased as it may be found to act on different constitutions. There is however a general or ordinary dose to begin with; this, in a common case, and healthy person, if the ointment is used, is half a drachm to a drachm, every night; if it is the Blue Pill, ten grains divided into two pills; if Calomel, from two to three grains, made into a pill or powder; or, if it is “The Specific Pill,” of these, three are an ordinary commencing dose. They are to be taken

nightly. The great object, however, as I have said before, is so to increase or diminish the dose as to bring about a moderate but perfect salivation in a given time; and, to show how this is done, I will now suppose a case, and treat it exactly as I am in the practice of doing daily.

I will suppose a healthy young man with a Venereal sore (a chancre) on the penis, and that it has been there a week or two; also, that he has taken several doses of active purging medicine, and has put himself upon a lower diet. He now begins by taking three of "The Specific Pills" at bed time. These we do not expect or wish to produce any effect at all at first; if however they should happen to purge, and continue to do so, this should be checked; it can be easily done by taking five or six drops of laudanum, or a tea-spoonful of paragogic once or twice; or, if he should become costive, he might obviate this by taking a seidlitz powder, or any laxative pill or medicine he choose. But, about the fourth day, it should be enquired if any effect upon the mouth has been produced. Perhaps there is none—no disagreeable taste or tenderness of the gums is yet complained of. This therefore gives occasion for an increase of the dose, and now four pills are given instead of three. Yet, having waited two days more, there still is no complaint. This would imply a degree of dullness of the constitution to the effect of Mercury, and would authorize its freer

use. Accordingly, two pills would be directed to be taken in the morning in addition to four at night. This would make six specific pills in four-and-twenty hours, and should be considered an ordinary full dose of Mercury. It should be therefore watched more closely. But now however, perhaps in two days from the latter dose, making eight days from commencing, the gums become a little tender, and there is a coppery taste complained of. Now, this is the moment which demands judicious management.—If we were to stop the Mercury here, as I have observed before, the soreness of the gums might still go on and ultimately reach a state of perfect salivation; more probably however it would not do so, but in two or three days would get quite well. In this case we should find it difficult to renew the soreness, nor could we do it without the use of much more Mercury than otherwise would have been required. Indeed it sometimes happens when this opportunity has once been suffered to escape, it cannot be produced again without a fearful quantity of Mercury. Many content themselves with the simple quantity they have used, instead of its peculiar effect, and thus become exposed to the horrors of a deep Venereal taint. But this is easily avoided. In the present case, after the eighth day, we find the gums a little swelled and sore, but not sufficiently, and therefore we continue on. Here it may be a question,—shall the same dose be given? When the dose under which the soreness happens is very large, it may be

diminished; but if in a day or two the soreness does not seem to be advancing, it must be increased again. In the present case the dose is large and may be diminished. The two pills in the morning are therefore now omitted, and in a few days more a greater degree of swelling of the gums, with an increased flow of spittal, now completes the salivation, when the medicine of course is omitted altogether.

The accomplishment of salivation, especially if within the regular and proper time, may always be esteemed a source of satisfaction and congratulation. It is an inconvenient thing no doubt, but now the cure is completely in our hands, and with a little management, any considerable degree of inconvenience may generally be avoided.

It now becomes our chief concern to avoid an excess of soreness on the one hand, and prevent its getting *totally* well upon the other. Accordingly, we must omit the medicine as long as circumstances may permit. Sometimes a mild and salutary spitting will continue for ten or fourteen days without additional medicine; at others, not only will the spitting cease, but the mouth get well in three or four. Whenever the spitting cease entirely, and even when it rapidly abates, although the mouth may yet be sore, the pills should be resumed, not however in the same full dose, but just in such as may be sufficient to re-excite the spitting and

maintain it. This is much more easily done if the medicine is resorted to before the mouth gets well.

It may be of use to mention here, that whenever the mouth gets well too soon, and there is a difficulty in re-producing it, nothing will act so well as Calomel. Of this, three grains, with one of Cayenne pepper, repeated twice or thrice a day for a day or two, will generally effect the object. Thus, by increasing or lessening the dose of pills, we endeavor to perpetuate a moderate state of salivation for as long a period as the nature of the case demands, or as will presently be determined on.

It may be remarked I have been particular in defining the exact degree to which a salivation should be carried; I have been so from observing that I was not sufficiently explicit on this subject in my last edition. Anxious that no one should suffer the least degree of unnecessary pain or inconvenience, it is possible I there leaned too much upon the cautious side. I have now however given my directions more decidedly, as well as my reasons for them. And now, the nature of a salivation and the necessity of it having been discussed, the question naturally follows,—

HOW LONG SHOULD MERCURY BE CONTINUED.—  
This, as might be supposed, can be determined only by the circumstances of each case. There are how-

ever certain circumstances or conditions of the disease which uniformly require a difference as it regards the period of a mercurial course. For instance, the circumstance of its being a recent or an old disease,—the readiness and regularity with which a salivation is produced and kept up,—the kindly disappearing of every single symptom,—the circumstance of having taken mercury ineffectually before,—and the occurrence of any other diseases, blending with Venereal.—All of these require a difference as to the length of time that Mercury should be continued, and therefore will properly form the basis of what I have to say upon the subject.

1st.—*The circumstance of its being a recent or an old disease.*—The shortest courses of Mercury, no doubt, are those required in chancres—the first form in which Venereal disease appears; and, as a general rule, the older the disease the longer the use of mercury is required.—Some forms of the disease however, it is considered, require more protracted courses, independently of the time it has existed;—thus Venereal sore throat and eruptions of the skin require a longer course than chancre, and ulceration of the bones, longer than sore throat. It is quite impossible to fix the exact time required in any one of these, but, as a general rule, it may be said, that a chancre would require a four or six weeks course of Mercury; sore throat and eruptions of the skin

from six to seven weeks; and ulceration of the bones from eight to ten weeks.

2d.—*The readiness and regularity with which a salivation is produced and kept up.*—If there should be found an unusual difficulty and delay in producing salivation, notwithstanding the dose be properly increased, so that salivation should not appear for two or three weeks, then it would not be safe to limit the course as has been suggested, but rather to reckon from a few days previous to the time of salivation. So also if any thing should occur to interrupt a course of Mercury, even if salivation had commenced, on a removal of that cause, that is to say, if any considerable interval had elapsed, the former time is not to be taken in the account, but the reckoning is to be made as though Mercury had not been given before at all.

3d.—*The kindly disappearing of every single symptom.*—Although I have given a general rule for the continuance of Mercury in every given case, yet it may happen that after this has been observed, and the disease apparently been cured, there will remain one single symptom, demanding a further continuance of the remedy.—The most frequent circumstance of this kind is a hardness remaining in the skin after the healing of a chancre. Now, so sure as this is overlooked, or slighted, so sure are we exposed to the possibility, nay, to the probability

of a second appearance of the disorder. But on continuing the use of Mercury on this account it is not necessary to carry it on so far as to maintain a state of salivation. Indeed, unless the hardness be considerable, it is not necessary to continue it internally at all. What is now required is merely to rub a portion of Mercurial ointment into the indurated part, once or twice a day, and continue to do so until it is absorbed and made to disappear entirely. Perhaps a portion of Mercurial or blue ointment, as it is called, not larger than a pea, well rubbed upon it with the finger until it is quite absorbed, and repeated nightly or night and morning for a week or two may be sufficient; but, however long it may be requisite, let it be remembered, *it must not be laid aside until this hardness entirely disappear.* It will be seen I lay a stress upon this treatment, and I do so from observing that many persons are inclined to slight it. Having gone through the course prescribed, and feeling well, they do not like this further trouble. But what is the trouble of this trifling attention to secure an object of such importance; or even if it were ten times greater where is the remedy! This hardness is the peculiar characteristic of a Venereal sore. In fact we are often obliged to wait for its formation, in doubtful cases, before we can tell whether an ulcer really be Venereal or not; how reasonable then to suppose that while any of it should remain, the essential nature of the disease should be unextinguished; and, if so,

it will most assuredly appear again at some future time. I repeat, therefore, that while any degree of positive hardness after the healing of a Venereal sore upon the genital organs should remain, this milder use of Mercury must not be laid aside.

4th.—*The circumstance of having taken Mercury ineffectually before.*—It is well known that the constitution does not bear a Mercurial course so well the second or the third time, as at first, especially if it have been carried on severely. You cannot so easily nor so certainly produce a salivation; more time and larger doses are generally required; and when it is considered that a second or third salivation should always be carried on a week or two longer than a first, it would seem that this circumstance is the cause of a considerable protraction of a course of Mercury.

5th.—*The occurrence of other diseases, blending with Venereal.*—This circumstance gives occasion for a longer course of Mercury than any other. The most common examples of this complex disease, are those in which it becomes blended with scrofula. In this, the Venereal sore, completely merging into the character of scrofula, loses much of its own external form and appearance. Now it is well known that scrofulous constitutions do not bear the influence of full and decided doses of Mercury, but require that it be administered in small and cautious

doses. This therefore accounts for these longer courses in complex forms of Venereal. I am happy however to add, that Mercury, even in these worst of cases, if given thus judiciously, is attended with the happiest effect.

But now, having shown the importance of salivation and the extent to which it should be carried, it is next my duty to advert to certain circumstances which now and then occur and make it difficult to obtain this object. These I will mention in italics, and will explain the proper management of Mercury in each. In doing this, however, I must first acknowledge, that, for a more clear and definite view of the nature of these several difficulties than I once possessed, I am much indebted to that excellent author on Venereal, Dr. Colles of Dublin, whose very words, indeed, on some occasions, I shall use myself.

6th.—*A Dysenteric state of bowels.*—This is no uncommon thing before a salivation is produced; but whether it is before or after, it shows the Mercury is acting on the intestinal passage, rather than the salivary glands—the only proof of its favorable action or the disease itself. In this case, therefore, stop the Mercury a day or so, and take five grains of Rhubarb with ten drops of Laudanum for two or three times; or, have a four ounce bottle of mixture made, of Tincture of Rhubarb half an ounce,—Tinc

ture of opium eighty drops,—and peppermint, or any other water, enough to fill the bottle, of which take one quarter immediately after every Dysenteric stool. This very seldom fails to quiet the bowels, but, if it do, an injection of thirty drops of Laudanum in half a tea cup full of warm milk and water, and repeated perhaps once or twice, may be said to be a certain means, and those who happen to have my little patent syringe, contained in the *chest for Gonorrhœa*, will find this the most convenient, as well as expeditious mode of cure. The Dysentery being removed, of course the Mercurial medicine is to be resumed.

7th.—*A state of soreness of the gums which is not followed by a salutary spitting.*—It may happen that about the usual time, a slight degree of soreness of the gums and smell of the breath occur; and yet, although the Mercury is continued for several days, no increased flow of spittal is observed. If the gums are now examined it will be found they are not *soft and swollen* as in a regular salivation, but their edges are more inclined to *ulcerate*. Indeed, the ulceration of their edges is the only change they appear to have undergone. Such cases also are attended with too much fever. Now, if we were to go on with the same dose of Mercury, we should only increase the ulceration and the fever, without producing salivation. In this case therefore we do not increase the Mercury, but diminish it.

In fact, this condition is a proof of an over dose of Mercury. If therefore you were taking five pills at night, take now but two, and these only every other night. Also, if the fever were considerable, lower the diet and drink freely of warm tea, or any thing that would induce a perspiration and abate the fever. You might further take thirty drops of antimonial wine, two or three times a day, as a fever medicine. By these means you will soon convert this spurious, into the true and genuine kind of salivation.

8th.—*When the effect of Mercury falls upon the throat, rather than the salivary glands.*—In this case the soreness is referred to the throat, and is commonly attributed to catching cold. On looking in the mouth a high degree of inflammatory redness and swelling is to be seen, particularly on that curtain-like part suspended from its arch and behind it. We see also upon the tonsils (two glandular bodies, situated, one on each side the back of the mouth) a superficial ulcer or two, covered with a whitish or greyish matter. Now, in this case, always *stop the Mercury immediately*. If you were to persist in it you would endanger the destruction of these parts. In the mean while the throat may be frequently gargled with port wine and water, to which a little honey and vinegar may be added. In a few days, either with or without the gargle, the throat will get decidedly easier and better, and then you are to resume the Mercury in smaller doses. By this treat-

ment, Dr. Colles observes, "I have seen in some of these cases, a regular salivation come on, but in a few others I could not succeed in producing this desirable result, the renewed action of Mercury producing the same condition of the throat; such cases, however, *are conducted safely through the Mercurial course, by watching them closely, and taking care that the inflammatory state should not be allowed to rise high.*" By this is he means, that the moment the inflammation raises high, the Mercury should be omitted for a day or two and then resumed, to be again withdrawn on the recurrence of such a state.

