

Vaiden (T. J.)

THE COMMENCEMENT
OF A
PRACTICAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE,
TO
MEET THE PREMONITIONS OF DISEASE,
AND TO SECURE ON RATIONAL PRINCIPLES
MORE UNIFORM POPULAR BENEFIT,
ON
The Immediate and Absolute Requirements of Nature,
THROUGH HER EARLIEST CO-OPERATION,
WITH PERMANENT AND SATISFACTORY PLEDGES,
AS TO THE MEDICINE USED IN ALL THE
DEPARTMENTS OF FEVERS OF
GENERAL CHARACTER.

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GAINESVILLE, ALA.

MOBILE:

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THE COMMENCEMENT
OF
A PRACTICAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE, &c.

Philosophy must certainly irradiate the whole circle of science, ere Nature's Rights are properly insured. No absurd acts of usurpation should affect—no sinister designs of opinion and bigotry should mar them. Is Medical Science at present, competent to secure proper and commanding circumstances of success, to meet uniformly and to her proper extent, the primary wants of nature : and does she fulfill her lawful action and bearing, to the absolute and immediate demands of life ? Is there any sacrifice of life, unwarranted and uncorrected on her present basis ? Is she enabled to meet in good faith, the expectation and reasonable wishes of her true friends in the dangerous exigency of disease ; impart the protection of philosophy, and afford her best defence and blessings of life, as one of the great benefits of Deity ? These are now, in this enlightened day and age, the great and manly questions that intelligent and honorable freemen are concerned to know, not merely on a professional, but equally on a philosophical basis for utilitarian good of mankind, that premises the amplest benefits of Life, the best rights of Genius, and the noblest prerogatives of Mind.

Where was medical science, the faithful patroness of life, in the first and intermediate attention, which determines the best and right position always, for the successful attainment of the balance, in such cases as these ? an illustration on stern and convincing facts cited in this recent letter addressed to the author of this work, by F. COURTNEY, M. D., who is qualified to exhibit them, by his medical ability and experience, in a practice of several years in this town and vicinity :

"SUMTER COUNTY, Ala., Jan. 18th, 1845.

"Dr. T. J. VAIDEN,

"Dear Sir—You inquire of me, (and request an answer in writing) whether I have not been consulted, as a practitioner of medicine, in cases of sickness at a period in the disease when all prospect of benefit from the use of medicine had passed ? I answer unequivocally in the affirmative. You further request that I will give a succinct history of a few such cases, with which request I now comply.

"The first case that occurs to my mind was that of a Mr. ———, in 1839, to whom I was called in great haste and whom I found 'in

articulo mortis.' This case I learned had been attended by a distinguished quack, who, if I mistake not, pronounced it a case of Pleurisy, and if his pathology was correct, his treatment was very erroneous, as the usual antiphlogistic treatment recommended in such cases had been entirely neglected. Be that as it may however, the patient died in less than an hour from the time I first saw him, and the skill of his Doctor (?) was not more than equal to that of quite a number of farmers of my acquaintance, who have probably never read a page in any other medical book, save Gunn's Domestic Medicine. The next case was a servant of Mr. ———, who had been laboring for about a week under an attack of remittent fever, originally (no doubt) simple and remediable. Upon visiting this case, I was informed by the master that his servant was sick, but doubted her being as seriously ill as the patient pretended, and his principal object in sending for me seemed to be not so much to cure the case as to decide whether the patient was sick enough to keep the bed. Judge of my surprise, when upon visiting the sick room, I found that collapse had already taken place and the case beyond the reach of remedies. This patient died in about six hours after I first saw it. I will only give one additional case for the present, as I am pressed for time. A servant of Mr. ———, was complaining a number of days of pain in his limbs, burning sensations in his bowels, having regular rigors and fever succeeding. I was finally called on to visit him, and found him sinking under congestion of the bowels. The case was hopeless. I used the usual remedies in such cases, but it was too late, the patient died in about twelve hours. If I had time I might detail quite a number of similar cases, but these will suffice for the present. I don't know that I have met your design in your request—if not, say so in reply and state your wish, and if in my power consistently I will reply.

Respectfully,

"F. COURTNEY.

"T. J. VAIDEN, M. D., Gainesville, Ala."

Clear, conclusive evidence this, that non-appreciation of disease constitutes the positive and insurmountable difficulty—a primary and imperial consideration in the injury of families generally—otherwise, no manly feelings would permit such acts for a moment. Who, even the best of physicians, can estimate the difference between chills of various fevers and acute affections, and their result from the first slight symptoms preceding? How then can families who look so slightly at this important subject, ever reach the proper point? There is but one way, and that is proof practical on trial by an appropriate and uniform conservative or remedy, to rout the diseased feelings before their mature and full development.

The preceding statement is that of a gentleman candid and disinterested, who knows what he writes, on a subject that imperatively needs the most profound attention and correction of medical science, both for the requisite improvement of medical aid, and certainly for the valued and paramount blessings of life. When public sentiment,

enlightened by the brilliancy and lustre of science, shall reach the right view, then it will be so decided. Could the volumes, that can be now filled with the tragedy of even recent cases of this kind, speak ultimately, this will be plain, when they speak effectually. The scenes that can be portrayed in the secret errors of medicine trial, and those of omission, are enough to arouse the best sympathies of our nature, and the most cogent influences of our philanthropy. The man that seeks more such as Dr. COURTNEY describes, can find them abundantly on nature's pages himself, and from the history of his own family physician. If he do not profit by them rightly, he is unworthy the trust confided to him, for he is not true to himself and his conscience, his family, nor his friends—but recklessly entails on them injury the deepest and most odious, on the sacred grounds of science. Intelligence, "with a heart in the right place," appreciates its best light. There is one in point, on my first visit. This was the case of a patient seen within four months past, in the sixth day of sickness and last of life. The age was some six years, and of course this child was incapable of vital protection—and that bespeaks a double obligation on civilized society. The patient was evidently in the last stage of fever, that seemed to present a fearful, if not fatal character. He was senseless and speechless, only uttering an ominous, piercing scream when raised up. The extremities were cold, and the pulsation quick, weak and subdued. For the first time, on the preceding or fifth day, an unsuccessful attempt was made to give this little patient medicine in bulk! But such dose could not even then be thus administered, and of course the remedial benefit was utterly lost. The right time passed on—when nature gave her undoubted signs of extreme, if not irreparable injury and suffering approaching final exhaustion, then I was sent for, the first time; and would I could say this was the only case of the kind by many in even my individual practice. The patient was very successfully given in my presence a solution of medicine in water, by pouring it down him; but what did that avail, though good effects were apparently secured? The curable state to my ability was gone forever! What availed all medical science in such condition and time? What could she do? Operate on dying matter—re-make vital organs? The physician then, without such analysis, is responsible for all the miserable disorganization that dead or dying patients present him in the form of humanity—his popularity with some, dependent on it; and he must not reform the primary position that constitutes them, and life's inherent paramount rights, that is imperial nature's rights, must be deferred to the baseness of low, vulgar and ill-bred contention, subservient to usurpation and her livery. On these principles, let us make a bonfire of all medicines, and abandon all partial, one sided efforts for relief, for medical science shall not be so miserably libelled. It was not her work I gave the history of in the five day's omission. Be not hers the responsibility. Let drivelling opposition to her interest, identified with sectarian and bigoted policy in its most odious meanness of brutal ignorance—evil counsels, low cunning intrigues—base con-

spiracy and contemptible humbugery, be ~~scorned~~ first into its inherent insignificance. "Had we known that case was so serious we would have called you, Doctor, long ago." This is the candid language held on that occasion, and such will unavailingly be, to end of time, unless remedied in the primary elements. What then is obviously wanting for the fundamental amendment of this mighty, ever present and paramount evil? To give medical science a fair shewing, to meet the people's absolute wants—for if the patient and his guardian friends do not act correctly at the very first step, on this great and leading fact, who will?

The elevated powers of medical science on impeachable ignorance at the first step are defied, and loftiest ones wofully destroyed. The omission as bad as the commission, must be corrected in the essential particulars, and in every case affected we must be certain and put it on certain and no contingent partisan views, that medical science act her part of protection. The true time of admonition, the correct appreciation of premonition—prompt in anticipation and profound in correction—the proper and practical test, all the time of life for disease, must be realised. A beacon must be raised, that the best action and duty practicable may be insured for the benefit of all. No better comment can be offered for illustration than the supposition of the same party "that it was worms that were the matter." This implies at once that such diseases could be waited on, a double delusion surely. I know no disease, acute or chronic, that permits procrastination. Worms are the assigned cause of much disease then, for if the bowels slough, the result is worms. But worse than all, if a severe fever prove fatal, worms are responsible! When will such delusions cease? Never, till a correct pathology gives her beneficent aid to mankind. I seek the correct exposition of facts and their proper deduction: and the correction of the evil that affects them. I respectfully seek the best protection of medical science for my own life, and must exercise in this as in other matters of fact, my own best judgement not on the mere interested, unenlightened opinions of others, but the facts of nature presented in the whole case, and their best comprehensive proof. What family can act otherwise to its best interest? I must do this family the justice to say, they gave the usual attention to disease previously, as good as many others—but unfortunately fell in with the vulgar notion of procrastination, and thus acted on impeachable basis. Could they have appreciated the insidious character of this case, so like the cases of Typhus a few weeks after? so like many that occur in every season of the year? The character of human nature identified with self interest will answer the question, and loudly proclaim for its exculpation, that the severest diseases ruthlessly and fatally invade its best sanctuary without redress, and often without sympathy.

This whole important matter should be borne in mind, to illustrate the analogy of medical history. For such cases are most extensive in varieties of fevers, and are too often deemed by all classes a mere chill and fever, that turn out to be the severest of diseases, that surprise even the wisest of the land at times. Can this be at all wondered at, when

none can tell the different kinds of chill at first, nor in what fever of the season and climate it will terminate? Severe as such cases are, still because individual and isolated—occurring once in a while, they pass on unnoticed in the annals of life, though abundant in the aggregate and filling up a mighty mass of evidence, in the world's premature affliction, conclusive in proof and weighty in character, that invoke the best powers of correction and conservation, through genius and intelligence of medical science, traversing the unbounded circles of their province in "the empire of mind."

The main wish with all, is the insurance if practicable against premature and severe malady, to procure just a proportionate treatment, suited to, but not transcending the merits of the case, against injury to the constitution and risk of life. Yet their deep neglect leaves nature to take care of too many of the severest diseases. This would not be so bad, if perversions of her rightful efforts were not so frequent even in the mildest. How then, shall this medical problem be solved, especially in this vital and starting point? The practical teaching of medical science must be established in her conservative capacity. To know this to the best purpose available in life, we must be certain thoroughly, that she had her powers properly and uniformly executed, from the commencement of diseased action, fully and fairly all the time. We must be certain of the first symptoms, of their practicable correction, to prevent "the halting between" various weak "opinions" of others, designedly or ignorantly perverting the best action of science, and at variance with good morals and gentlemanly conduct. The extreme difficulty of securing all practicable general benefits, but by correct scientific domestic assistance, as to knowledge of disease through its premonitory symptoms, and its best correction on the aid of science, is so evident and so plain to every honest man, open to "the full persuasion of his own mind," that its miserable substitute, with wholesale injury, will be employed otherwise, and medical science be on an uncivilized basis, and will be taxed with some of its worst results. No decree, but from imperial pathology, will correct it. Not that we can thus expect every thing to be secured, but that the greatest evil will be averted, if not expelled. This is rational, and wise men expect no more. This is one of the great actions of life, to prevent the greatest evil being fixed upon us too often—otherwise we would be eternally complaining of the decrees of injurious fate.

I need not ask an intelligent and candid person for reasons why so many invalids—such chronic diseases that not only bring premature death, but most oppressive burdens of life. The noble science of medical economy regulates cures, not mere escapes. This is certain in any case of importance, that suffering, more or less, will be proportionate to the time and mode of remedy, and the ability of the organic functions that are invoked. The best physician seeks to command the most comprehensive, the most appropriate, the speediest relief. The patient must know when and how to act uniformly to the exigency of his case, else his constitution suffers prematurely, and

his life may be the forfeit. Then is it good faith to have him lose the first and intermediate steps in acute diseases, that may prove fatal in minutes, hours or a day, so abundantly tested in the annals of sickness? Is it a noble attribute of our nature to wish man's sufferings, pains and life-rights in abeyance, to the foulest prejudice and the rankest usurpation? There is no exception to the highest obligation of a remedy in any disease of consequence—and what common disease is not of consequence? It then resolves itself into the fault of omission, as well as commission, and that we must correct in medicine the earliest moment that is rational. Such is the highest act of civilization. Rational people will estimate it thus in another, if not in this age. Omission produces at the last an existence, at times of lingering or equivocal health. Is this to be the elevated state of medical science? No respectable casuist can advocate such. Then the capacity of medical science is to be estimated to her sublimest greatness and most efficient powers.

As to medical men, if gentlemen, what issue can I have with them? The present basis of medical science, is not science. I do not alter science—I seek her conservative principle to do away with contingent practice. I propose this to the mass who suffer—can judge. The proof is with them. What have I done to the vulgar and sub-apologies of medicine, that they can complain of? Are the privileges of such, for one single moment, to outweigh the paramount rights of life, and of unprotected millions, I may truly say of billions? Those who wear the impress of dark ages should not, must not trammel freemen—mind. As to liberality, when they shew they “have given all their goods to the poor,” then such brazen and impertinent impudence can lecture with some reason and conscience.

As one of the human race and family, I am identified with their best interests, and seek to effect ultimately my best ratio of scientific exertion on the altar of popular good. I advocate the principles of science on the prerogatives of my nature and her rights. I seek to elevate all that are remedies, and exclude all that are not. To put all on a uniform basis, to insure safety and vital protection—to analyse all points as far as the capacity of rational principles are concerned—to submit to no deductions that are inappropriate, and to compromise none that are unsafe. I say that medical science, for which I contend, must be untrammelled by dictation of mere short-sighted policy of profession, whilst she is amenable to the loftiest principles of philosophy and the noblest aspirations of genius. The general welfare can only thus be exalted. Will any one contend against the necessity and reason of correct domestic assistance? As well gainsay the essential appreciation of disease; and better far, revolutionise the decrees of nature in other departments. Why so much attempted without the light of science to relieve suffering? Some with no definite object in view—some with no effort at relief by a call on science, dependant on nature obviously oppressed, not by her own bad acts, but by wilful neglect and exposure, under all the imprudence of art. Are such suicides to be permitted? Well might we ask, is this

an age of civilization, did not such errors, deep and rank in the luxurious soil that originates such evil, have many illustrious exceptions. Did not nature wisely protect herself at times, even the best pathology could not? Science then, must preside over the correction by effectual commission and by prescription, for if she do not, ignorance, prejudice and intolerance will. Such is and will be their history in time's duration for all ages. We speak of the past as if in triumph. Let us look with wisdom to the present, if not competent to do so for the future. Such scenes speak to the medical philosopher with all the cogency of reason, and all the refinement of philanthropy. Let him that lifts up his voice at all, be sure before he utters one word ignorantly, and least of all a brutal libel, against its appropriate correction. Any worthy system of medicine, participant of the great whole that the light of science will develop, to be uniformly good, an invariable criterion for wise adoption, must be uniformly secured. If rule and law were not invariable, equilibrium, one of the grand and sublime truths of creation would be perverted, and the mighty and sublime harmony of universal action would be forever in suspense and danger. The manifest and obvious defects of medical practice, not science then, must be on the elevated grounds of genius, securing the best attributes of the originating elements, under the panoply of all that is sacred in government—all that constitutes greatness of mind and all that is revered in the best esteem of the wisest.

Disease must be universally appreciated to be corrected. A right test for disease, is a practical appreciation "at the time and hour," that is available in peril. It must be insured generally to be available and uniform. "'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished" that rouses up the enthusiasm of our best feelings, for if such a test can be accomplished in appropriate season, the disease is met as rude invasion ever should be, by expulsive force at the first best appreciation, and the merited rebuke for neglect and error may be rightly assessed on the proper person. No longer then, the siren cry of "I did not know that the disease was so severe, and if I had, I would have sent for the Physician long before I did." Then much due responsibility may be referred to the right source, and each stand or fall by relative merit or demerit. If even a partial test, itself a proportionate remedy, could be advanced, much unjust suspicion may be allayed, and much uncharitable acrimony of feeling, that has maligned the best efforts of the Physician, be subdued, and those feelings may be harmonised, that all may seek a standard of righteous judgment—then much disorganization can be happily anticipated, and the legitimate powers of organic functions abundantly and fitly secured, by the scientific Physician, long before chronic injury has become deep seated. Its influence on society for dereliction, will be manifest, and irradiate the whole circle of responsibility: it may cause even the drunkard, absent from home the best of his time drinking poison to his stomach and other organs—his blood—mind—physical powers—his and family's peace and comfort—when his children are sick unto death and his wife is not in a state of mind to appreciate, obtain or give the proper assistance at the right time or by

the right mode, to be cautious of his excuses. And it may bring, among others, the miser to account, whose family sacrifice is no less—the correction of all which, none but a miscreant would arrest. It may reflect on the imposition of pretensions to science, never possessed from books, much less from nature—and on those that infest with evil intentions to sacrifice others' lives—blind leading the blind—with all the deep delusions of error and ignominy of crime. Then public sentiment may be rightly directed—and may reach to the appreciation of medical science, condemning her perversion as impeachable sophistry, vulgar, base and degrading, in not promoting her true dignity. No prerogatives of life can be usurped in medical science. The lurking, insidious diseases of the season and climate, long before the whole family is aware of severity and danger, have victimised, though the victims may breathe a short time longer, and hope lingers because the physician has been called!