4th.—*The gums beginning to be affected at the proper time, but do not proceed to a salutary spitting, notwithstanding the medicine is continued.*—In ordinary cases the same dose of Mercury which produces a beginning tenderness of the gums, will, on continuing it, mature that state into a mild but perfect salivation; in some instances, however, it will fail to do so; neither in this case is there any disposition to ulcerate the gums, or to excite fever, the only thing remarkable being its stationary and limited effects. Here it is necessary to increase the dose; but, as it is not usual for Mercury when it has gone so far, then to stop, it may happen that some other form of the medicine may suit that particular constitution better, and therefore the additions made may be in some other form of the medicine. Accord-

ingly, if the pills have been taken, we may now use the Mercurial ointment,—continuing the same dose of the pills as before. Half a drachm of the ointment therefore may be now rubbed in at night, and this in two days more may be increased to a drachm, lessening this large dose of Mercury as we may see the mouth advancing towards a salivation.

5th.—*When fever is produced instead of salivation.*—This is still another and a very different effect, and also one which shows the Mercury is disagreeing and must be stopped. Here it produces no effect upon the mouth or throat at all, but in a few days from its commencement, the skin becomes hot, and the pulse quick, with much feverish restlessness. This feverish state, unaccompanied by any marks of salivation, is a proof that the Mercury given, whatever the dose may have been, is *too much* for the constitution. The course to pursue then is to omit the Mercury and use such means as are calculated to abate the fever; cool air, gentle purging, and any diaphoretic or fever medicine are calculated to effect this object. Then, after a little time, or when the strength has been recruited, the Mercury should be resumed in smaller doses, and repeated at longer intervals, (perhaps in half the usual dose) and this only every other night. It is also proper on recommencing Mercury to give twenty or thirty drops of antimonial wine two or three times a day, to keep the bowels open with an

occasional purgative, and, if convenient, to take a warm bath or two. With these means you will be able gradually to increase the dose of the Mercury and at length induce a favorable salivation. This feverish state, it should be observed, is not unfrequently the consequence of hastily plunging a patient into a Mercurial course without the preparation for it already insisted on, especially in a young and vigorous person.

But, in addition to the difficulties already mentioned, there are others also arising from peculiar and very opposite constitutions,—the one being too sensible, the other too insensible to the effects of Mercury.

6th.—*A Constitution too sensible to the effects of Mercury.*—It will happen that some individuals will become salivated on taking one single dose ; but this is a kind of salivation that cannot be relied on. Without reasoning on the subject, which, indeed, would be to very little purpose, we must rely upon experience, and this teaches that those who become salivated on taking the first or second moderate dose of Mercury are not thereby exempted from future forms of Venereal disease ; it behooves therefore to enquire how such singular constitutions should be managed. The directions of Dr. Colles on this head are remarkably plain and correct. He says, “such a patient should be directed to keep very

“much out in the open air, to take a nutritious diet,  
“and two or three glasses of wine daily; the dose  
“of the medicine also should be reduced to one  
“fourth, and an interval of one, two, or even three  
“days left between each. When we have proceed-  
“ed thus for a little while, we may prescribe larger  
“doses, or shorten the periods between them, so as  
“to induce a salivation, which will then occur with-  
“out any unfavorable symptom.” The salivation  
thus produced must be maintained and regulated as  
has before been shown. But I cannot in this place  
forbear remarking, how correctly these means accord  
with the principles on which the utility of a prepara-  
tion for a Mercurial course was urged in a former  
part of this chapter. Was it, for instance, in order  
that Mercury should make its early and salutary im-  
pression on the mouth, that the preparatory means  
of purgatives, and low diet, and warm clothing  
were directed; so, when that effect should show  
itself *too early*, the opposite means are introduced,  
and, by cool air, a generous diet, and a little wine,  
this premature effect of Mercury is delayed and the  
constitution brought to bear the necessary quantity.  
I should not however have pointed out this beauti-  
ful consistency, but for my solicitude to press upon  
the mind the utility of PREPARATION for a course of  
Mercury,—persuaded as I am that its omission is  
a terrible evil, and that it is far from being suffi-  
ciently enforced.

7th.—*A Constitution too insensible to Mercury.*  
—This when it happens is a more perplexing case. It differs from all the preceeding. For instance, it presents neither ulceration of the gums, nor inflammation of the throat, nor fever. Indeed, its peculiarity consists in presenting no effect at all.—It has been shown that in giving Mercury in this complaint, the object is to induce a salivation, and this within a certain time if possible. With this view a regular system of enlargement of the dose is early acted on, that is to say, to a limited extent. Thus proceeding, therefore, it generally happens, that after a second or third increase of the dose some effect upon the mouth will be discernable, but in this case there is none; nor is there any on the constitution, by which we might be warned it is acting in one way or another. It is frequently now supposed that it is the fault of the medicine—the particular preparation that has been used—and therefore it is changed, or some other is added to it, as calomel, or corrosive sublimate, but to no purpose. Others have gone on to increase the dose to an incredible, and I might add, dangerous extent—to the quantity of half an ounce of the ointment, for instance, every night and morning, together with large doses of calomel or Blue pill. But a frequent consequence of this has been, either an alarming degree of debility and fever, or a violent salivation, suddenly coming on; and, what is still more melancholy to superadd, without curing the disease; for, after

these excessive salivations it is no uncommon thing to find the malady return. It is not a violent, but a moderate and gentle salivation that can safely be relied on for the cure of Venereal disease.

Now the following is the most judicious course in such a case. After increasing the dose for three or four times, and perhaps adding some other form to that originally used, without the slightest visible effect, except it may be some degree of wasting of flesh and strength, then stop it altogether. This advice is given on the supposition that the dose was larger than was suited to the constitution. It is a fact, however difficult to explain, that in some constitutions, small doses of Mercury will produce the best effect, when large ones exhibit no visible effect at all.—Neither must the Mercury be resumed for ten or fourteen days, or 'till it is supposed the influence of the former quantity has subsided and the strength has been recruited. Before a second trial also the patient should be bled, and freely purged, and put upon a lower diet. The Mercury now being recommenced, perhaps in half the usual dose, a kindly salivation generally comes on. But, if that should not occur in ten or fourteen days, then the Mercury is to be increased in the ordinary way and manner, and this until it reach a full, or more than full and ordinary dose.—Six specific pills, with half a drachm of ointment every four and twenty hours, might be considered a

tull and liberal dose, and beyond this, it should not be increased with a view of bringing on a salivation *at any rate*. This course however should be continued a week or two longer than the usual time, and then, although not so satisfactory as in an ordinary case of salivation, may be relied on as a perfect cure. We have the best authorities for stating that there are constitutions which do not admit of salivation, but yet admit of the cure of Venereal disease by Mercury, cases of which they have given in detail.

I do not scruple therefore to say, that cases of this kind, treated and tried with Mercury in the manner here directed, are to be considered safe and secure, and that the failures in attempts at salivation are owing to "peculiarity of constitution."—There is one thing in their treatment however, that would seem to merit more particular attention than in ordinary cases, and that is, the perfect disappearance of every symptom, particularly the hardness which is sometimes inclined to remain after the healing of chancres. Let the Mercury therefore be continued even for a little time longer than usual after the *total disappearance* of this symptom. Indeed, the perfect and total disappearance of this and every external symptom might be regarded as an additional and valuable proof of the efficacy of the course.

But there is still another class of circumstances, or definite effects of Mercury, which show

it to be disagreeing and demand its immediate discontinuance. These therefore must follow in this enumeration.

8th.—*An unfavorable effect of Mercury on a Chancre, or Bubo, or Ulcerated throat.*—In general, soon after a Mercurial course of Mercury is commenced, the local or visible part, whether chancre, bubo, or sore throat, will begin to improve, and after a little further time, more or less rapidly proceed to heal. Indeed, these changes are regarded as a general rule of judging whether the Mercury is acting favorably or no. It sometimes happens, however, that after a chancre or any other local symptom has been doing well for a length of time, it suddenly alters, and becomes painful, inflamed, and spreading. Now this is the effect alluded to in this section and shows that Mercury is disagreeing. But this must carefully be distinguished from a slight and temporary change, occurring at an earlier period of the course. It is a fact that every one should be aware of, that a chancre will, almost always be a little painful and inflamed, and often spread a little, just at the time when Mercury is about to act upon the gums; but this, in a day or two, improves again. Very different, however, are the circumstances which denote that Mercury is disagreeing. It is then an unequivocal and increasing change for the worse, and, which is a point of great importance to observe, it is after the Mercury has been proved to

be the proper remedy, by the previous improvement of the sores. In this latter case the chancre, from looking healthy, filling up, and without surrounding inflammation, on a sudden becomes painful, inflamed, and spreading; or, if a bubo, this, from being slightly tender, would become exquisitely painful and inflamed, with fever; or, if it were an ulcerated throat, this would become inflamed and spread. Such changes indeed would unequivocally prove that Mercury was disagreeing and must be discontinued.

9th.—*A Mercurial Rash, covering most part of the body.*—This is another circumstance which requires the immediate discontinuance of Mercury. Sometimes, about the period when the gums begin to be affected, and when also there is generally some slight degree of fever, there appears, about the groin or between the thighs and scrotum, a patch of redness, or Rash, which, if not attended to, will soon become extended over the whole surface of the limbs and body.

This Rash is not a very serious thing if early seen; but as it commences in parts which are likely to escape attention, and is not at first attended with much uneasiness, it is often overlooked a day or two, or until a high degree of pain or itching disturbs the rest and draws attention to it. On examination it then is found that the limbs and body are covered with a continuous vivid redness, constituting, under

mismanagement, one of the more distressing and serious effects of Mercury. It does not seem to depend on any given quantity of the medicine, for it has been seen under very small as well as larger doses. There is however a particular period of a Mercurial course to which it is chiefly, if not entirely confined. This period is just when the Mercury is about to affect the gums, and when, as I have observed before, there is always some degree of fever present. When a spitting has commenced it never need be feared. And this remark indeed applies to most of the other untoward effects of Mercury; when once the constitution is fairly under its influence it is comparatively safe; and hence the great necessity of watchfulness at this particular period. It is on this account I always wish to see my patient every day or two, (if it can be done conveniently) from the time of commencing Mercury, until a spitting is established; but where this cannot be complied with, I guard against these incidents by providing this little book for their perusal. Nothing can be more cruel, if not criminal, than to give a person Mercury and leave him ignorant of these possible effects, and the peculiar management they require. What then should be thought or said of those who advertise their drops or pills to cure Venereal disease, and send away the unsuspecting purchaser without the least conception of these various incidental circumstances.

Should such a rash as this appear, the following

is the course to be pursued. Immediately stop the use of Mercury. If you were to continue it, one of the most distressing eruptive diseases, with great debility, and even danger, would result. In lieu of this, give a cooling purgative medicine and repeat it so as to produce a moderate effect for two or three days together. If under this the eruption should increase, avail yourself of cool and even cold air; also dress lightly.—Keep to out in the open air and ventilate your chamber as far as the weather may permit. With respect to the eruption itself, any thing that cools and affords comfort may be availed of; this is sometimes accomplished by wetting clothes with cold water and applying them; at others, by dusting the part with common starch or oatmeal; if the skin become excoriated, as it sometimes will, then some stiff ointment to prevent the linen sticking to the part is good—such as equal parts of bees-wax and suet melted together and spread on cloth. The shirt and sheets have sometimes been spread over with this composition. In this place however I am more anxious to prevent the malady by showing when the Mercury should be stopped, than to direct about its cure.—When it disappears, the Mercury must be resumed, in small doses, paying particular attention to coolness. It will also be expedient frequently to watch the skin, particularly those parts which fold and lie together, as between the thighs, and groin; and should any thing of this kind again appear, withhold the mercury for a day or two again,

to recommence it as it fades away again. By this attention to the skin, even in cases where it thus returns, it may be kept so limited, as to allow of the perfect cure of the venereal disease by mercury.

10th.—*Red pimples on the wrist.*—This is very much of the nature of the former,—it makes its appearance at the same period of time (just as the mercury is about to effect the constitution) and requires the same positive discontinuance of the medicine. It differs only in appearing, not in the form of a rash, but in little pimples, and beginning, not in the groin or folds of the skin, but on the wrist and back of the hand and fingers. Such patients generally think they have got the itch, and, indeed, it is often taken for it by others. It is mentioned, however, separately, as it forms another positive rule for discontinuing mercury, for being so unlike the former it might not be regarded as a disorder equally requiring a discontinuance of the medicine. A few days employed in gentle purging and low diet is generally sufficient for its cure.

11th.—*An excoriation of the skin in certain parts of the body.*—This differs from the former two in beginning, not with a rash, nor with pimples, but in a simple excoriation, as if the patient had been chaffed. The parts more usually thus effected are also those between the thighs, or scrotum, or groin. If this be noticed on the onset it will consist

simply in excoriation, limited to the angular fold of the part, but if overlooked it will spread extensively, and give out a copious discharge of very offensive humor. Now, if this were nothing really but a little chafe, it would be indeed a very trifling matter, but it is found a very different thing, and if not attended to at first, will become a very painful and distressing malady. There is no such thing as sleep at night, neither can you move one limb upon another without agonizing pain, and this too, may continue many days, perhaps weeks together. Under this effect of mercury, the first thing, as before, should be the discontinuance of the medicine; and the next, some soothing application to the part. Opiates are found to be of very little use, nor does purging afford any great relief. The chief resource for ease in this complaint is a suitable application to the part itself. As a remedy of this kind, a powder composed of equal parts of "Lapis Calamindris" and of Starch, finely powdered, is the best. This should be put into a muslin bag, the part well dusted and covered with it, and then a fold of soft old linen nicely laid upon it, between the two surfaces of the skin. Another thing which has been found to answer an excellent purpose is the Black wash, (page 44); lint, kept wet with this lotion should be applied to the parts affected as above described.

This effect of mercury is supposed to be the consequence of giving it in too large a dose, and therefor, in

reassuming the mercury, it must be given in a smaller dose, and, steadily, but cautiously increased. There is however one general remark to make upon the subject of resuming mercury—it is, that when it is to be given again, it should be resorted to as soon as the circumstance on account of which it was omitted, has abated. If it were delayed a longer time than this, the other and necessary effects of mercury would also die away, so that a greater length of time, and a greater quantity of mercury would be required to re-produce them.

12th.—*The effects of Mercury when it disagrees with the Constitution generally.*—Of all the untoward effects of mercury, this is the most worthy of attention. Heretofore I have spoken of this medicine only when it has exerted an injurious effect on some particular part, shown by inflammation, fever, and affections of the skins; but now we come to speak of its effects when exerted injuriously on the constitution generally—when it may be looked on as a kind of poison.

However excellent and valuable a medicine mercury is, it must be acknowledged, that, if mismanaged, or misapplied, it may be turned to very bad account. But this in fact is saying nothing more than what relates to every valuable remedy. Indeed, the more valuable a remedy, when properly used, the more dangerous when ignorantly abused. With-

out attempting to describe the peculiar nature of the constitution with which mercury disagrees, I will merely detail the symptoms by which it may be known.

In a case where mercury disagrees, about the time when it might be expected to show itself upon the mouth, a remarkable degree of general prostration is complained of, with a sense of anxiety and palpitation of the heart; there is also frequent sighing, partial or universal trembling, occasional vomiting, a pale contracted countenance, and a general sense of coldness. All these circumstances, to one acquainted with the laws of physical vitality, would argue a great reduction of its power. Indeed, every one would be aware of this, but still might not be quite aware that they arose from mercury, and therefore, might not so promptly discontinue it. My present object therefore is to state this fact so clearly that those who have this little book can scarcely overlook or slight it. Not that this is a common effect of mercury by any means; on the contrary, it is exceedingly uncommon; still it is proper that every one who undertakes the use of mercury should be acquainted with it, though it were only as a possibility. It is not in the active and peculiar effect of any medicine, but in the ignorance of such that the danger lies. With respect to what should be done under circumstances of this kind, the first thing of course is to omit the mercury. Even the

dress and bed clothes might be changed lest they should contain any portion of it. Next, he should be careful to avoid the least exertion, such as even rising suddenly, or getting out of bed without assistance. Cordials in small but frequent quantities should be allowed; but above all, exposure in the horizontal posture, and in the free and open air, both day and night, should be rigidly insisted on. If this treatment prove successful, mercury must not again be had recourse to for three or four weeks at least, and not then if the health and strength be not restored. If however it be determined on, give it in the following cautious manner:—Begin with doses very small, and interpose a gentle purgative about every second day. Be careful also that he take daily, but gently, exercise in the open air. If by this means the salivary glands should be affected and a spitting follow, the danger may be considered passed, and the cure as certain as though nothing of this kind had happened.

With this I finish what I had to say upon the use and abuse of mercury, having also mentioned with especial care, every difficulty that can possibly attend it. For the latter, however, I am aware I shall be blamed by some, on the ground that many of these evils are of rare occurrence, and therefore that I am creating unnecessary fears. But to this I would reply, that many consult me from a distance; others, who are not, within the reach of Physicians

who have seen much practice in this complaint; and not a few obtain my little private chest on going to sea, and of necessity rely upon it in every time of need. What therefore could such do in the event of any of these untoward effects of Mercury. I grant most cheerfully that many of these evils are of rare occurrence, and that the management of Mercury in the cure of this disease is easily rendered safe and certain; but to this end the rules which are here given should be carefully considered, and especially should every *possible untoward effect* be known and rightly managed. With what pretensions to propriety or justice then could I have put this little volume into the hands of such, and omit to mention any single one of these effects. Indeed, there is no part of this little book from which I anticipate more usefulness, or derive more conscious satisfaction, than from this very chapter. With this feeling, therefore, I will endeavor to present these difficulties in a still more clear and useful manner in the following kind of table:—

A CONDENCED VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH NOW  
AND THEN ATTEND A COURSE OF MERCURY.

1st. *A Dysenteric state of the bowels, showing that the Mercury is acting on the intestinal passage, rather than on the gums.*

2d. *A state of ulceration of the gums instead of a swelling and salutary spitting.*

3d. *The effect of Mercury falling on the throat and curtain of the mouth, producing a high degree of redness, and whitish looking sores, like thrush.*

4th. *The gums beginning to be affected in the proper manner, but not proceeding to an increased flow of spittal, notwithstanding the medicine is continued.*

5th. *When a feverish state of body is produced in lieu of salivation.*

6th. *A constitution too sensible to the effects of Mercury.*

7th. *A constitution too insensible to Mercury.*

8th. *When Mercury produces an unfavorable effect upon a chancre, a bubo, or an ulcerated sore throat.*

9th. *When Mercury produces Rash upon the limbs and body.*

10th. *When it produces pimples on the wrist like the itch.*

11th. *When it produces excoriation of the skin in those parts which fold together, as the groin, scrotum, &c.*

12th. *When it seems to disagree with the constitution generally.*

These, together with the symptoms which denote their coming on and the proper management of each, have been carefully pointed out.

CHAPTER XII.

*On the Treatment of Venereal Disease.*

A CHANCRE (a Venereal sore on some part or other of the genital organs) is the most common form of the disease we have to treat, and is the way in which every other form begins. The following is a definition of Chancre:—“*A sore of a somewhat circular form, excavated, with matter adhering to its surface, and with a thickened edge and base.*”—You must not however expect every chancre to exhibit all these points of character; sometimes they do not appear for many days, so that a real Venereal sore may look just like any other sore or abrasion of the skin; and sometimes some of these particulars do not appear at all. If there is any doubt about the matter, however, you must refer to Chapter X, “upon diseases resembling Venereal, &c.” In a case of recent chancre, the first thing I always do myself is to pinch it up between my thumb and finger, and if I feel a hardness and thickening around and underneath it, the question with me is settled—I know it to be a chancre. But, remember, if this hardness and thickening should *not be felt*, you are not immediately to conclude it is not a chancre; for, as I have just now said, this hardness may be delayed in forming.

Being satisfied however that you have a chancre, what then is the first thing to be done? Now this naturally leads to a word or two upon the use of caustic.

The application of caustic to a recent chancre has been recommended on the principle of destroying its specific action before it has attained a certain maturity, by which it can contaminate the system. But this I have always considered a very dangerous speculation. If we knew for fact that the matter secreted by a recent chancre, at any certain early period, was not infectious, then indeed it would be highly advantageous to cauterize; but this, as far as I know, is not ascertained. Neither does analogy sanction such a theory. The case of small pox or vaccination may be considered analogous; here, a poison being inoculated, a pimple forms containing matter; but after the formation this pustule, if it were cauterized, or even removed entirely, this would not protect the constitution. Neither would it in the case of chancre. And here again, in the case of chancre, the Venereal action has gone still further,—it has not only gone so far as to produce a pimple or pustule, but this has broken, and an ulcer, secreting matter, is presented. If, indeed, a part inoculated with Venereal matter were cauterized or cut out immediately, like the bitten part of a mad dog, before it had instituted any action at all, it might be then depended on; but, as this cannot be, (for we cannot tell that a

part has been affected with Venereal, until it is shown by ulceration or a pimple), and further, as we have no means of judging whether there is any period at which the matter of the pustule or ulcer is not infectious, so we have no ground on which we can rely that the constitution will not be afterwards affected, though the chancre be early and perfectly destroyed by caustic. I would not say that in no case whatever is the constitution thus protected, but I would ask, who would choose to risk his own upon this peradventure? I hold therefore that it is exceedingly speculative and unwise to depend on caustic for the cure of chancre.—And this too is exactly in accordance with the opinion of Sir Astley Cooper. After dissuading from the use of caustic, for other reasons, Sir Astley adds, that if caustic should be used, there being no *certainty* in this means of cure, a course of Mercury must still be entered on, as if no caustic had been used at all. He then goes on to show the folly of this practice by relating the consequences of a case which occurred in a particular friend of his, and which I will give in his own words below (note 23).

Note 23.—*The case of Sir Astley Cooper's friend who undertook to cure himself by caustic.* He states—"A young person with whom I was intimate whilst I lived with my old master, got a chancre, which, to use his own expression, he burned out by the ap-

plication of caustic: I laughed at him for being so foolish: the caustic produced a slough, but cured the chancre, and I thought nothing more of the circumstance. Sometime afterwards I visited him in the country, and asked him how he was? "Very well now,"

Notwithstanding these facts and reasons against the use of caustic for the cure of chancre, however, there still are those who practice it. Most of such persons, no doubt, are totally ignorant of its consequences; but there are also those whose opinions are entitled to the highest deference, and who, under certain limited circumstances, advocate the use of caustic. Among these, an eminent surgeon in France who has had for many years the unusual advantages afforded by a large Venereal hospital,

he replied, "but I have been in a fine scrape; I was engaged when I left town, to a young lady, the nuptials were to have been soon celebrated, and the business of life commenced." I involuntarily smiled, but he said, "Not quite so merry: when I got into the country, I had what I conceived at the time was only a huskiness of the throat, which I had caught from cold. My throat becoming more painful, I looked into the glass, and perceived that I had a large sore on the tonsils, decidedly syphilitic. You may conceive how I felt; I wrote to the lady that I was unwell, who, exceedingly hurt at such news, came and nursed me while I underwent a course of mercurial treatment, (she being perfectly unconscious of the cause of my complaint,) by which means I was quite restored, and the marriage ceremony was celebrated." The fol-

lowing remarks of Sir Astley are so much to this point that I must conclude with them. He then goes on—"It was a proper punishment for his folly. The application of caustic to a chancre does not render a person safe from its effects, for, if the sore be a chancre, the syphilitic poison must have been admitted into the constitution. I will tell you what treatment you should pursue: as soon as a patient applies to you for this complaint, you should ask him if he wishes to be properly cured at once, by a simple mercurial treatment, or have the chancre cured without it, and run the risk of having secondary symptoms occurring at a future period. His answer will be--for God's sake, give me what is proper now for my cure, without submitting me to the chance of being laid up a second time with this complaint."

has lately recommended it, and has endeavored to point out the particular circumstances under which it may or may not be had recourse to. Happy indeed should I be to be made acquainted with any particular circumstance, on which, being present, I could rely with confidence for the cure of Venereal disease by caustic; but, after what I have seen and known, it must be a pretty good and solid kind of evidence that would get my consent to a dependence upon caustic in any *well marked case of chancre.*

There is one thing at any rate which should be observed upon this subject:—it is, that it is only in the case of *recent chancre* it can be reasonably thought of by any class. After it has existed, for instance, some weeks, by which time it will have acquired the peculiar hardness of its edge and basis, it is of course out of the question altogether.