How can this great evil be remedied? Not by speculating and prejudiced theory, but by practical and active diligence—not by uncertain proxy, but by uniform self-agency and intelligent medical police in its place—not by contingent aid of one absent individual in thousands, but by the available presence of the head and soul of all the properly interested committees, with a medical test, a uniform criterion, a medicine available from the first, when rightly given with due diligence to command of circumstances, of premonition of disease step by step, and all protection of patients due sickness, and that calls for and indicates the best, and unites with a timely security. Such a medicine, to meet individual and single symptoms, the safest and most rational plan for speediest appreciation, and that is adapted for their combination in matured disease; mild by its mode of administration to most delicate patients in their most delicate position, for mild diseases by appropriate doses—not on the kill or cure principle to constitution and life—and adequate to sustain its conservative action, and like a disease measurer, that shows its violence when unsuspected, and obscure even to disciplined eyes, when not broken in suitable time, the best evidence being present of its seriousness, requiring actively all the best remedy practicable, that may rally around it, identified all to protect against the severe, and disclose fairly the insidious. Such a remedy is needed to the whole world, that shall carry like the fruits of an humble, though sublime offering, consolation, comfort and hope to the lowly; that shall give the acknowledged benefits of science, in its defined results to him that cannot protect himself in time of need and peril, nor even tell its force, but by intrinsic proof in much of the concealed points of danger. Its clear necessity is daily seen in every circle of disease and society.

Recent official reports of continued Fever of Typhus character, or "Winter Fever," will illustrate all this. This disease that commenced in mid winter, caused its fatal power to be felt, before much of it could be justly appreciated, in other cases then prevailing. Happy can we always be to extract from such sacrifice the good that experience teaches. I give the history as competent to afford much appreciation

of the subject at least. The first case, at the first visit, bespoke at once to my best perception extreme severity and danger, with deepest injury, whose effects were displayed in momentous symptoms. The alimentary canal, of course the stomach, was deeply participant. Pea-green vomit, dots of slough, blood mixed with bile, were present.—The head, of course, was wretchedly involved. The whole organic and capillary system was profoundly affected—vision presented objects double—the tongue was much furred, and the surface extremely dry. With all the aid of mercurials, the lancet, blisters, &c., that were used to the best of my judgment—the tonics, commanding the warmth of the extremities in a conspicuous degree, most of the ensuing stages to the time of approaching dissolution—still other severe symptoms gave ominous changes to the loss of senses of hearing and speech—the pupils of the eyes tremendously dilated, the pulse very frequently rising and falling, and most variable from the first, beyond precedence. The true condition of this case can be rightly inferred: the symptoms carry the inherent proof of its extreme character, and unassailable evidence of its relative position. I have every reason to infer that it became severe, too speedily for its appreciation by this family, ere it was known that such a case of dreadful disease was in that whole section of country. Nor would it, like thousands more such all over the world, have ever come to notice, probably, in its true character, had that, as others, been cured—much less, had it been the only one. Like worms, another reason might have been invoked to compound for non-appreciation, but that which is so plausibly assigned, whenever the youthful age of females is attained, is too palpable an error, and too much an anomaly of creation for me to receive. No doubt much severity of disease can be obviated—the sooner the better, as disease is thus more simple—and its true formidable character forever be obscure, and the world none the wiser. It is its misfortune. The analysis is too subtle for common observation, and the benefit too great for mere self-interest to allow. All this is a theme for minute and critical observation for the elevated portion of the adherents of medical science, in such severe character of disease, and should be examined with relative faithfulness whenever opportune, in diseases that occur so seldom in the aggregate. All should profit by a storm, for future popular benefit, either for speedy or uniform cure, when the organic functions can be preserved, or caused to sustain all reasonable expectations. So often is it the case, that only when disorganization has ensued, that most persons ignorant of danger at its commencement, or of convalescence even, appreciate the fatal as only an extreme position, and then absurdly invoke a consultation, when many physicians cannot alter an impossibility, and who cannot do, what a simple remedy, if made correctly on correct principles of pathology—that is insuring a correct basis of action—might have anticipated successfully—an analogous condition to a conflagration, not to be arrested by all engine power, worked by men good and true, that a tumbler of water rightly applied by a youth, might have arrested at first. So difficult is analysis of thought, that we must be content to learn by the master spirit of experience.

Such was this case, that sprung surprise into this family, and death to its victim. The principal had successfully treated cases, milder of course, previously; but such as all could wait on according to vulgar notions, an idea that injures so extensively. He had expressed approbation of this system of practice, drawn from the particular facts of those cases thus treated. Yet that was only a partial experience. He had secured some improvement in his previous domestic attention to his family's diseases, so important and necessary to their welfare—as some few years ago, I was called to one of his family, and on that, I believe the very first visit, death ensued three hours after—and that practice was on a system that saved some forty-seven of fifty consecutive cases, or thereabouts, of various and continued fevers, during their prevalence in this town and vicinity. I state this as necessary in connection with the preceding fact. It is due the subject also to state, the marked and improved health of this town since.

The extreme character of this commanding malady required effectual treatment from the first. Medical philosophy invokes this, for correction of acute, and prevention of chronic cases, permitted by the weakness of mere practice, not by medical science, in millions of fatal cases in the world. For what use the attempt, unless the treatment be effectual? The first time appropriate must not be lost—and all the intermediate time must be realised by full and fair trial of whatever system of practice is adopted. A part of the facts identified with this subject can, I am conscious, amply sustain my position.

In the first place, more than thirty consecutive cases of such fever, more or less intense as taken at the first, part of which I saw myself as reported, have been cured, and two-thirds of them without mercury, and all by this system of practice—most of that practice by those not very skilled previously in diseases, and securing proportionate good results almost invariably as the treatment was prompt. Half of these cases were not even seen by me. The relative severity of the febrile character of that disease is conclusive. On the same day of my first visit, a family relation was in another room in bed—I was told he then had a chill on him. I had nothing to do with his case. In a very few days the patient was dead. I mention this as a fact to shew the depth of affection then prevailing, and to illustrate the decided character of the non-appreciation, after the other case had existed for some four days under prostration—how much more under premonition, I cannot estimate. The impression I got from the family about this young man's case was, that it was “a chill and fever,” and I should never have been the wiser that it was not, from their general opinion, but for hearing of his death in five days. And though a family connection, still there was no excitement and alarm about his case on that occasion—but all was calm and easy, as if a case of common intermittent, that so many overlook till chronic, postpone till incurable, and do not appreciate till dropsy and an enlarged spleen and schisous organs wind up the miserable victim in death. The command of single symptoms, as they occur, can only give us the command of the case—to command the major we must first command the

minor—to command the chill, ever command its preceding symptoms. This fever, the like of which I have seen but once—which disease is so much unknown to the people generally, though they should always be prepared for such, as an insidious stranger that deceives to destroy—seemed to threaten as severely as that some years ago at the University of Virginia, when its fatality was alarming and so decisive. I say so insidious was this disease—though it was then the second case before the eyes of this family—and its estimation of chill and fever would be so regarded by most of families under the present mode of medical treatment: and many a tragedy thus enacted. Who would exult, when no locality is exempt, no patient secure from such contingency at times, as healthy the residence and as robust the constitution may be? Was there not also an equal and general want of appreciation elsewhere?

About the time just related, two gentlemen from a county in this state, mentioned that a very severe disease was then prevailing there, “so fatal that the doctors had not time scarcely to work on the same before death.” I infer, justly no doubt, from confirmation of sickness there by an acquaintance, that the disease was speedily fatal to a great extent, from the same universal reasons, and must have been there too, as elsewhere, most signally unappreciated by the affected families. What did they call it? “It was hard to assign any out of several names.” In another county the disease was prevailing, and my informant tells me he presumes one third of the affected died. His words are, “four of ten patients thus affected in two families have died, and some of the survivors linger or were down longer than four weeks.” This view is abundantly sustained in various places elsewhere, to the amount of five and probably six deaths in some families. Some consider it “slow fever.” It has been treated under variety of names, which have been changed before publication! I presume its severe character will not be disputed, by any gentleman, whether typhus, typhoid, influenza or cold plague—connected to and varied by some predominance of organic or capillary affection, causing variety of terms under the relative intensity. Thus many names may be referred to. But where is the correct pathology in the mean time?—Whether the distinction was external or internal, I have uniformly acted as if the whole were typhus, more or less intense and more or less complex. The fatal character of this winter fever at once fixes enough beyond cavil and dispute for our purpose. Of several states visited by it under various terms, I will cite this one statement:

“*New Disease.*—The Alton (Illinois) Telegraph, of the 8th inst., states that a most malignant disease has made its appearance in the neighborhood of that city called the cold plague, which generally carries off its victims in the course of two or three days. The patient is first seized by a chill, which usually lasts about two hours, and is succeeded by a violent fever, attended with intense pain in the head, chest and limbs. The sufferer sometimes sinks under the fever which follows the first chill, but most frequently after the second. A number of names are given of those who have already died of it.”

Case the second in the same family. This was looked upon by them more as a case of sore throat, the patient, a youth, having been much subject to croup, and was treated by appliances to the throat—but of course they did not cure this fever thus appreciated. I consider it continued fever of similar character, accompanied by sore throat, quick pulse of 120, flushed face, &c. This case was referred to me somewhat promptly on account of the sore throat symptoms, and was treated successfully by the tonics and mixture purgative without mercury.

Case 3d. Before the termination of any case in this family a small boy was taken, and his typhus fever was still worse as it was not appreciated by single but by the whole symptoms of flushed face, very quick and subdued pulse, dullness of aspect with some dullness of perception when aroused from sleep. Of course this case was not appreciated till maturity of disease thus developed. His surface was extremely dry. At first he complained of severe pain of head or head ache, as I presume all that were affected did more or less—also of the bowels. The tongue shewed deep affection. What preceded his head ache I do not know, nor how long it took before its severe violence demanded redress. It was suggested that brown paper with vinegar was suitable—but that decision was overruled by my presence and suggestion, that an internal remedy, that had such commanding influence over head affections in the course of febrile disease, tested by so much evidence, was the best—finally my suggestion was acted on to feeble adoption. Any family that looks upon a case as mere head ache, that even abstinence, exercise or a common article often corrects successfully, cannot feel aroused at first at all to the deep affection that could, if neglected easily victimize an unsuspecting child patient, in a very few days. I presume no one can suppose that the disease was appreciated until reaching the fearful position of development. Families have not estimated disease generally by single symptoms—nor do they act advisedly if they do. What criterion have they to distinguish chills? whether of intermittent or of typhus—I had almost said some hectic chills? Ignorant people talk of chills as no disease, as if all belong to intermittents—mere ague and fever! Too many such blunders have been just enacted, for this matter to be overlooked. The only best fact in this whole matter, is at once practical proof by remedy. No person of experienced eye on the tongue of this and several other patients approaching his condition, could ever be misled that such a case could be trifled with—but unfortunately this appears too often along with the severity of the case in its full development. Some moderate tribute of medical science may thus anticipate family appreciation, as the watch is an index of time. How often does the patient go as long as he can stand, too manly to give up for sickness that becomes fatal ere he resigns himself to remedial care? All acquainted with yellow fever recognise this. How often does the patient say, I am sick to-night, if I do not get better by morning, I will then take medicine! This destroys millions prematurely. The whole philosophy of this subject demands the highest consideration of all who estimate health and life pro-

tection, whether the fatality of acute disease is extensive, or chronic cases to be feared. There is no exception. My presence in attention to the first case, was conservative to the two last. I prescribed tonic pills to the child—some two pills were given to evident but partial relief. His great thirst confirmed still more my position. Next day the slight treatment of the case required correction in the development, expressed by full symptoms of flushed and peculiar countenance, quick pulse, &c. Mercurials, with tonics, were prescribed. Some more was subsequently done by common remedies, as much of the subsequent treatment was done in the family. His health was established decisively some two weeks after the attack. This was among the longest of all the cases. I believe this case was prevented from reaching the deep and threatening head affection, the confirmed stupor, that in no case since treated by the tonics has prevailed to any thing like even this patients'—and I think that its condition and the treatment could have been much improved on by their quicker and more efficient administration. I do not permit the introduction of more that could be claimed. The flush of this child's countenance was scarlet. I do not wonder at the fever being sometimes so called. The flush of the fatal case was a dusky hue, &c. Among the various cases cured in this family previously, was one of fever with affection of tensils. This was last April. The pulse was 108. This case, not to be compared in severity with the first typhus, was such to render it necessary to send for me, which was done after the proper delay for decision, &c. It was treated with tonics and the mixture purgative without mercury, as requested, to complete and satisfactory success. The typhus fever, whose insidious character must have counteracted precaution, probably went far ahead of this family's watchfulness.

The fourth case at once explains enough for intelligence of gentlemen. February, first visit: The patient's pulse was 120—he complained of general affection, especially of head, eyes and bowels, also of back and chest somewhat—his limbs were more or less benumbed, his face much flushed and dusky. In the history of this case, I learnt that the attack was four days in advance of my visit. At first the chill lasted some six or seven hours, with head-ache—then his fever came on and continued up to my visit, unabated with cold and hot sensations all the time. The surface was very dry. The principal was from home when the patient had the chill. They waited till the next day, and then used calomel. The third day the patient took a mercurial pill, then quinine as he had the cold and hot sensations, which still prevailed and tended to a distinct chill. On the fourth day I prescribed four tonic pills in an hour. Within that time the cold and hot sensations were mostly and permanently subdued, his pulse fell very considerably and had a descending scale to convalescence—the amendment of the head affection proceeded to the best appreciation. The continued fever treatment was adopted to venesection, &c., as the predominance of the chest affection in a short time was decisive, and influenced the subsequent treatment. His amendment continued under proper and abundant liver secre-

tions—"cleaning of the tongue and change of bloody to yellow sputa"—to an improvement too decided; but a full exposition is precluded. The hand of science stamps her facts. Was this case delayed to see whether it was to be an intermittent or some light kind of affection? Here is solution at once, for excess of chronic cases of invalids throughout the world, if fortunately they pass the danger of disorganization. Good constitutions may escape both. Comparison in cases must be made to analyse rightly the control of disease, an abstruse and subtle question. Could this long chill have been shortened, and would all the rest have been of equivalent and modified condition? Had this been the happy result, it was a mere intermittent or a mere trifle of disease, some might say. This patient had been in very fine health previously. This and other more recent cases, prove that chills may arise from exposure in the very best of health; that they may originate almost exclusively from certain exposure, and that our organs are not able generally to counteract its malign influence without adequate protection. I speak thus as a matter of deserved notice in extreme chronic cases of intermittents. The control of the cold and hot sensations, &c., within the short time of an hour after the four first pills were given, was such as to cause the patient to say, "that he was warm enough," and this state was only interrupted moderately a few times, when he rose out of bed, and was of course confined to displacing the cover. I know, within a few years, where the lancet, calomel, &c. have been used as if independent of the profession, that the families have lost several members. With them as with all, if organic functions were sound, then something was wrong.

The same fever—cases 4, in family 2d—documents, extracts, &c. The first case was that of a boy absent from home, affected "with a severe chill, fever very violent and severe pain in his head, his swallowing was very difficult." The mother says "I used nothing but the pills, and these I used constantly." He recovered by the use of the tonics alone, which he more highly appreciated. The mother was very anxious to give mercury to the son, but as he strongly objected, she waited till the third day, when the fever began to abate; she declined giving more than a plenty of the tonics. He took them freely and they operated well on him. The second case was that of a little girl, "who was attacked with a severe cold stage, and then a continued fever, with severe pain in the chest and pretty much all over the head and knees. Her surface was dry more or less all the time—her bowels were hard to be moved and very sore; she screamed when they were moved." The result was suspicious. Others considered her case stubborn. Her face was flushed dreadfully. The mother believes "her daughter's case, from the character of the disease, would have been in a miserable fix before she could have suspected it rightly. If I had not had the medicine by me I do think it would have been very bad, if not fatal." I visited this case the first time some three days after prostration, which was several days after premonition, so disguised by slight fevers that they were never suspected rightly.

Her face was still considerably flushed scarlet—her pulse was over 108, tending to 120. She had had the benefit of the continued fever treatment. I urged the use of the tonics and mixture purgative. The cure was finally established by them alone in a few days more, so that she was up before a week in all. Thus both these cases were referable to the treatment mostly of the best of nurses, a mother—and this system of practice was the means. Even in this family this disease was not appreciated, for “slight fevers had preceded” in the girl’s case—they preceded no doubt by unobserved precursors—and no proportionate suspicion was aroused to remedial treatment correspondent to any such fever, till the febrile possession of fearful power had become deep seated. The treatment was conservative to the triumph of the system. This was considered a mere fever, rather, nay absolutely, of chill character, and was treated by only moderate attention to a supposed disease that can be procrastinated, till the terrible malady burst into the attack like a reckless assassin. This is very plain from the document, and still more so in her son’s case—the pills cured exclusively, and the whole passed without suspicion of more than fevers of the country. But not so in the third case. I had affirmed the character of the second case. This was the case of a girl nearly grown. Her attack was severe at the first step of recognition; being a domestic, she received due attention at once. “Her face and neck were badly affected with pain; her fever was very high, (nothing is said of the chilly sensations,) her surface constantly dry and harsh. She complained of her head violently, and that her eyes hurt her.” When I first saw this case, it was some forty-eight hours after prompt, active and successful treatment on the continued fever system, that had been properly established on the appreciation of its typhus condition. Her case was evidently improving on this system of practice, so triumphantly used by this lady. The quickness of the pulse was diminishing, the affection of the head and bowels, both of which, but especially the bowels, had been severely involved to bloody discharges even, was subsiding, with a proportionate abatement of the other symptoms. Her cure, as the others, was firmly and speedily established. Another, a fourth case, has been since cured. The tonics governed it most promptly and properly. I presume this principal has reached distinguished success in this system, as I was not even called on to visit it. What a misnomer typhus fever seems to be! All can estimate the condition that it purports to determine. But in these cases the characteristic phenomenon was soon modified or governed. The same fever in a third family. When I was first called to visit this case, some forty-eight hours had confirmed its duration, from the first time of recognised prostration. The head was then affected on the right temple, violently so with swimming, and much weakness on rising up in bed; the pulse was nearly 130; the stomach and bowels were affected with soreness, &c.; black *sordes* were disclosed in the inside of his lip, his eyes tending to thick secretions. His history, as given by himself, was, “that he had a chill that lasted him one hour, and with the chill that was very light, he had a head ache