*The Treatment of Chancre,*—is commenced by preparing the constitution for the use of Mercury. Purging, a low diet, and as much quietness or freedom from excessive bodily labor as he can command, is recommended. Salts, or almost any purging medicine will do, but the Antimonial Mixture (page 47) is the best. If any further hints respecting *preparation* are required, these will be found in page 158. About a week is usually occupied in this way, but this is not considered lost; for, during this purging treatment the disorder cannot make advancement, while

its effect will be to lessen the quantity of Mercury required, and shorten the period of the course. From the commencement of this treatment apply nothing to the chancre, (unless it is in a state of unusual pain and inflammation) but lint, wetted with cold water, if it is any where underneath the foreskin; or spread with spermaceti, or any simple cerate, if it is external, on the prepuce or the penis.

You therefore now begin with Mercury.—Begin with three “Specific Pills.” and repeat them every night. You need not look for any sensible effect from these at first; if any should occur, as purging or costiveness, these may be corrected as pointed out in page 166. But on the fourth or fifth day, perhaps some tenderness of the gums, or coppery taste in the mouth, may be complained of; if not, increase the dose to four at night. In two days further, should no effect be felt upon the mouth, take in addition, two pills in the morning. This would bring the dose to six pills in the four-and-twenty hours. This being an ordinary full dose, may be continued a few days more. But if this, in three days further, making the 9th, were to be followed by no soreness of the gums, nor any bad effects, (for which refer to page 174) then add to this treatment from half a drachm to a drachm of mercurial ointment, in the manner described page 48, and continue it for four or five days more. If still no soreness of the gums should be produced, you then are to consider it a

case in which the constitution is peculiarly insensible to Mercury, and treat it as directed in page 181.

Above however I have described a case which very seldom happens. In general, long before this dose of Mercury is attained to, the gums become a little tender and the taste is coppery. Whenever this occurs a spitting may be looked for. To encourage this, the dose must be continued, perhaps a few days more, but when the gums are further swollen, and perhaps a little ulcerated, and the flow of spittal is increased—then stop the medicine. The object now will be to keep this soreness within tolerable bounds. On the one hand, then, you must not let it get quite well, nor, on the other, make it too sore, and this you can easily accomplish by omitting repeating the medicine, or by diminishing or increasing the dose as you see fit. If the present tender state of the gums and spitting should continue, which it frequently will do for eight or ten days, you may omit the medicine for this time, or give it in smaller doses. A better practice however, and one which I adopt myself, is to wait a few days only, and then renew the medicine in the same full dose, and not diminish it again, unless from an increasing soreness of the mouth, I see it necessary. Thus I avoid a very common error,—that of allowing the mouth to get too well. What I mean by too well is, a total absence of swelling and tenderness; I do not take the spitting into the account;—this may

cease while the efficacy of the medicine is secured, but if the swelling and tenderness also cease, we have no proof that the Mercury is acting with its full effect. Thus we proceed for a period of four to five weeks from the time of beginning with the Mercury.

During this period, we seldom have occasion to apply any thing but lint and cold water, or simple cerate, to the chancre itself. If the patient is particularly anxious to heal the chancre, the black wash (page 44) is as good a thing as can be used. But it is better not to hasten its healing, but rather allow this to depend on the medicine taken for the cure of the disease. It is astonishing to see the immediate and beautiful effect of the Mercury upon a Venereal sore, as soon as the constitution acknowledges the general influence of the medicine by a tenderness of the gums. Just at the time when this is about to happen, however, the chancre, for a day or two, may appear a little worse and feel a little painful, but as soon as the tenderness advances, it suddenly improves, looks red and healthy, and more or less rapidly fills up and heals.

In general, before this course of Mercury is completed, the chancre will have healed, leaving nothing but the color,—no hardness to tell where it had been seated; but sometimes an ulcer will remain unhealed. In this case, however, it is no longer a Venereal

ulcer, requiring the further use of Mercury, but a common indolent sore, requiring only common stimulating applications. Spontaneous sores of this kind, which, by ignorant or designing people are always called Venereal, frequently occur upon these parts, but there is nothing of Venereal in them. The best way to treat such sores has been pointed out, (page 148) but I will here repeat it in a word or two. Take white vitriol in powder on your damped finger, and hold it to them for a minute or two, then dress them with lint wetted with cold water, or spread with simple cerate. The powder may be repeated every other day. Or, touch them with the Blue Vitriol, or with the Lunar Caustic, every other day, dressing them as before every night and morning.

But the chancre may have healed, and left a hardness where the ulcer had been seated.—Now this, of all things, is what I wish to draw attention to. It has been particularly noticed in page 172, but here too I will repeat, it never must be overlooked. You need not however continue the Mercury *internally*, but apply mercurial ointment to the part.—A quantity a little larger than a pea should be well rubbed into it night and morning, until it is removed. Rub the ointment into it with the finger until it is quite absorbed, and repeat it, however long it may be needed, until this hardness is perfectly removed.

And now, the course of Mercury being quite com-

pleted, and every symptom perfectly removed, many people are anxious about the Mercury—to get it out of the system, as they call it, but this is quite superfluous. It is far better to let the Mercury pass off itself, which it always naturally does in a little time. All that is required is to take a little more than common care against catching cold. It is a fact that Mercury leaves a person rather more susceptible of cold for a week or two, on which account, if exposure to wet cold weather could be avoided, it should be done; but, if not, it can safely be encountered by clothing suitably and warm.

If however any remarkable degree of nervous weakness, or Dyspepsia, or irregularity of bowels should be left, these would be best removed by the strengthening laxative pills, No. 2. Indeed nothing will be found more useful and restorative in a constitution weakened and exhausted from any cause, than these restorative aperients. They should be taken once a day, immediately after a meal, either breakfast, dinner or supper, and in such a dose as just to keep the bowels a little more relaxed than natural. Generally, however, it is seen that a course of Mercury, given and conducted in the manner here described, leaves a constitution better than it found it.

But, the treatment and cure of a common simple case of chancre having now been shown, it is neces-

sary here to state, that there are certain circumstances frequently starting up which demand particular attention. These I will proceed to mention, severally, and begin with,

*An inflamed and irritable Chancre.*—This is sometimes seen in a very high degree, and, if Mercury were given before it were reduced, it would endanger even the very member itself. Naturally and properly, pain and inflammation do not belong to chancre, and if any be present, it is owing to accidental causes. Many bring these on by habits of irregularity, excitement, and intemperance, and in others they will spring from a full and plethoric habit. When a chancre is highly inflamed, the skin around it is of a fiery red color, the parts are swollen, and the chancre very sore and spreading. Never give Mercury in such a state as this.

The best means of removing this high degree of inflammation are those made use of in preparing for a course of Mercury, so that here they answer a twofold purpose. Especially is it advantageous, if possible, to rest. Indeed, in some cases the consequences are so threatening and dangerous that every consideration of secrecy must be laid aside and absolute rest in bed enjoined. More generally however, smart and repeated purging with the antimonial saline, or senna and salts, (page 47) with low diet and partial rest, together, if the patient be full habit-

ed, with a copious bleeding, will be sufficient. At the same time, a soft bandage, constantly wetted with a cooling lotion should be applied. It may take many days before this inflammatory state be thoroughly subdued, but however long it be, Mercury must not be given until it is removed.

With respect to the irritable chancre, this may be said to be the case when it is exquisitely painful, of a dark color, and evidently spreading. To this, other applications are required. Lint soaked in the black wash, or in tincture of myrrh, or tincture of opium, should be applied, and over this a poultice of grounds of beer, or a plaster of simple cerate.—Also, bark, ammonia, and opium should be given freely. These and the doses of them will be seen in chapter 3d, “on remedies,” page 53. But I need not here do more than merely mention them, for in such a case I should certainly advise that medical aid be sought.

*Veneréal Bubo.*—This is a swelling in one or more of the glands of the groin, seldom more than one, and is frequently observed in connexion with a chancre. There is always some degree of pain and stiffness with it, but if this be only moderate, no application will be needed. The mercurial treatment is to proceed exactly as though there was no swelling, and as soon as the constitution is affected, the pain will lessen and the swelling gradually de-

cline. But if the pain and throbbing of the bubo should be very great, with inflammatory redness, and some fever, then the use of Mercury must be delayed, or, if commenced, omitted, while attempts are made to reduce this inflammation. These attempts are made by such means as are proper in other inflammatory affections, and which have just been mentioned, viz.—rest, purgatives, and low diet. To the part itself, any thing which will abate the pain is proper. The cooling lotion mentioned under “remedies,” or one made with weak brandy and water, is often very useful. Many apply leeches with very good effect, and after these a common poultice. Also an opiate, or Dover’s powder, should be taken to assuage the pain at night. All these, and the doses of them, are carefully mentioned in the chapter upon remedies.—If, notwithstanding all these means, the swelling still goes on to suppurate, that is, to form an abscess, it should be opened and treated in the common way.—Let it only be remembered that Mercury is not to be given while matter seems to be forming, nor even after it is opened, until the pain and inflammation have subsided. After this, the mercurial course is to be continued as though it had not happened.

It should be also hinted that these abscesses are not always found to heal so quickly as chancres, but will often continue for many weeks after the Venereal disease is cured. Neither is the hardness or

scar, which they are very apt to leave, to be regarded in the same light as the hardness of a chancre. In fact, these bubos seldom go on to form an abscess but in constitutions that are not exactly healthy, such as those embued with scrofula, or affected from derangement of the organs of digestion, and therefore require means calculated to correct this state and to improve the general health and strength, as Quinine or Bark, with the strengthening laxative pills, No. 2. As to such things as panaceas, and the like, this is altogether perfect quackery.—Endeavor to recruit the strength by rational means,—as a suitable and rather generous diet—the regulation of the bowels and digestive organs with the restorative aperient pill, and, adding to these a moderate share of patience, nothing need be feared,—time will remove the remaining hardness.

*Inflammatory Swelling of the Foreskin.*—If a chancre becomes inflamed and irritable from any cause, it is likely to induce a swelling of the foreskin to such an extent as to prevent its being pushed back over the head of the penis, or, if pushed back, it cannot be drawn forward again. (The former of these cases is called a *phymosis*, the latter, a *paraphymosis*,—words however I will not use, if I can help it). Both these states are attended with disagreeable consequences. In the first, the sore or chancre cannot be kept clean, nor can the discharge attending escape,—it therefore becomes irritating

and thus adds to the inflammation of the parts; and in the other, the penis itself being swollen, the foreskin acts the part of a tight ligature behind the head of the penis, preventing the return of the blood from it, on which account it swells still more, looks purple or blackish, and, not unfrequently, mortifies and comes off. It is therefore particularly necessary to point out what to do in each of these cases. In the first place, then, never begin with Mercury when the foreskin or head of the penis is thus swollen or inflamed; if it should have been commenced, leave it off if these should happen to come on. I have often said already, never give Mercury in any case of high inflammatory local disease. This is the *principle* to act on, for it might happen that the foreskin might not admit of pushing back, and yet no high inflammatory symptoms might be present,—no high degree of redness, nor excessive pain, nor feverish complaint; in this case the Mercury should not be discontinued, for, as it proceeds to exert its benign effect, the chancre beneath the foreskin will heal, and all will be restored to order and a natural condition.

But the particular treatment of this case consists in local management. One of the first things is to wash away the matter from beneath the foreskin, and to keep the chancre clean. For this purpose the patent syringe contained in the chest for Gonorrhœa is admirably suited, but those who have not this

apparatus must procure a common syringe. Warm water, or soap and water, will answer one good purpose—the removal of irritating humors, and will also sooth the parts. It can scarcely be used too thoroughly. Throw up the water with sufficient force to distend the skin, and hold it in a little while. In short, do it in any way which you may suppose best suited to wash away the matter. It should be repeated night and morning for the sake of cleansing, but if its soothing effect should also seem to benefit, it may be repeated oftener.

But, beside the cleansing effect of warm water, a healing one may be also superadded. Nothing in general answers this purpose so well as the Black Wash, (page 44). It may be used warm if convenient, but this is not essential.—As a healing, cooling thing, the powder No. 1, as used for Gonorrhœa, is found an excellent injection, while the other numbers are valuable when any kind of gentle stimulant is required.

At the same time, and especially when the inflammatory redness is considerable, cooling lotions (page 44) should be applied,—wetting a strip of linen with them and rolling it round the penis. Of course, rest, purging, and low diet, are of great importance. It is a good thing to keep the penis from hanging down if possible. I will only add, that I have seen the application of a few leeches to the inflamed and swollen foreskin of the most signal service.

With respect to the treatment of the other case—the foreskin pushed back and remaining fixed—the same general plan which has just been pointed out is equally applicable, with the addition however of the means to be adopted to bring the foreskin forward again; but these, having been already given on this case in Gonorrhœa, (page 62) they can be referred to. I must also further add, that in this case, being much more dangerous than the former, and, especially, as it now and then requires a little incision of the skin to liberate and relieve the head of the penis, I would always recommend that a surgeon be consulted.

*Veneréal Warts.*—These sometimes follow after chancre, as well as after Gonorrhœa, and are called Venereal, though they frequently have nothing of Venereal in their nature. It is a curious thing however that they sometimes secret a humor which communicates the same to others. Thus persons having them have married, and after a time the wife has had a similar production. And these sometimes increase to a great extent in women,—they have been known to occupy a considerable space in the female passage, giving rise to much confusion and inconvenience.

These warty excrescences are either hard or soft. The mildest remedy to the soft ones is the white wash,—pieces of linen dipt in this and kept applied

by bandaging or otherwise. A better thing however is to touch them with a drop or two of the muriated Tincture of Steel, for two or three days together. Mercurial ointment, applied on lint, will also cure them.

The hard warts should first be poulticed and then touched daily, or every other day, with blue Vitriol, or Lunar Caustic. If they have any kind of neck, the most expeditious way of cure is to snip them off with a pair of scissors, and afterwards touch the part with caustic.

On looking over what has now been said upon this subject, there yet seems one remark to make upon the use of Mercury in the cure of Chancre. It relates, especially, to when it should be discontinued.—I have said, that Mercury never should be commenced when a chancre is attended with high inflammatory symptoms; I now would add that it should never be continued, but immediately discontinued, whenever such appearances occur in the progress of its cure. It generally happens that when a chancre or any Venereal symptom does well with Mercury, it goes on progressively to improve until the cure is perfectly accomplished; but, if instead of this, after improving for a time it suddenly changes in its appearance, and inflames and spreads, depend upon it Mercury is disagreeing, and it would be in vain and dangerous to expect it would re-as-

sume a healing state under the continuance of Mercury.—Either the Mercury is acting too powerfully on the system, or the Venereal nature of the disease is cured, and Mercury is no longer needed; at any rate it is disagreeing, and must now be discontinued.

## CHAPTER XIII.

*On Venereal Sore Throat.*

It has been observed that chancre is the form of the disease in which Venereal first appears, and is therefore called its primary form; and that when a chancre is only healed and the disorder not eradicated from the constitution, in a certain time, it appears again, not however as at first, on the organs of generation, but in some other part, and this is called its constitutional or secondary form. The secondary symptoms of Venereal disease may appear almost on any part of the body, but they far more frequently first appear in the throat or on the skin than any other.

In ordinary cases there is but little pain attending the accession of Venereal sore throat. A person perhaps feels a little huskiness, which he may attribute to catching cold, but this increasing, he is led to examine it in the glass, when he is surprised to see an ulcer there. The most frequent situation of this ulcer is the *tonsil glands*. These are two roundish bodies on each side of the back part of the mouth, between that curtain-like fold which is suspended from the roof. It will be observed that this divides as it descends, and at the bottom,

between this division, the tonsil glands are situated. Now, on one or both of these, which are also swollen and red-looking, an ulcer will be seen. It looks as if a part of its substance had been dug out—the edges overhanging—the ulcer also looking foul, with a yellowish thick matter tightly adhering to it. There is generally some pain felt, particularly on swallowing the spittle, and also running upwards towards the ear, and sometimes down the neck even to the shoulders. This is a true picture of a genuine Venereal ulcer in the throat; it may however differ materially and yet be venereal. But an ulcer in the throat ever so exactly corresponding with this picture, must not, on account of its appearance alone, be called venereal,—it cannot safely and certainly be called so, unless its history be traced to some absolute prior venereal affection.

With regard to the treatment of Venereal sore throat, nothing more can be said than has been directed for the cure of chancre, except that the Mercury should be continued a week or two longer. The same preparation for a Mercurial course is necessary, as well as the same occasion to discontinue it in the event of high inflammatory symptoms and appearances. In general the action of Mercury should be kept up for eight or nine weeks, in Venereal sore throat. If any one should be induced to make it shorter, in consequence of the kindly healing of the sore, in all probability, after a few weeks, it would

return, perhaps, in the same, or it may be in the other tonsil gland, and looking much as it did at first.

But it should also here be stated, that after the disorder has been perfectly cured, a pain on swallowing, accompanied with a slight degree of inflammation, is very apt to occur again on slight occasions, to the great, but groundless alarm of the patient. In this case, nothing more than a slight inflammatory redness is to be discovered—no venereal ulcer. This is merely a nervous affection and can only be explained on the well known fact that nervous pain is very easily re-produced in parts that have been once the seat of ulceration or disorder.

Further, a feeling of this kind is often complained of in connexion with some derangement of the organs of digestion, or irregularity of the bowels, for which the restorative laxative pills, No. 2, are so excellent a remedy. Washing and well rubbing the throat with cold water is also found to be a beneficial practice. But the practical use to make of this remark, is, to avoid the repetition of the use of Mercury in such a case, and to relieve the mind of the harassing apprehension of remaining venereal disease.

Another thing to be apprized of further is, that, although the venereal ulcer in the throat is gene-

rally situated on the tonsils where it can be seen immediately, it is sometimes situated in parts where it can not be seen so easily, and consequently may avoid detection. Venereal ulcers situated in these obscuer parts shall therefore next be mentioned, and the means of bringing them into view described.

1st. *An ulcer on the upper and back part of the throat, concealed by the curtain-like fold suspended from the roof.*—A person who has had venereal disease for instance, complains of a pain whenever he attempts to swallow ; it may even be so constant as to deprive him of sleep, and yet upon inspection no ulcer nor even appearances of inflammation can be seen. But now we should remember, there are places where it may lie concealed, and the first of these to be suspected is behind the curtain of the mouth. To bring this into view therefore direct the person to draw in his breath deeply, when the curtain will draw up, and we may see, at least, a part of an ulcer on the upper and back part of the throat. A still better view of this may be obtained by pressing down the tongue and lifting up the middle point of the curtain with a curved probe, or with any other convenient article. An ulcer here is generally circular, deep, and foul, the surrounding inflammation extending a very little way beyond its margin. In addition to the internal use of Mercury, as di-

rected for chancre, these ulcerations require a peculiar local and decided mode of treatment. I would however mention once for all, that these local remedies would not be safe in the hands of private individuals, and I shall therefore barely mention them. My principal object in making these remarks is merely to apprise the sufferer of the nature of these affections, in order that he may know when and how to obtain efficient aid before it is too late. The principal danger of these maladies depends, not so much upon their nature, as their obscurity, and the consequent delay of the proper means of cure. Under these circumstances the disease is apt to spread, and some of the parts within this neighborhood are next to vital—the top of the wind-pipe for instance. It should be also known that the process of ulceration is to destroy, and that parts destroyed by this disease are never reproduced.

The best of all the local applications to sores of this kind is what is called *butter of antimony*. (note 24) It gives pain, but this is of short duration, and is soon followed with ease in swallowing and sleep at

Note 24.—*The Butter of Antimony*,—Is simply the muriate of Antimony—a very active caustic application. When used for venereal ulcers in the throat, a little lint, rolled pretty firmly in the eye of a silver probe is to be dipped into the liquid, and this gent-

ly pressed upon the surface of the ulcer. Care must be taken not to make the lint too wet with it, lest a drop should fall upon the surrounding parts, which would give unnecessary pain and suffering.

night. There are milder applications which it would be as well to mention also. (note 25)

2nd. *An ulcer on the back of the throat below the level of the tongue.*—When we do not discover a sore above, we should see if there is one below the level of the root of the tongue. If there be an ulcer here it is most desirable to ascertain it, for in this place it is very apt to creep lower still and fix on the top of the wind pipe, which of all places is most dangerous and fatal. An ulcer low down in the back of the throat has this peculiarity—it is shallow at its upper edge, but deep at its lower part. A pretty sure sign of an ulcer in such a place is, that on eating, a morsel seems to stop at a certain point and can only be got rid of by taking a sip of any liquid.

An ulcer discovered in this situation is best treat-

Note 25.— *A Solution of Lunar Caustic.*—Lunar Caustic twenty grains, to water one ounce is a good proportion

*The Honey of Verdigris*—Is another.

*The Tincture of Benzoës,* is still a milder one—

When caustic applications are made to ulcers on the roof of the mouth, they should be made to the edges only, not in the centre, for here the soft parts are so thin that an ulcer soon exposes the bone,

and the caustic application had better not touch the bone.

The various things now mentioned may be applied by a piece of lint secured on a probe, or by a camel's hair pencil cut short and stubby—the mouth and throat being washed afterwards with simple water. These together with the fumigations, page 51, comprehend all that is useful or necessary as topical remedies for venereal sore throat.

ed by the application of the Muriate of Antimony, as before described.

3d. *An ulcer situated at the lower part of the curtain-like fold of the mouth, just as it terminates in the base of the tongue.*—An ulcer in this place is attended with pain on swallowing, as well as pain shooting upon one side of the head and face; it is also complained of on pressing down the tongue. This sore is exquisitely sensible, and which sensibility should be destroyed by touching it with the Muriate of Antimony, or a strong solution of lunar caustic.

4th.—*An ulcer situated high up on the roof of the mouth, behind the curtain, and which cannot be brought into view by any means.*—An ulcer is judged to be situated in this part by the voice, which is nasal, and there is not only pain on swallowing, but the person is teased with the frequent desire to draw down the mucus from the nose, which also when coughed up is found tinged with blood. This case too is one which requires the application of some caustic to allay its extreme sensibility before the slower and curative operation of Mercury can exert its influence upon it. It is done by a piece of lint dipped in a strong solution of caustic, and well secured upon the eye of a probe, which is bent up or curved so as to reach it.

The sores I have now described are so many specimens of well marked venereal ulcers. But it should be known that venereal ulcerations in the throat are occasionally seen to differ greatly from these appearances. They are made to do so partly from the improper use of Mercury, and partly from the influence which a scrofulous constitution has upon them. To describe all these differences would be almost impossible as well as useless. The fact itself, however, should be known.

But there is one particular state of the throat which it may be as well to mention, being of frequent occurrence, which gives rise to much perplexing and unfounded apprehensions. It has nothing at all to do with venereal, for it frequently occurs in those who never had this malady, yet when it happens to occur in those who have once had the disorder, it is difficult to divest their minds of the fear that it is a remainder of it. This state consists of a thin covering of a whitish or yellowish hardened mucus on the back part of the throat. It is more troublesome and harder in the morning than afterwards in the day, for then much of it will be removed by swallowing and talking. Although this is a very obstinate affection and will sometimes continue to give trouble for years, and not improve by any means employed, yet it is not dangerous—it is only troublesome. To ascertain the present disease, it is only necessa-

ry to rub off a portion of the mucus with a bit of lint wrapped round a probe and we shall see there is no ulceration,—the parts beneath only look a little rougher and dryer than natural. It is sometimes benefited by gargling with sea water, or by sea-bathing.

Further, there are certain affections of the throat and mouth, which sometimes appear after the perfect cure of the venereal disease by Mercury, and which seem to be the effect of Mercury; and what is very singular is, these affections never appear when Mercury is given for any other malady; it seems therefore that they are the combined effect of Mercury, with the former, but now cured, venereal disorder. It would only be to harass the mind to say any thing more than merely mention that such may happen.