pretty bad—then fever.” The gentleman at whose house he remained, stated that he moaned all night, &c. He took nothing at all that night—next day he only took seven tonic pills, for the party was afraid of more! He took next day only one pill!! He had a very dry surface, and that was discolored. I prescribed the continued fever treatment—an improvement to convalescence was soon established, before a week—and in some ten days in all he was up and about. The intelligent can see the deficit of attention—can they properly estimate the conservation of that little? The parties now would be “afraid” of not having the pills, probably. Two similar cases in a fourth family—documents, &c. The party considers both as “cases of winter or typhus fever,” like many so prevalent at present and so fatal, or so long on hand, generally three to four weeks in other families. In the first case, “her head had hurt her extremely bad, her bowels, stomach, eyes, &c. were affected; the skin was very dry and harsh—the fever left her in two days, and she is now well. I gave her the tonic pills for the head—about a dozen in all—and the mixture purgative, one dose.” She took no mercury at all, nor was bled nor blistered. The second case was violently attacked I believe—being in the house, I found it out quicker—taken with a puking and pains of the head so bad; I gave her four pills in an hour, that relieved both. Then after relief of pain of head, I gave the mixture puagative and the tonic pills, &c. She is now up perfectly well. She was only confined two days. Her skin was very dry, too much for perspiration. I believe if her case had not been attended to so early that it would have been very severe, to say the least of it. This patient had complained of her stomach and bowels. The pulse of both was very quick. This patient took no mercury, nor was bled.”

Another statement in a fifth family embraces four cases, all cured without mercury. The head of this family has used this system for the best part of twelve months, and affirms to a knowledge of such disease by woful experience, having lost many in by gone days. These cases presented affections of head, chest, &c. The tonics were a remedy in the first case, and a conservative in the balance. His report would certainly include some triumph.

Sixth family, February 11th. Some five cases were cured, and four of them without mercury. The first had been attacked finally by cholera morbus, &c. One mercurial pill, along with the continued fever treatment, recovered this case. The head was mostly complained of. The child lay as if dull and languid, with scarlet flush of the face.—This case was recognized as the worst, not as fever, but as diarrhea and vomiting. So we see the medicine remedy or conservative, with a pathology its base, protects much of the errors and omissions of the uninstructed. The diploma of nature is acknowledged as the best—this I admire, whilst I respect that of science. I might say that I had cause to feel gratified that one visit sufficed for all these cases—for I might here say, that but a few years past, one case was presented me in this family—the patient did not exactly die the first visit but there was no essential difference in that respect. The father called me when he

thought danger was approaching—that had long since arrived with the first symptoms. It was the approach of dissolution, only deferred a short time. Of course the other cases were promptly attacked and checked by the tonic pills to a safe and satisfactory result—so promptly that one indeed did not become prostrated but was happily and speedily cured under premonition, that under other circumstances would warn masses in vain, till a mature development. The lady who had had four cases so successfully treated gave her samaritan assistance. The seventh family presents a conspicuous number. Three at least, of seven cured without mercury. All had affections of head—commencing more or less with that and chill—some stealthily approaching and ending in continued fever, like all the cases, of several days continuance. The surface of all was more or less discolored—one I saw was scarlet—and some had the dryest and harshest condition, especially the last, a marked case of typhus fever. I will remark that I have seen a few cases that had their second attack, on exposure some two weeks after convalescence. The surface was not near so dry as originally—the fever not so complex. Perspiration was more easily induced and the cure more readily obtained. And this explains at once why chills are more or less intense and more protracted. But the surface was discolored, and fever sores and blisters were abundant about the mouth a few days, till the first became clear, which seemed to decide the cure. I am not aware that the skin sloughed off. In well regulated families, children readily take medicine, and having less complexity of organization, from less development of nervous functions, their cases under all proper circumstances seem to be more curable—the restorative powers of the system being more protective. In this family two cases were presented that eminently decide the ferocity of this malignant disease. The principal was attacked after a day's ride in disagreeable weather. He was soon "taken out of his head." Severe head affection with chill characterised this disease—it terminated in continued fever. His spinal column was much affected. He took some five pills in all that night—twenty-five in that time would not have been amiss, for so severe an attack. I saw him in 48 hours time. The continued fever treatment was instituted—finally, as a complex case, it required peculiar treatment for the deepest invasion of his nervous system, including spasms and convulsions, &c. Opiates were eminently beneficial; in less than a fortnight the cure was established. Here was a case that even anticipated any apparent disease—the first moment of prostration was that of severe malady, whose way had been paved long before. The last case was that of a female. My first visit found a very dry and red tongue, a pulse of 140 or more, head ache, deep affection of bowels, pains and soreness over the body—each tissue and fibre as it were affected, and no living surface much drier or harsher. And here all will say, is fever enough for vitality to bear. If this be not typhus fever then I am yet to see it. She had taken only some eight tonic pills the preceding day, when she stated her prostration began. Is it possible that she was only then sick? No; two days before she had had a chill, and intermediately must have sustained its direful effects.

Her second chill did this work. Nay, preceding the first, her indisposition could be affirmed. Thus fixed was this case, and if the previous case was not bad enough, surely this gave the equal. I bled her three times till her waning strength could bear no more, and still that quick pulse was not reduced—her surface not relaxed—though all the aid of the tonics and mercurials was profusely secured. A vast amount of tonics was used along with excess of mercury—hot teas were given along with them—and all the benefit was given the capillary system. By degrees the pulse fell, and the symptoms improved. Her cold stages were promptly anticipated and met by the tonics.

The eighth family presents three cases, and without mercury. Three families in other circles present four cases, three of which I saw somewhat varied, but connected to the causes that produced this epidemic. Three were cured without mercury. One was with head ache and fever, quick pulse, &c. The other seemed to be spider bite from swelling of the cheek and lip, and was treated on this pathology by the friends. I considered it at once a fever, the pulse 116, and slight affection of head. The tonics restored in some three days. The other case had diarrhea, vomiting, &c. Nursery articles were used, that to my view usurped important time. I had to use mercurials with the usual treatment. The cures were speedy and effectual. Five deaths, in families not over large, from this disease, not far removed from this circle, give some appreciation—no matter what the time—black tongue, bilious pneumonia, pleurisy, scarlet fever, or any other. When two thirds of cases of typhoid fever die, then the matter is well appreciated. It is important to secure speedy restoration to health. Three of these cases cured, were treated by the lancet, and four, including these three, were treated by blisters. They can be analysed. Domestic attention, under the express guidance of medical science is conspicuously displayed: and the relative intellect of parties, with the promptness and efficiency of action, is to be estimated. In several, the party was not able to do better than give a conservative medicine, itself a partial but practical index of the severity of disease, and the timely director of medical aid. Where its warning has been attended to, the result has been most triumphant. Where there has been any lack of diligence and propriety of appreciation, I am aware there has been correspondent want of success. All that is asked for, self-interest and humanity readily grant—due attention to the health and its affection in families, with the full benefit of speedy attention.

I seek a select practice—to exclude the abuse of the lancet and calomel, and to ever include of them a competency for the speediest and most prudent cure of all cases needing it. No honest man can say otherwise from my writings, for I have mentioned one case already, and could adduce another, (June last,) when I intended to use mercury because the same had been protracted to extremes when I was sent for, but from the patient's respectful request, I succeeded without it altogether. The intermission of the pulse and other correspondent symptoms, rendered this case very doubtful—but the tonics principally cured it. Much of their supposed use is obviated by the premonitory

system, which directs forthwith to diseased feelings, to single symptoms, and that meets them individually. Its due execution gives a fair trial in the best use of the lancet and calomel. If such be not done, it is not my system, and the practice devolves on more responsibility than is rational and safe generally for the patient. The abuse of remedial means, is seen in escapes, not cures, of mere uninstructed domestic practice, that leaves the bitterest fruits for the future, if it do not often assail vitality for the present. It is best policy to let the absolute need of remedies be firmly established on stern facts. None but unprincipled opposition can pretend to belief and libel of practice short of comprehensiveness of system that sustains it. What higher protection to the patient can be secured in all vicissitudes of danger, want and exposure? What more comprehensive in all symptoms, can families promise themselves than a system of practice that gives scientific co-operation in the premonition of disease? My pursuance of the same for my own best protection of life, guarantees sincerity; and my pledge establishes what must secure its confirmation. The use of cheapest helps has been a part of this system from the first, when necessary. Some wish to lose no time in labor, and of course desire the speediest correction at the same time, whether calomel or the lancet aids. Practical benefits are the main ones. Cases will become mixed and varied in the best police of large families: this is a very different thing from premonition.