With respect to venereal ulcers in the mouth, it is only necessary to say that these may appear on the gums as well as on the tongue, and on any part of it. These however require no other treatment than a Mercurial course as recommended for chancre, together with such local applications as have been mentioned, the necessity of employing which, being determined by their rapidity or the pain, demanding a more immediate relief than the slower process of salivation would afford.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*On Venereal Blotches, &c.*

This consitutional or secondary form of venereal disease, I have placed in order after venereal sore throat, but it should be remarked that the two very often appear together, and sometimes the eruptions will appear first in order, or without the sore throat at all.

The word blotches is very often used to express venereal disease affecting the skin ; but it is very far from being confined to blotches or copper color spots ; indeed there is scarcely a single order of cutaneous eruption which venereal does not now and then assume, so that it may appear in the form of specs, blotches, pimples, vesicles, postules, tumors, branny spots or patches, scabby sores, or open ulceration. It would be quite impossible to give a particular and distinct description of all the various forms of venereal disease upon the skin. In fact their is nothing in the appearance of these eruptions, considered in themselves, that can in any safe and certain manner establish the opinion that they are venereal. This the most distinguished Surgeons are aware of, and in order to form their judgment upon any given case, they always have resource to the

history of the disease, considering especially the manner in which Mercury has been given, and observing also, whether there is any other symptoms connected with them of a suspicious or venereal character. This, therefore, shall be the manner in which I will now endeavor to assist my reader in judging of his own or any other case.

But first it should be known of these eruptions, that, although there is great variety in the appearance of them, there are certain forms which much more frequently appear than others, and there are certain changes which all are more or less disposed to undergo. Perhaps the most frequent form is a branny or scaly appearance, occurring especially in the palm of the hands, or on the head, or the margin of the hair. The next to this in frequency may be that of copper colored blotches, which in time become scabby, particularly about the forehead. A Rash, not unlike the measles, is another not uncommon form—covering sometimes only a small part, and at others the whole surface of the limbs and body. Pimples and little pustules containing matter might next be mentioned.

Venereal eruptions also are disposed to change in their appearance. If they are allowed to subside spontaneously, which they generally do after some few weeks, at least to some degree, the form in which they re-appear is pretty much the same; but

if Mercury has been given (not however in a way to effect a cure,) its re-appearance is most frequently in some different form. For instance, if the eruption had been in little pimples, it may now be in little pustules containing matter; or if it had been in branny scales, it may be next in larger patches or in scabs. Further, there is a remarkable tendency in all venereal eruptions to become scabby and incrust;—thus pimples and scales at length assume a scabby covering, and those which begin in pustules, and naturally terminate in scabs, become exceedingly thick and crusty, forming elevations on the skin.

There is a period at which venereal eruptions naturally and spontaneously abate or disappear and re-appear. This is very apt to deceive, as to the efficacy of useless medicines. Frequently such things as panaceas, or other useless things are taken, and if the disorder happens to abate, it is supposed that these are curing it; this however at length turns out to be complete deception.

The re-appearance of venereal eruption, also, as well as its first appearance, is always preceded more or less, with some general feelings of disorder; as head ache, or pain in the bones and lassitude, which are relieved as the eruption advances.

On the going off, and perfect cure of venereal erup-

tion by Mercury, it frequently happens that some spots of discoloration of the skin remain for a long while after the absolute cure of the disease. These time only will remove; any further use of Mercury on this account, or any applications to them would be useless, and indeed, far worse than useless.

Before the means of cure are entered on, it still remains to say a word or two to assist in ascertaining whether an eruption really be venereal or not.

Many persons, both from far and near, come to me with one single question. After stating a few preliminaries, and showing some specimen of disease, they ask—“*is this venereal?*” To this I frequently reply, “I cannot say this moment, but I’ll soon find out.” I then begin to enter on the history of the symptoms, and see to what I can fairly trace them back. Perhaps it will come out, as it often does, that the person never had venereal at all, but only Gonorrhœa (vulgarly called Clap)—this of course is satisfactory, and I say at once—“*It is not!*” Gonorrhœa never causes eruptions of this kind;—the remedies which are often used in this complaint may produce eruptions, which however are very different.

But supposing it is fairly traced to a venereal affection, and that Mercury has been taken, the next enquiry is—as to the manner in which it had been

taken; and here I generally find a satisfactory answer. Few, very few, indeed, I may say none of those who come to me with secondary forms of venereal disease are found to have taken Mercury in the manner directed in the chapter on "The use of Mercury," &c. The most part have never taken it so as to affect the gums at all,—others have left it off the moment the first tenderness was felt, and those in whom it brought about a salutary spitting, continued it for a period well known to be too short to effect a perfect cure.

But, suppose again we cannot be so well assured that Mercury was taken ineffectually. In this case we naturally look with more anxiety for any other symptom. Now, the one most frequently occurring in connexion with venereal disorder is sore throat, and if this appears at the same time and in a way resembling what has been said upon this subject in another place, it will afford a strong corroboration of the fact.

The time, too, which may have elapsed from the period of taking Mercury for its cure, is another thing which throws some light upon the subject. Although there is a general interval between the apparent cure of chancre or a venereal eruption, and the re-appearance of the disease, which may be stated to be from eight to ten or twelve weeks, and

although this period may be extended even for some weeks more, yet, if an interval of six months for instance should occur from the last appearance of venereal symptoms, I should consider this longer interval as affording a strong presumption of the perfect cure of the complaint, whatever eruption or circumstance should follow.

After these remarks then, it is presumed, no person would conclude of any disorder he might have upon his skin, or face, that it was of a venereal nature, without considering—first, that he must really have been once the subject of this malady;—next, that the course of Mercury he had undergone had not been satisfactory, at least, not so according to the rules prescribed in this little volume for its management;—and last, that the interval between the former disorder and the present symptoms, is one at least of three or four months.

And now, on the subject of the treatment of venereal eruption, I can really say nothing in addition to what has been said on the cure of chancre, only that, as in the case of sore throat, it is to be continued two or three weeks longer than in the cure of chancre. There is one hint however I will give upon this subject. Do not allow the early and kindly disappearing of the eruption to lull you into a false security that the disease is cured, so as to

induce you to shorten the course on this account. There is no form of venereal which so quickly yields to the influence of Mercury as some of these eruptions.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*Veneral Disease in the Bones, &c.*

This disorder does not usually appear in the bones until after it has attacked the throat or skin; but it does sometimes occur soon after the healing of a chancre, without a previous affection of the throat.

The parts more frequently the seat of this disease are the hard portions of the long bones—those particularly which are least covered with flesh, as the shins, the bones of the fore-arm and the forehead. The softer parts or extremities of the long bones, as well as the small ones of the hands and feet, are but rarely affected, and then only when the disease has continued a long time and the constitution has been distressed with various ineffectual remedies and attempts to cure it. Our business therefore will be to consider it chiefly in its earlier and more common form—that of lumps or tumors on the hard bones, called *nodes*.

*Venereal Nodes* are attended generally with severe pain—remarkable for coming on in the evening and continuing until an early hour in the morning, say till 3 or 4 o'clock, when it abates considerably so as scarcely to be complained of in the day; as

evening approaches however, it returns to its accustomed or increased severity. But it should be also known, least in any case its absence should mislead in judging of its nature, that, now and then, the formation of a venereal node is attended with but little pain; also in some instances, a node will commence with a feeling of softness in the swelling, with much pain, but which after a few days becomes hard with scarcely any pain.

Nodes are disposed to suppuration—that is, to form into an abscess and break; but this they proceed to very slowly. A node once formed will often remain for many months without the least change—no discoloration of the skin or feeling of matter; more frequently however, they slowly proceed to suppurate. When nodes proceed thus far the bone itself partakes of the disease, and is a long while in getting well.

I should also observe that a node, at first, is nothing more than an inflammatory state of the membrane which covers the bone, causing the affusion of a little fluid.

*The treatment* of venereal nodes differs in nowise from that of other venereal affections. The Mercurial course however should be continued longer. The constitution, also, in this form of the disease, is frequently found to be reduced, and to need the assis-

tance which sarsaparilla gives to enable it to endure the Mercury thus long continued. The compound decoction (page 54) is therefore often given with the Mercury,—half a pint, twice or three times a day. Also in consequence of the severity of pain, any means calculated to relieve it before the mercury can be brought to act upon the malady should be adopted. With this view, nothing is so beneficial as a blister applied immediately over it. Do not be induced to open a node because it fluctuates and you are sure of its containing matter. A blister is the proper thing to be applied in this case, which should be repeated in four or five days. Under this plan the matter is generally absorbed and thus a most tedious healing process is avoided. Even when the skin which covers it is very thin and red, a blister will frequently succeed.

When a venereal node is cured, the swelling and hardness generally disappears; but on the contrary sometimes the swelling will remain after the disease is perfectly extinguished,—to be removed only by slow degrees, or even not at all.

Thus the cure of venereal disorder in the bones consists in continuing a course of Mercury for a longer period, frequently in conjunction with sarsaparilla, and in means adapted for the more immediate relief of pain and suffering—repeated blistering.

*Rheumatic pains*, or those occasioned by the im-

proper use of Mercury, must carefully be distinguished from venereal. Those who have been affected once with this complaint are very apt to fear that any pains they afterwards may have must be venereal. They are further led to this conclusion by remembering their former pains came on at night. But, although venereal pains are remarkable for their severity at night this is not peculiar to venereal. Rheumatic and other nervous pains are generally worse at night than in the day; a better rule to judge by is the situation of the pain. A venereal sufferer will direct you to the middle of the bones, as the shin or fore-arm; or to some particular spot on the head or forehead, and if you gently press your hand along the part a roundish swelling will be felt, generally hard and painful to the touch, while those who have Rheumatic or Mercurial pains, complain of pain all over; especially about the chest and arms and down the legs and joints. These are not venereal. Such patients get better in summer. They should be directed to live temperately and wear warm clothing. The compound sarsaparilla (page 54) is valuable in such cases. Dovers powder at bed time also will afford relief.

*The bones of the nose and those which form the roof of the mouth, also merit particular notice here. I might have included what I have to say on this subject in the chapter on venereal sore throat, for the disease in these bones often begins with a*

sore on the soft parts covering the roof of the mouth ; but as it sometimes commences also with little scabby pustules which appear above the angle of the nose and upper lip or cheek, and sometimes on the membrane lining the bones themselves, it comes better in this place.

The sores in a venereal affection of the throat most generally appear upon the tonsil glands, but they are sometimes seen upon the roof of the mouth, and those beginning on the tonsils may spread upwards to this part. It is important therefore to watch these sores, particularly when on the roof of the mouth, for if they spread, the soft parts here being very thin, the bone is soon exposed and so diseased as to form an artificial opening between the nose and mouth. This is always a very serious thing, for the voice is rendered nasal by it, and if it be of any size, a portion of the food on eating is pressed through it, out upon the face.

The treatment of an ulcer in the roof of the mouth does not differ from one on the tonsils, except it should become inflamed on spreading. Venereal sores wherever seated, so long as nothing accidentally occurs to make them otherwise, are very slow in spreading and are attended with very little pain or surrounding redness ; whenever any thing of this kind happens, depend upon it there is something wrong.

Generally, when a venereal ulcer in the throat is doing well, soon after the commencement of Mercury, the sore will begin to improve, that is, from looking foul and covered with a yellowish matter, it will become cleaner, and little elevated points of redness will be seen upon it;—these are healthy granulations, and the surest presage of its cure. And if this favorable change should not occur before, it is sure to happen as soon as the constitution is fully under the influence of the remedy—shown by the swelling of the gums and spitting. A venereal ulcer in the throat therefore should be treated exactly as a chancre, and so long as it does not get worse this treatment should be pursued in the confident expectation of amendment as soon as the Mercury is brought to act upon the gums and salivary glands.

But if, instead of this a venereal sore throat is going wrong and threatens to involve the bones, there are three things which should be considered before we can safely determine what to do;—these are, whether it is cured by an inflammatory effect of mercury, instead of the proper one;—or whether it is a more than usually rapid and spreading venereal sore requiring a quicker effect of Mercury;—or, whether—its venereal nature being cured, it is not now a Mercurial, instead of a venereal sore.

*An inflammatory sore throat, the effect of Mercury, I have already spoken of, (page 76) In that*

case however, there was no previous sore, but little superficial whitish spots, like thrush, appearing upon inflamed and reddened parts. Here, on the contrary, a sore is first observed, and this, from being very little painful, and having scarcely any redness round it, suddenly becomes exceedingly painful, with high inflammatory redness extensively diffused. Now these inflammatory symptoms may fairly be attributed to the Mercury and we therefore discontinue it, at the same time the usual means for abating inflammation should be adopted—purgings, low diet, and rest. If any other remedies were required these would be, bleeding, and antimonial purges, for which see page 47, when the inflammation has abated, the Mercury should be resumed in smaller doses, but increased as might seem necessary.

*A rapidly spreading Venereal Sore Throat,*—is a very serious thing.—I have stated that this is not the natural course of this disease, and when it happens it implies the existence of something very wrong.

The cause most frequently observed in cases of this kind is a disordered or weakened state of constitution, generally rendered so by habits of irregularity, or an unsuccessful and injudicious use of Mercury. The previous treatment therefore should be a subject of consideration, and if Mercury has been taken, it should be ascertained, as near as can

be, to what extent. If, upon inquiry, it should seem that the spreading character of these sores commenced while under the free use of Mercury, it should be discontinued, at least, for a time; or, if Mercury should not have been commenced, it should now be entered on, and in such a way as to bring the constitution within its influence in the shortest time. But in every case the state of the constitution will demand particular attention, whether it be, with a view of recruiting from the effects of irregularities, or of Mercury, or, with a view of enabling it to bear that quick and decided influence of this medicine which may now be meditated. Here then we are accustomed to look to the Sarsaparilla with much confidence and pleasure.

The Sarsaparilla is a medicine peculiarly adapted to these cases, inasmuch as it has the following three distinct effects;—it is the best medicine that can be taken to renovate a constitution, depraved and weakened from any cause, especially from Mercury;—it has also the power of arresting the progress of Venereal disease, though not of curing it;—and it has the peculiar effect of enabling the constitution to bear that quick effect and quantity of Mercury which it could not bear without it.—In every case of Venereal sore throat, which did not seem to be doing well, whether it was deemed expedient to increase the dose of Mercury, or to diminish it, or to delay its use, I should always advise that sarsaparilla be

immediately commenced with. As to the best or most convenient form to take it in, this may be seen page 55. The form I have generally used, and with the happiest effect, but without knowing that it is better than any other, is the Compound Decoction. The Bark, with Ammonia, or with Nitric Acid, as mentioned page 53, is also an admirable medicine in these cases. It may be given in conjunction with, or without the sarsaparilla.

I have at this moment a remarkable and most gratifying instance of these combined effects of the sarsaparilla and bark now under my care.—This gentleman came to me from the hands of one of the advertising persons of our city six days ago. He tells me that when he first went to this person he had only a little sore upon the yard, (on the site of which there is at present a considerable degree of hardness) for which he gave him drops and pills. However, six days ago his throat was in a state of deep, ragged, foul, and spreading ulceration. Indeed the tonsil glands were entirely eaten away, there being nothing of them left but their swollen edges. It was so far fortunate that the disease had principally fallen upon these glands. He was also pale and emaciated, and, as he said, exceedingly weak and alarmed. In this case it was not easy to say with confidence whether it was the effect of Mercury, ignorantly given, or of the disease, upon an irritable and exhausted constitution. However, I determined to bring him, as

quick as possible, under the full influence of Mercury, and, at the same time, to give him all the support I could command. With this view I began with the Compound Decoction, of which he took a quart a day. After two days, I found no change for the better, but was confident the disease had not increased. I then directed, in addition to the sarsaparilla, the following mixture.—Peruvian Bark in powder, six drachms,—Compound Tincture of Bark, six drachms,—Nitric Acid, one drachm,—Tincture of Opium, one drachm,—Decoction of Bark, enough to make a half pint bottle of mixture, of which he was to take the sixth part, three times, and, if he could, four times a day. In two days more, making the fourth, I thought I saw a little improvement in the throat; but, what was to me a source of satisfaction, the gums were now affected by the Mercury, with an increased flow of spittal. The Mercury was now omitted.—This morning, being now the sixth day, he came a different person—he walked with a firmer step, and with a countenance of one conscious of an escape from misery more dreaded far than death;—he said, expressively, I am better,—I am safe. The ulcerations in the throat were now totally changed—they had lost their foul appearance, and were studded with little elevated points of redness, and which, in fact, could only be produced by reproducing life and health. Thus in six days we see a constitution, reduced to a deplorable condition, not only brought to bear the full and happiest effect of

Mercury, but so recruited and sustained, as absolutely to commence the healing process; and this, totally and altogether, the effect of the sarsaparilla and the bark. Nor will I allow, in any one respect, that this case should be supposed to be exaggerated, for I have it in my power to afford the fullest evidence of its correct detail. This gentleman (trusting that I would not indiscreetly expose his case to every one) has given me permission to refer any one I choose to him, and whom he will permit to inspect his throat and to acquaint himself with any facts concerning it.—But this is no new thing; similar instances are continually occurring to me.

It would therefore seem, that the sarsaparilla, alone, or, in more deplorable conditions, the sarsaparilla conjoined with Peruvian bark, affords the means, either of recruiting almost immediately, a constitution sinking beneath the abuse of Mercury, or of propping up its powers in such a manner as to enable it to bear the full effect of Mercury necessary to put an instant stop to the ravages of Venereal in the throat.

Respecting the form of Mercury to be used such a case as this, there are some more suitable than others. In the case just related, I used my own "Specific pill"—quickenened by the aid of ointment, nightly rubbed into the thigh, but if this had not shown its due effect upon the mouth within the time it did;

or, if it had been a case in which every thing depended on this quick effect, I should have used the *corrosate sublimata*, as directed in page 49, and perhaps have aided this by local remedies, next to be explained.

*Local applications* to venereal ulcers in the throat are adapted to two objects;—the one temporarily to check their rapidity and to give relief to present pain,—the other to remove them permanently by curing the disease itself. Those adapted to the first of these intentions have been already mentioned, page 219, and the various ways of using them defined. They chiefly act as caustics or as stimulants, and their value in allaying pain and giving a momentary check to encroaching sores, is great; but the one I have now to mention is Mercury in the form of fumes, for this, while it re-excites a healthy action in these sores, as the former do, it also cures them. Nothing that I am acquainted with more certainly and speedily controls an eating venereal ulcer in the throat than the fumes of Mercury, and therefore what I now propose to say about them is of much importance. The great objection to Mercury in fumes used to be the trouble and difficulty of using it without its being known. It was necessary, for instance, as mentioned in page 50, to procure a red hot heater, which was placed upon a brick; on this red cinnabon was sprinkled, (from half a drachm to a drachm) when fumes

would instantly arise; these were then drawn in with the breath by holding an inverted funnel over them, and thus was Mercury, in its most penetrating form, applied to the surface and edges of the sores. But how few could avail themselves of this remedy—excellent as it was. Any contrivance therefore calculated to secure so great a good without this trouble and exposure must be of value. Now, this is perfectly secured in the simplest possible manner. Just add we'll say, four drachms of Cinnebar to one ounce of melted wax and make a candle of it with a common wick and of a common size. It will be an inch or more in length. Then mark three lines around it to make four fumigations of the whole;—of course when it has burnt down to the first line, one drachm is used, and you put the candle out. The moment I first saw this excellent specimen of simplicity and contrivance suggested, I resolved to lose no time in applying it to practice. I can now add that I have ever used it since with the utmost satisfaction and convenience.

*The fumigating candle* therefore is my favorite application to spreading ulcers in the mouth, and I find it stops their progress and removes their foul appearance more quickly than any other application. A drachm of cinnaban at night, or night or morning, is my usual dose.—But I have also said the fumes of Mercury cure the disease as well as cleanse the sores. This it does by its effect

upon the constitution. There is no quicker way of inducing salivation than by the fumes of Mercury, used more freely than now directed. It is not often used with this intention because it is apt to salivate too severely; but when Mercury is given internally, which is generally the case when fumes are used, this more limited use of it accelerates its salutary action.

The last remark to make upon this subject is, that when the throat is brought into a healthy healing state, the Mercury is to be continued for the permanent cure of the disease on the common principle.—The next consideration is,—

*Whether the sore may not have lost its venereal nature and become Mercurial.*—This is a question to be determined rather by the history of each individual case than any particular appearance of the sore itself. In fact there is not a single thing in the appearance of an ill-looking, foul, and spreading ulcer in the throat, which would authorize any one to say—this is venereal—or, that is mercurial; it is altogether a matter for good sense to decide, founded on an accurate knowledge and a due consideration of its history and of all that has passed concerning it, and even then it may be mistaken.

The first question to settle in every such case of ulcerated throat, is—whether the original sore really was venereal at all. It may appear odd to put this

question, but there is more good reason for it than may at first be thought of. It was clearly shown in the ninth chapter of this little book, that other complaints occur in the genital organs in some respects resembling venereal, but which have nothing at all of the nature of this disorder in them; and, that a certain class of people, either from ignorance or knavery, always call whatever may occur upon these parts *venereal*. Now if such a case is treated with Mercury in a decided and proper manner, nothing is more likely than that the throat should become affected. This immediately alarms the parties and they conclude the disease is getting in the system, and that it demands a brisker use of Mercury. The effect of this however may be easily foreseen. It is a fact that the worst cases of supposed venereal ulceration of the throat I have even seen have been in those who *never had venereal at all*. They were instances of casual and innocent diseases for which Mercury was not required, and with which it disagreed. It would be to swell this little book too largely [already larger than at first intended] to adduce instances of this nature, of which I could give the most distressing kind. In order to feel satisfied, that the original sore in any given case was really a venereal one, then its first appearance and the first changes it underwent should be a subject of enquiry and the more nearly this history should agree with that beautiful delineation of a venereal chancre given in page 140, the more you may feel satisfied it really was so.

But it may be that very little information can be obtained,—its first appearance may be forgotten, or may have been destroyed by caustic, or its natural changes interrupted by some improper application. In this case other considerations should be availed of—such as the manner in which Mercury had been given,—the time which had expired between the original sore upon the genitals, and those in the throat,—and the co-existence of any other suspicious symptom, as blotches and eruptions on the skin, all of which have been mentioned more particular in chapter the fourteenth;—these will afford much help in any doubtful case.

Of all the considerations however which afford a just and satisfactory ground of suspicion that a spreading ulcer in the throat is not venereal, but mercurial, the change it may have undergone, while under the effect of Mercury, is the best. If, for instance, under Mercury, an ulcer in the throat had been for sometime doing ordinarily well, and, especially, if a kindly salivation had been instituted, and then, without apparent cause, it should suddenly become foul and spreading, it would afford just reason to suspect it was no longer a venereal, but a mercurial sore;—at any rate a continuance of the same plan would in all probability endanger any bony structure near the part. The Mercury therefore should be immediately discontinued, and the use of those remedies we have seen so useful in restoring a healthy action to

spreading ulcerations, viz: the sarsaparilla and the bark, be substituted.

The next cause of ulceration of the bones of the nose, or roof of the mouth, is one which begins in the form of,—

*Little ulcerations about the angle of the nose and upper lip and cheek.* These, when they seem to spread upwards in the nose, or without such apparent spreading, when a pain or uneasiness referred to the upper and inner part of the nose, accompanied by an occasional discharge of mucus tinged with blood, are present and complained of—occurring also when the system has been exposed to the disease—afford sufficient reason to consider the bones are threatened. This case demands the most judicious and decided use of Mercury, in conjunction with such local remedies as are known to expedite its influence on the system as well as on the part itself—viz: the cinnabar in fumes. Of course these should be drawn in by the nose instead of the mouth.

But beside these causes viz,—spreading ulceration of the throat and roof of the mouth, and ulceration beginning about the angle of the nose and upper lip,—a venereal ulceration may commence in the bones of the nose at once. It first affects the membrane covering them, but this being very thin the bones are soon affected too, and are very soon disfigured.

There is no occasion to make a single comment upon the disgusting appearance which disfiguration of the nose gives rise to.

A venereal ulceration in the bones of the nose may always be suspected, when a person lately having had venereal, feels a little scabby sore in the nose, which being picked away is followed by a little bloody mucus. This in a day or two will form again, and upon removing it will again be followed by the same appearance. In this case no time should be lost to bring the constitution under the full effect of mercury. If there should be delay and difficulty in doing this, then fumigations should certainly be had resource to, for these will not only expedite the effect of mercury, but in the mean while, immediately arrest the progress of the ulceration.