In the use of the mixture purgative, the spirits of turpentine should be left out when the discharges tend to become watery and frequent—the patient prostrated in pregnancy—and it should be added when costiveness prevails. Since the successful trial and extensive test of this remedy, in congestive, typhus, puerperal and other severe fevers, some might wish to know its appropriateness for black vomit, with sloughs. I never intended this medicine for disorganization—death. I will meet all proper responsibility in the trial fairly of the only other untried fever of consequence in this Union, I mean yellow fever. I am more than anxious to have it thus assayed. The best comment for sincere and appreciable confidence in such trial, is furnished from one fact at least—it is appreciated as typhus icterodes. I presume he was a genius that so estimated it. I have put this remedy under all appropriate pledges among others, for the very first symptoms of this fever, that might lead to a fatal result, if not prevented—as febrile head ache, bone ache and dry discolored surface. I consider these inclusive, as primary symptoms, along with chill, &c., especially in severe winter and summer disease of any climate. They are extensively identified with typhus and yellow fevers, the two first I presume are almost invariably attendant on dry surface; all evince organic and capillary injury, none of which can be neglected with impunity. It is highly important that such be timely arrested and eradicated, as an important connection in fevers generally. I now consider them of immediate and absolute consequence, as to require correspondent action and strict remedial attention so soon as advised of their relation to any fever. Such promptness of attention, insures adequate vigilance and medical police, as renders us decidedly less amenable to the severe effects of such attacks. In

every instance of certainty that it is febrile head ache, so soon should the tonics be used in suitable diligence. For when the febrile head ache exists, we have that, if no more evidence that danger is near, if not present, in such diseases premised. Every moment adds to the danger, especially before the character of the epidemic is fully developed. The condition of bone ache about the lower extremities, thighs, legs and joints, evincing more or less soreness and frequently a feeling of "being beaten," especially if reaching the neck and small of the back, we have incontestible proof of extreme injury arising. No intelligent being will wait 24 hours on such strong symptoms, especially if a dry harsh and discolored surface be identified. On such clear perception of organic and capillary injury, the prudent man will not wait 24 minutes, ere he seeks the best of remedial attention. This principle applies in all diseases more or less, as they are extreme, and to prevent the execution is an outrage on nature.

INTERMITTENTS, EXTREME AND CHRONIC CASES.

To guard against first and single symptoms, no matter when evident, establishes what eminently conduces to our health and its best protection against their repetition, to the correct and successful use of this remedy, certainly to its least amount. If great and conservative principles can obviate much of the necessity of protracted use of medicine, much of their benefit ought to be realized in intermittents, where so much medicine is taken at random—both from the delay totally unnecessary and hurtful, of waiting for maturity of disease under common circumstances of protection, and from the absence of the necessary remedial protection and prudence during its administration. The medicine is only a part, and its excess should be obviated by security of the patient's best protection in all instances. Even this disease is unappreciated, like severer ones—hence it easily becomes chronic and complex, and requires absolute care, and all the benefits due the sickness of the patient. The mere taking medicine, even large quantities, is not enough—without the proper comforts and constant personal protection to all patients in all diseases, medical science cannot be properly represented. The patient so far from delaying his case, must not delay treating the first symptoms—he must meet all premonition as it comes, in all its points. The patient, of all work and its necessary exposure, must not be put to any labor under any exposure at all, even the least, that is prejudicial by fatigue, calculated to overheat, or create excited and morbid condition—especially on the stomach requiring excess of drink, and not competent to command excess of diet. Patients just from the effect of medicine—purgation—had better be favored all the time by prudence, and should never be sent off even on messages in that state. No change of mere labor should be used, that does not bring exemption from exposure. Every reasonable protection must be accorded all patients, an adequate time for complete and satisfactory cure, be it months or years. Whilst invalids, the appro-

ropriate treatment must be accorded. With some, intermittents are hardly treated, if considered disease. Caprice and neglect are too much practiced by the patient himself. With some, a pill is objectionable, and bitters a delightful beverage. When this temptation cannot be resisted, and the case threatens to become chronic by the mere pretensions of taking medicine and the caprice of the patient, this medicine put into any good spirits or wine at the time of taking each dose, and well shaken, can be very advantageously used. When medicine is taken, the best of circumstances and best exemption from all exposure, even to removal of residence, should be thoroughly commanded to the requisite amount of remedy, time and personal protection of all parties in all cases. Documents, reports, &c., to exemplify.

The first shows, "four cases of ague and fever, all cured in one family by these pills exclusively, without any other remedy whatever. The cures have been made fully six months past, without any relapse."

The second, exhibits check of a case of chill and fever for a short time, by blue mass and quinine, in a family that I did not practice in. The relapse of some two or three chills was arrested by six tonic pills, the only amount possessed for trial. When the principal told me, I advised as a necessary part, immediate and constant possession of the pills, a previous preparation for future premonition, an absolute constituent of my practice; for the mere suppression of the chill is only a good commencement of cure. Never as long as primary elements of disease exist, in their respective climate and season, can this be overlooked or neglected. The condition of system amenable to chills must be minutely comprehended—never to the neglect of the first head or bone ache, stretching, sick stomach or diarrhea. In fact any such relative symptom must be treated as a chill, and all as disease. Especially too, under the very first cold stage, tho' it be the merest shiver—the hot stage—and certainly to the absolute prevention of all, by proper protection. This took place in November last. Variety of weather exposure, of course was sustained by the last part of December, when the chill returned, but he had no protection. The patient then got a box of pills, convinced by facts that rule creation. He took some three or four pills, which effectually arrested the disease, and to this time, the middle of March, the party enjoying good health. If the chill more matured, be worse than its premonition, how much easier is it to cure the last, and with less, decidedly less, remedy, and less injury to constitution and to life? I ask the attention of the intelligent to the philosophy of this important subject.

Third. Here is the amplest proof in the statement of the party, "who had had for 17 years, (consecutively) an attack of chills and fever invariably twice every year regularly, at the present residence, but that for the last two years come June, that they have been missed, and this is attributed to the tonic pills, and the premonitory mode of using them, for the party regularly breaks head ache, bone ache and stretching, that preceded all previous attacks."

Fourth. The party was forewarned to attend to single symptoms, that never as long as the elements of creation maintain their present

relation, can be at once eradicated, after breaking most satisfactorily two cases of a fortnight's duration, of third day chill and fever, in one case by 6, and in the other by 8 tonic pills. Did he do so? If he had, diarrhea should not have been suppressed by laudanum—for the chill in one case returned. An increase of trouble, danger and disease of course will follow such cause. Here, as in all similar cases partially cured, delay permitted its maturity—and the same proceeding had to be renewed. That he corrected it afterwards, only establishes the fact clearly in my mind, that its better correction could have preceded it.

Fifth. I was informed by a planter of his cure of several cases of intermittent fever, but that one had become chronic. This is like the world's history, and is replete with instruction. Had he treated the premonition? No! hardly one in fifty fully do. Did the patient have a clean tongue—did he carry the pills about his own person? the only being that knew, and could correct his own feelings, so diversified, and which demand immediate and prompt redress. As the physician could not follow the individual patient about for his petty symptoms, and as the inventor should take precedence of the apothecary in his own right and his own invention—the requisite remedy was forthwith furnished and applied to the successful correction of this case on the very first trial.

Sixth. A physician writes me, “the effect of the pills in intermittent fever was prompt and satisfactory, and in every case they have succeeded.”

Seventh. Extract of a letter from a gentleman, says, “the son had chill and fever for about four or five months, and was not able to break them until he obtained some of your pills—six of them proved effectual.”

But this is not a mere ague and fever remedy—I should regret it if it were. As simple as intermittents are, however—no disease! till deaths mocks the pathology—who has understood them, from the time of Boerhaave? This is clearly negatived, even in fevers. Who has understood pathology? Echo answers, who? What usurper shall be dictator then for freemen? The absurdity of absurdity is, that hypothesis shall bend nature and outrage life rights. Suppression, not radical cure, has been received for remedial treatment—prevention, that is commonly used, is only a small part of the necessary medical position. The arrest and breaking must be properly instituted, and above all, security in premonition is most rational and safe under appreciated personal protection—otherwise the patient may raise the siren cry to the end of time, “I can break the chill, but it will return.” Does he even guard against the return on its certain number of days? Whatever goes ahead of the severe points of disease must be a primary principle, otherwise more medicine must be used, more disease encountered, and more danger will be fatally sustained. The only rational plan, is to remedy as far, and as soon, as practicable, all arising symptoms of diseased action—for suppression is not cure. Does the patient, with a chronic case, expect to be radically cured by going about and acting every way? As well can

he rightly expect to realise general benefits to his deeply injured organs, except on general principles of conservation. Thus he does wrong twice in regard to his case, to let the acute become chronic, and the chronic incurable. The mere suppression of the chills is a mere ~~fact~~, that cannot under all exposures encountered, keep off the results of renewed exposure. It is only "vantage ground." The chill must be met by an advance on its symptoms—the phenomena of diseased action—that should be broken, as all those of all disease should wisely be, most effectually, for the whole necessary time. The cure is the practical proof in every case. When premonition is rightly recognised, even before the first chill in the first attack of intermittents, its correction is the best treatment. The most elevated rational treatment in fevers and acute diseases will be analogous.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION—ACCLIMATION.

Must medicine be forever before us, and nothing effectual but that in sickly climates, seasons and localities, when delicate health must, from association of ideas, be in a bad position, to say the least, from these causes? Can less necessity exist for the use of medicine? Much has been advanced by the best physicians as rules of health. Valuable works have been written to produce such a result. I am not aware that I have been anticipated, if so, I shall be pleased to give due credit to the established points. I will refer to one that is primary in my consideration, to the benefit of man, as of vast importance to myself. The principle has been practised by many living in houses that admit currents of air. We should certainly maintain some identity with the open atmosphere, permanently, more or less, all the time, as it is so likely to affect us otherwise. A lady of delicate health, "whom the winds of Heaven visit not too roughly," is apt to feel the ~~beneficial~~ effects of such habits as her elevated station in society imposes. She is protected by the best of warm houses, as closely confined as possible, with all the splendid appendages of her luxurious abode—with but a moderate exercise so necessary to sustain life, which sedentary and luxurious habits render almost unnatural, especially if a votary, and certainly if a victim, to fashion; protected by curtains at night—when she goes out, she seems almost an alien to the free atmosphere. Who wonders then, unless her time is selected for the excellence of the temperature and mildness of its state, that such exposure shall impose many pains and penalties of life, thus exercised. If this principle be properly weighed by mothers, many an infant would escape the croup and cholera infantum, whilst posterity would exhibit the best evidence of constitutional stamina. Many an individual, with luxurious protection at home, has finally to meet the contingencies of life, often exposed to all kinds of weather. Can human nature sustain such pernicious sudden changes? Not very long before it deeply suffers. When able to select our time for en-

baneful

continued

tering that atmosphere, we may act thus with seeming impunity; but change the relation of things, and take all kinds of weather thus unacclimated, and many a manly youth is prostrated by rheumatism, and often the victim of even sterner diseases. How then shall we prevent such evil? for we are prone to like comfort, and seek warmth as absolutely necessary, and under all its deleterious circumstances. I would say, that my experience on my own condition, enables me to speak with some satisfaction and of promised advantage on my custom; and I know gentlemen who are benefitted by the same. A pane of glass, or even sash farthest removed, is slid to permit such a permanent current as will answer to acclimate and identify me constantly with the free atmosphere. I was once without this advantage, a great sufferer from acute rheumatism, arising under severe exposure from professional labors, which fall as heavily on the medical profession as on many others, from the great preponderance of extremes of temperature. Since that time, I cannot say I defy safely, but I have enjoyed an exemption that no other principle can give me, in my own opinion. I submit it to the examination and action of the world, not as my own original suggestion, but in its comprehensiveness of influence, with due deference, with a hope that it may apply to immigrants recently arrived and destined to the peril of a new climate in its worst positions—avoiding of course those measures of merely partial protection—the veriest apology of a deficient or decaying residence, that takes in more pernicious influences, than it averts—the evidence of worst exposures—an extreme from luxury. Of course securing the best protection against morbid elements of soil, in cypress and palmetto swamps, ponds, lakes, sloughs and marshes, no better than the “~~ponds~~” and extensive for miles, and spring inundations, until draining by ditching, levees, &c., have neutralised their deleteriousness, but little of solid basis for health can be realized. I speak of the amplest correction, that will tend to produce such a state, as will meet most of the contingencies that previously affected us. Among them, unusual habits are conspicuous—as house laborers suddenly exposed to sun exposures in harvest. Of course a well balanced and regulated mind is important to the best command of nervous functions. I am aware that the sternness of northern climates, almost defies any such attempt as free and permanent currents of atmosphere; but still expediency may suggest an equivalent, if necessity dictate its certain value. I would much rather in such a climate, pay tribute to the clothier, to compound on this principle. I can hardly believe this matter can be assailed on rational principles, that seek with intelligent benevolence, for the correction of the ills of life. I think that it would help to save many an individual from the affection of the season and climate, and render him less amenable to medicine and its obligations.

Since writing the preceding, in conversation with a literary friend, I learn that Dr. Franklin has said something on this subject. Any thing from that great and good man, must be interesting. Travelers who tent it, have also since told me, of the marked advantages in regard to health, from that source, and even the great exemption from

Referred
Pontine

sickness, though exposed to all kinds of severe weather, provided locomotion is maintained, till a good fire is kindled for their proper comfort.

THE INCURABLE STAGES OF DISEASE.

This condition prevails to a far greater extent, than one would think at first. The worst stages of disorganization in fevers, prevail to an incredible amount, at all seasons of the year, and yet no active and efficient precautionary measures are secured. We live without the profit of bitter experience! Hydrophobia, tetanus, &c. alarm, but they occur only once in a while. Yet the incurable stage of fever, with vigorous functions suddenly arrested, is daily before us; and we are not relatively moved, because it is so common, and may be expected as a fatal decree. I have said much on this subject—I refer to the practical part principally. In those diseases untried by this system, much anticipation on the premonition, is to be realized. In hydrophobia, that generally ends fatally in a few days at farthest, after its mature development, I have nothing to say of consequence at present, respecting that stage. Abler physicians of course, will manage all such much to the world's satisfaction. Do general and uniform cures in this and similar diseases establish a correct pathology? Let the genius of a Bichat answer. I desire on reasonable premises, to secure the premonitory stages in that and other severe affections. I mean to suggest that the victims should never have waited that period. How often is it, that the public papers present an individual for the first time apparently made aware of his woful state, by dread of some liquid first seen—the state of hydrophobia. Now all this must be anticipated by all that the patient can do for himself, so soon as he can cut out the injured parts of that, or other poisoned wounds, and otherwise effectually treat the same by boiling water if ready at hand, fire or red hot iron, &c., having the surgeon to aid him as soon as practicable. But then he must aid himself, as well as thereafter, and he must govern every diseased symptom before it reaches its maturity, to the very best of his earliest and watchful ability, without delay and any failure. Under this view, I asked for the history of a fatal case of tetanus, that I heard of, and I ventured to suggest to the interested party that diseased action had prevailed long before medical aid was called. O yes, said he at once, most candidly. The patient, days before that, showed indisputable evidence, by all the premonition of indisposition on the first day, his symptoms are now recollected. On the second day he was dull, languid and stupid, very slow in action. On the third or fourth day his disease was developed and sternly fixed, when the physicians were first called in. In a very few days, he was no more! Such histories are abundant, and invoke the best correction.

GENERAL PRACTICE, DOCUMENTS, &c.

No. 1. Recently, during exposure to the location embracing typhus fever, severe weather, &c., disease showed itself by bowel affection, bone ache, &c., costiveness, slimy mucus, and some pain prevailing—the incipency of threatening disease. Two tonic pills established a cure.

No. 2. The party had had an “attack of yellow fever which left a very severe diarrhea of some two weeks standing. He took some dozen of the tonic pills that corrected the disease. He completed the cure by some little paregoric. His health has been good for some five weeks past.” Of course a permanent cure since.

No. 3. Practice in a family, like several such. One was a case of choleric, properly corrected by this medicine and paregoric. There were also two attacks that brought on another patient a regular cold stage, then fever. This was renewed several weeks after an especial exposure. The appropriate correction was obtained by the tonic pills.

No. 4. The party had “fever and occasionally chilly sensations, head ache, sick stomach and diarrhea of some two or three days standing, very bloody, with much pain and griping—also bone ache. Some six tonic pills relieved the head ache, sick stomach, chilly feelings and feverish symptom. Two purgative mercurial pills and paregoric cured the case finally sound and well.”

No. 5. A case of four or five days standing when presented, from another State, had deep affection of the whole system, to great prostration; the pulse fell 50 beats at one time. The tonics were the internal remedy, given in coffee. The patient was up in less than twenty-four hours, and capable of labor. Those who are acquainted with splenic affections in this climate, can appreciate this case, and the time of its cure.

No. 6. This case of a small boy, four or five years old, was marked by a continued series of convulsions, and all the severe muscular contortions of the body attendant on similar affections, when I first saw him. Fever was one of its conditions, with affection of senses to stupor, and speechlessness. These convulsions, that affected the muscles deeply, were frequently recurring, and had been on for some time. The nurse held a spoon in the mouth, to prevent injury of the same, that clearly evinced it afterwards. Some fourteen of the tonics in all, part of which were pulverised at a time, were injected in a little fluid. More than that quantity and two mercurial pills were dissolved and poured down at different intervals. Mustard plasters were also used. In twenty-four hours he was convalescent, and in a few days well. He has enjoyed fine health since, several months.

FEMALE AFFECTIONS.

No. 7. This was the case of a woman aged 19, whose disease had prevailed for some eight months, evidently with uterine affection, sus-

pended functions, &c., complicated with intermittent fever, &c. a part of the time. The treatment on the continued fever system "restored her to her right condition and health. She appears to be as healthy as any now."

No. 8. The attack was, "severe pain in the head and constant pain in the chest, with troublesome cough all the time, and fevers. These symptoms, sometime in existence, were deep and severe at last. The treatment of continued fever cured the case—also previously uterine affection of years duration. I might adduce more such as the last part furnishes, but of less duration.

No. 9. Uterine hæmorrhage, some little fever and some local affection of head, back, &c. prevailed. A moderate use of the same system, had the desired and speedy effect on this chronic case of some two years standing, &c.

No. 10. Official report. This was the case of alarming uterine hæmorrhage, with severe pains and cold feet, &c., to such extent as to induce the promptest application for my assistance. I found that the tonics had been given. This medicine and laudanum used appropriately on the bowels, effected a fine result. Some little continued fever treatment completed the balance, and restored the lady to decisive improvement. This case was the result of exposure in very delicate health, to wet rooms, that admitted rain.