There is now but one additional remark I wish to make upon venereal ulceration of the bones, particular of those in the nose.

Whenever any kind of ulceration of the bones take place, its healing or curative process is a slow one;—the diseased part must be separated from the sound, and the process by which this is effected is termed *exfoliation*.—Now, we will suppose a course of Mercury has been well managed in a case of venereal ulceration of the bones of the nose, and that the disease is cured,—the Mercury discontinued, and the general health, if perchance it had been

reduced, thoroughly restored. Perhaps, after some weeks, or a month or two, there is some uneasiness in the nose complained of, with a little discharge of matter, and this perhaps offensive to the smell. But what would all this be more likely to suggest than that the old disease had not been cured, and that a fresh appeal to Mercury should be had recourse to. So sure however as this should be the course pursued so surely would it be repented of most bitterly. The uneasiness in the nose and the offensive discharge attending, is nothing more than the necessary consequence of the separation, or exfoliation of the disordered portion of the bone of the old disorder—that disorder being cured. Now, a fresh recourse to Mercury in this case would only have the effect of renewing the inflammation of the bone and producing a fresh exfoliating process. Let this remark therefore serve to guard against so great an error. Whenever such uneasiness and discharge occurs (a judicious and sufficient course of Mercury having been completed) it is to be treated, not as venereal, requiring the further use of Mercury, but as a necessary process in consequence of past disease. The means to have recourse to, if indeed any are required at all, are those adapted to support the constitution—of which the sarsaparilla, and the regulation of the digestive organs,—together with change of air, are the most important. These however are not often needed: only let it be remembered that Mercury is not to be repeated.

CHAPTER XVII.

*On the effects of Venereal Disease upon  
Posterity, &c.*

The proper questions in this chapter are—in what manner does a lurking venereal taint affect posterity ; —under what circumstances would it be a reasonable thing to suspect the existence of such a cause ;—and what are the means of removing it. With regard to stricture, the result of a badly treated Gonorrhœa, as a cause of importance, I have noticed in another place.

In the former edition I ventured to reason on this subject, and, beside the effects of the disease upon the infant which were visible and beyond all doubt, I concluded there was another manner in which this latent poison acted, viz : that of enfeebling and destroying the power of propagation altogether. In this edition, however, I intend to confine myself to facts, and those which shall rest on the authority of others rather than my own,—venturing only to suggest those inferences what seem naturally and unavoidably to follow.

In the first place then, I would observe, that but few persons can have had much practice in midwifery without having met with many instances of women

who have never gone their time; or, having completed the full period, have given birth to children which have always, or very shortly afterwards, died—so that in both cases they were childless women.

In the former instance, the infant thus prematurely born has presented proofs that it had died some days before delivery. The following are a few instances of these facts selected from many of the same kind, from a work by the late Dr. Beatty of Dublin. It is only necessary to say, that Dr. Beatty was an eminent, learned, practical man,—for many years Physician to the lying in Hospital in that city.

“I delivered a woman in Great Britain street Dublin, of a putrid child, in the 8th month of her pregnancy, which, she told me, had been the case with several children that she had had before, and that she despaired of ever having living issue. I enquired very particular into the state of health of both parents, and suspecting venereal taint to be the cause, I proposed to them the use of mercury, and separate beds, until I should be satisfied with the quantity of mercury used. They readily complied with the proposal, and the result was a living boy in due time, after the mercury had been discontinued; and their happiness at the event may be more readily supposed than described, as they were

both at the time pretty far advanced in life, and never had another child.”

“I delivered the wife of a cavalry officer of a putrid child in the 5th month. The gentleman had been on the continent with his regiment without his wife, and had contracted a slight venereal complaint, of which his surgeon considered him well before his wife joined him in France. I could not detect any venereal symptom in the parents, but was so satisfied with the cause of the child’s death, from the peculiar appearances on the body, that I recommended him to consult some eminent surgeon; and Mr. Todd was called in, who saw the regimental surgeon with me, and advised the use of mercury, which was regularly persevered in by both for several weeks. After this course pregnancy was soon the result, and I had the gratification of attending her, when she had a living girl. She has had several living children since.”

“In April 1818 I attended a very fine hearty looking woman, of her first child, which was born in the 8th month, dead and putrid. This, I hoped, was from some accidental cause, particularly as she said she had received a fright some time before. However, in June 1819, she again lay-in, in the 8th month, of a dead venereal child; and I recommended that she should see some surgeon, as her husband now confessed he had been disordered before

marriage. Mr. Todd saw her, and took both under his care until he was satisfied with the use of mercury. She lay-in, in September 1820, of a living boy."

Now the inference from all this, and which I take it every rational being will agree to, is the following;—*That venereal disease, not properly cured, may lie so dominant in the constitution as to show itself in no other way than in the destruction of posterity.*

Admitting this fact, then, what would be the course which every man to whom a succession of such births has happened, would be anxious to pursue. Would he not peruse the following: (I say HE, for with the mother it is, for the most part, out of the question,—it is with the father the evil lies.) The first consideration would be, whether he had ever had venereal disease at all. If not, it would be in vain to reason further, and he would safely conclude it arose from some other cause. But if he ever had had the venereal, no matter how long ago, he would most consider in what manner he had been treated; (and here the observations made in this little book upon the proper and necessary use of Mercury, in the cure of this disease, will enable him to form a pretty accurate opinion on this matter.) Then the question, as to whose care he had been under, would naturally occupy his mind;—that is,

whether he had fallen into the hands of a boasting, knavish empirick, or a man of integrity and skill. And lastly, the consideration whether he had had any healthy living children, would materially aid him,—for where this disease exists it pertains to all—not one escapes its deadly influence. Reflecting on these circumstances then, he would soon determine whether he had just ground to suspect himself to be the cause of these serious events, and if this should be the case, he would next enquire if there were any means of cure. This question however may be answered with the most gratifying confidence—there are;—and they are of a nature too, considering the importance of the object, of no extraordinary severity or inconvenience.

The means of cure in a case of lurking venereal taint consists in submitting both husband and wife to a simple steady use of Mercury, exactly as for chancre, but continued for a somewhat longer time. There are however a few things to mention with regard to Mercury in this case which are very important. One of the most singular is, that Mercury will not *cure* the disease in a female while she is pregnant. It will keep in check and remove apparent symptoms, but after confinement these will appear afresh, and then it is, that if a proper course of Mercury is entered on, it will finally and perfectly *cure* the disorder once for all. During pregnancy, therefore, Mercury never should be given, except occa-

sionally and in smaller doses,—it should be reserved until after confinement. In cases where every thing is doing well, in about ten or twelve days the Mercury may be commenced. For the reason just stated, during this course the husband and wife must rigidly observe a state or separation. Having stated the fact out of which this necessity arises, it is hardly needful to enforce the observance of it by any kind of argument.

Again, in nowise would it be of any use to put one upon a course of Mercury without the other; or, to submit each to Mercury at different periods. It is no matter whether the husband alone had the disease originally, and the wife never, apparently, at all. Without any kind of reasoning we must be governed by the fact, and however much a mystery it is, experience teaches that it is of no use to submit the one to Mercury without the other.

These things being premised, a course of Mercury, according to the rules laid down for the cure of chancre, but continued for two or three weeks longer, may be entered on with the greatest confidence of success. The little chest of medicine which accompanies this book contains enough for any two individuals, as well as the restorative aperient medicine if the constitution should in any way be disordered by the Mercury.

Perhaps it will not be unnecessary here to give

one case of my own in addition to those selected from Dr. Beatty's,—it will show how easily and successfully it is managed.

I was engaged to attend a lady in her first confinement. It was then about the third month. We went on very well till about the seventh, when it was observed she did not at all increase in size, nor did she feel the child as she had done before. None of us knew exactly what to make of it. At the full time however I was sent for, as labor pains came on, and in a few hours she was delivered of a putrid mass, scarcely in the form of a child. But she did well. A few days afterwards I ventured to ask the husband if he ever had the venereal disease, to which he said he had, but it was many months before his marriage. Then I enquired into the manner in which he had taken Mercury and found it was far from being satisfactory. This was quite enough. I persuaded them both to undergo a proper course, to which they readily consented, and in thirteen months I delivered her again at the full time of a healthy thriving boy.

But another effect of venereal taint is shown upon infants born at the full time and living. Here additional information is required, both as to the symptoms which indicate the disease, and the the means required to cure it.

In some instances infants born under these circumstances indicate the disease by a weak and impoverished condition, together with copper-colored blotches about the fundament and genitals, which soon spread to other parts of the body. These peculiar copper-colored blotches, especially occurring in these parts, are considered almost unequivocally as marks of venereal disease. The countenance of such infants have also a peculiar appearance,—it is a resemblance of extreme old age.

It still more generally happens, however, that infants of such parents that are born alive, have the appearance of being healthy and well at first, but in a few days pine away and suddenly die; or, that they live to develop the fuller marks and unequivocal symptoms of the disease by slow degrees. These symptoms Dr. Colles observes, begin “in a period varying from six or eight days to as many weeks.” They first appear in copper-colored spots, and what is remarkable, these are almost always seen about the fundament and organs of generation, spreading to the groin, showing a tendency to pass into sores and ulcerations. At this time also the voice changes and it cries with a peculiar hoarseness of sound. The disorder then proceeds to show itself in little whitish sores about the mouth, tongue, throat, and nose, from which latter a discharge of matter flows, and often dries into crusts, very much obstructing its breathing through the nose. If the child lives on

other symptoms appear, as sore eyes, swelling of glands, &c. &c. But we must not suppose all these symptoms occur together in every case,—sometimes but few of them appear, the most common of which are, the copper-colored blotches about the fundament and adjoining parts—generally followed by some appearances in the throat and mouth. Neither, indeed, must it be thought that in every instance in which these or similar symptoms occur, that they are venereal, for some of them may be the consequence of neglect of cleanliness, or a poor diet, &c.—and then an attention to these causes, with simple remedies, will improve their appearance and ultimately heal them. Other circumstances also will assist the judgment, such as having other children that are healthy, and the additional testimony of the conscience on the subject. With regard to the—

*Treatment of the Venereal disease in Infants,*  
—This, in some measure, is peculiar. Of course, in general, when a child comes under treatment for this complaint, its parents, or its mother at least does so too. Now, it is a well attested fact, that when the mother has been put under a proper course of Mercury, and she at the same time has suckled the child, both the mother and child have got well together, without giving the child any medicine at all. In this case no doubt the infant is cured by the effects of Mercury conveyed to it by the milk. It used to be the fashion, particularly when the

state of the mother's health did not allow of sucking, to salivate a goat, and sustain the child upon its milk; but this is not so often now the plan pursued. Admitting the fact, however, that the milk of the mother under a course of Mercury may cure the child, it is generally thought advisable to give the infant Mercury too. When therefore it is determined on to give the infant Mercury, I know of nothing better for this purpose than the specific pills contained in my private chest. One of them may be broken down into a powder, and to an infant a week old, one half a pill, mixed with syrup, may be given night and morning. The same attention to its effects are necessary, as in adults. If it should purge, this should be checked with a little mixture made of,—twenty grains of chalk, one drop of laudanum, and a little syrup;—one quarter part of which may be given every third or fourth hour till the bowels are relieved and easy. And, in like manner as in adults, if the breath should become offensive, and the gums sore and ulcerated, the Mercurial medicine should be omitted for a time at least.

If, however, the specific pill could not be obtained, then a preparation of Mercury known by the name of "*Creta cum Hydrargyro*"—to be obtained at any Apothecary's store, should be substituted,—two grains and a half of this powder night and morning. Others give blue pill, of which a

grain or a grain and a half may be given every night.

Without a doubt therefore it seems an uncured venereal disease has a fatal effect upon posterity;—it either destroys the infant before its maturity of birth; or more gradually unfolds its nature in the living child. With respect to a third effect, that is, whether it may destroy the power of propagation altogether, this, as I have said before, having no such positive proofs of, I will not venture to say, farther, however, than as a matter of opinion, for I think it does. There are many other curious circumstances which might be mentioned on the subject of this chapter, but with which I could not conveniently swell this little volume. All that are useful and important, as as well as curious, I have mentioned, of which I think none can present a deeper interest than the fact,—*that venereal disorder, if not properly cured, may lie so dormant and unsuspected in the constitution as to show itself in no other way than in its fatal, or miserable effects upon posterity, if it do not even destroy the procreating faculty altogether.*