No. 11. "But would this medicine answer for the weak and pale state consequent on the child bed affection weeks after?" I presume equally as much so as during and preceding that state, so well verified in several cases. A lady in such health with intermittent fever, has been properly treated by an arrest of the same. Her state of system, requires profound attention to her case, as deeply matured when first presented.

No. 12. A few tonic pills were given in a case of miscarriage to the patient immediately on recurrence of head ache, &c. She did well.

No. 13. The highest proof of remedy on the uterine functions, is that furnished by nature in immature or imbecile condition, or that has been at least for years suspended. The best indication of soundness of general health, is evidence of unimpaired organic functions. I have sought to treat all uterine affections, on the general principles of health—and could adduce interesting and surprising evidence but for my wish to secure the delicate caution of science.

DOCUMENTS ON GENERAL DOMESTIC ATTENTION.

No. 1. A report for a few months past, a continuation of previous practice, now for two years and an half, on this system, speaks of more cases of ague and fever, and "no failure of the pills in the first case, and there had been some very severe cases." Two cases of cold and cough, attended with some pain in the side and head, and severe fever, from which the tonic pills amply and promptly relieved—(a third case established the character of the prevailing fever.) A case, (I presume puerperal) a child bed affection, was relieved in proper time by

the tonics. No mercury nor lancet was used. Very little of the first, and the lancet not at all, have been used for the whole term of this practice. The tonic pills are the principal or main medicine mentioned for much of the report—generally the mixture follows. For more than two years no physician has been called in. “The practice has proved successful in every case—and I have had some very severe attacks in my family since I commenced with this practice, and have not lost the first case.” An allusion is made to the custom of sending too late for the physician, and what is worse than all, the charge is laid to the physician. The abiding confidence in this practice is most favorably expressed, and gives evidence, from one popular voice of intellect, reflecting the practical and good sense of the family, that in place of a deficient, a conservative practice is happily introduced.

No. 2. The continued report of a second family, speaks of the use of the same system to entire satisfaction. Some twenty months’ trial has been made. The lancet has been used once during that time. A large majority of the cases has been cured without mercury. A recent case of vomit and fever is mentioned as cured by the tonics exclusively. “My confidence in these pills is increased by their use—certainly Dr. V. has attended four cases in all. I believe firmly that the greatest number of cases is treated in the family before the physician first sees the cases, in this country.

No. 3. Another head of a family says, “I have used Dr. V’s pills the past year, and I am satisfied with the result of the practice in my family. There were several cases of chill and fever, &c. I am pleased to say but little mercury was used, and that only in two cases of general affection. The lancet was not used at all.”

No. 4. Continued report. Only one visit, and that a passing one, has been paid this family for more than two years.

More than eighty cases in all have been cured—some dozen are included in this last report. The worst fever did not last more than three days. A case of diarrhea and indigestion; also, two cases of very young infants, some five or six days old, are detailed. In the diarrhea, which was protracted by distance of the party from home, there was much pain, cramp, and considerable fever. This was cured by the continued fever treatment. To one of the infants was given one-twelfth of a tonic pill dissolved in breast milk. It had difficulty of swallowing, something like the croup. The other was affected with apparently excessive pain. The same course was used in this case—both were purged with sweet oil, and got well. Several cases of chill and fever have been cured; and never, in any of these cases alluded to, has the second chill returned: two thirds of them have been cured without mercurials. In such cases the mixture purgative is used; the regular use of which was urged by Dr. V. last April, as a general thing, to several of our families. Symptoms in delicate cases of females, tending to miscarriage, were arrested by the pills. They have had fine effect on monthly irregularity, proved in two cases. No lancet has been used at all for two years, since July past. The tonics

have had a fine effect on cough of many years standing. The party says, "I feel almost as well as ever I did in my life." She has had no necessity to call in a physician at all, except one visit; and I have had some very bad cases, that would have needed a physician, but for this practice. Only one case has been protracted. He would only take the medicine at times; not regularly, for he would go out and expose himself, having been materially and successfully benefited by the pills in spirits, he failed to attend to the premonition of head ache, some three weeks after, that preceded his next attack. In regard to the head ache, it has been repeatedly tried, in every case successfully, and I know of no instance it has failed, and that has been many times and several cases; especially by myself, who was subject to bilious head ache. I had it with cold feet, and this is a sovereign remedy certainly. The pills have saved life in our family. I have known to a certainty in almost every family in this whole section or neighborhood, that domestic practice of the principal of each family is pursued to a fearful extent; and in many instances death ensues immediately after the doctor first arrives, or even before the doctor arrives the first time.

In this practice I am prepared to appreciate the extent of disease in a short time, for in nearly every instance of the eighty-seven cases, or thereabouts, I have recognised relief to some extent in even twelve hours—enough to inspire confidence in proceeding through the case successfully. I should not feel conscientiously right to risk more than twenty-four hours before sending for the doctor. I almost invariably commence immediately I find out any case is affected, or that indisposition prevails. A family connection, a physician, was sent for to the young man whose bilious fever I had broken, pronounced the fever broken, the case improving finely, and my course correct. And "sir," said this intelligent lady to me in conclusion, "I have taken your practice from you." That, with others, as a moral triumph, successfully and victoriously vindicates aspersions, and repels all the black flags—emblems of dark ages and darker minds—of those that raise them against the rights of freemen—libellers of, as drivellers in philosophy, parricides in science, hypocrites in republicanism—for the man that advocates procrastination in medicine is a contemptible quack and no less the hypocrite, "that keeps the word of promise to our ear and breaks it to our hope," and advocates stupidly and ignominiously, he does forever, when he cuts off from scientific conservation all the time of first and intermediate stages of a patient's disease to the first attention of the physician, and thus opposes murderously its rational correction, without the inclination, and certainly ability, of redressing the deepest sufferings and severest maladies—and this he does in the light of the age that declares utility to be the exponent of practical science. What heinous sophistry, when only a portion of severe disease is properly met, that no comprehensive and legitimate efforts of science prescriptions should be made at the right source; to attempt rescue, where unscientific work has to be substituted for the injury of science and the patient, and obloquy of the pro-

fession—because wise men reject panaceas, weak ones must blunderingly and ignominiously exclude all conservation.

Such is the act of violators of title pages and two essential principles of the decalogue—the decencies of life to do so. Who affects to give it in full, and suppresses that which all men of sense would say is one of its great essentials. By erasing even a modest line, he at once erases truth and probity, the only respectable distinction in a court of justice for his testimony, and creates his own deserved expulsion forthwith from the same as a violator of respectable credence. How far he erases the characteristic features of utilitarianism, essential to man's benefit, mankind may hereafter estimate. What but "the want of sense" could prompt to violate the decencies of life? Medical science cannot permit it—humanity will repudiate, and philosophy must condemn such a course. For all three are the bright emanations of truth that was written by the hand of Deity, whose comprehension is simplicity, and whose greatness sublimity. What honorable man can espouse such violation—what evil disposition must have prompted it. The man of sense, the gentleman, investigates, but the corrupt journalist libels. What a foul atmosphere that, which supports such corruption. The best code of ethics can give appreciation of felonious acts, the result of turpitude in the scale of degradation, that finally engulphs "the camel" of crime. My acquaintances and friends need nothing of my exposition. I merely wish to repel what may be deemed necessary to my station in life, and this I say to the respectable portion of the community: for such is the analysis of character of unprincipled opposition, that no honorable man can espouse, much less defend. This system, when necessary, can be easily nationalized, and then at once become utilitarian, its proper elevation. This is the course, if expedient—no honorable man wishes anything short of honorable reciprocity. Of the twenty millions even in this Union, are eighteen of them under immediate, of course adequate, medical science protection? This refers to all classes. What a question for medical economy. Medicine is sufficient on this basis, is it, for the protection of civilized society? Is this basis that of science? if not its advocacy is certain empiricism. This position cannot answer for freemen, for they wish no contingency for their government. How much more potently ought they to exclude it for their lives? The intelligent and well bred, certainly those of good education and feelings, can estimate the necessity for rescue from domestic and wholesale errors, that defer cures to escapes, with all the miserable and equivocal appendages for the balance of life. I wrote to establish a high and successful result, and in its execution I congratulate myself that I gave what all honorable men are satisfied with, a full and efficient pledge, so that I can amply repel any base libeler. I wish no "glass house production," but am willing to abide the correct decision of time, "in the regular course of human events," and to give, in the meantime, all proper facility to popular benefit, consistent with my individual rights. Any society or government can easily test my comprehensive proposition before the world, on its proper principles. I premise that chills of all fevers differ in intensity as the disease is

more or less complex at the time—therefore the first chill of any disease cannot be rightly estimated—should be immediately corrected, or even anticipated if possible, by remedy of its premonition. The only test and the only action is practical remedy—none else can determine the question of pure science, for procrastination is not science. To oppose the speediest correction of disease on rational principles, bespeaks obliquity of mind and subserviency of spirit, not an intelligent freeman's nor an honorable man's.

The Honorable
The Secty
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Washington City