An Account of some Experiments in Therapeutics conducted in the Royal Infirmary, under the superintendence of Professors Christison and Bennett by John Daggart 29th March 1852
Introduction

The question, "is the art of medicine keeping pace with the advancements we see daily going on around us in almost every other department of human industry & ingenuity?" and, "are the brilliant discoveries of modern science, being made to contribute to the furtherance of this noble object?" are to be pithily regarded as of the utmost importance, not merely in a professional point of view, but the answer to them paves a popular and universal interest, as bearing on the great cause of the amelioration of many, or the abolition of some, of those physical sufferings, which have been allotted to the entire human race, and as bearing most powerfully, on the advancement of Christianity, and civilization throughout the entire globe.

A comparative glance at the state of our knowledge
in the present day, with that amount which was perfec-
ted by the practitioners, who lived at the commence-
ment even of the present century, will abundantly demon-
strate, that those questions may be answered, in the af-
firmative; and, whilst perhaps this gradually advan-
ting improvement may be more apparent in the surgi-
cal department of our profession, it is not less true in the respect at least, in regard to the medical department of it; for it is now universally acknowledged, that the diagnoses of some, perhaps all, of the most important and deadly maladies, to which humanity is subject: has, (bred as it is on the foundation of a sound, and en-
lighted, Physiology and Pathology; assisted by the modern improvements in the means adapted for ev-
miring correct observation,) arrived at a state of astonishing perfection, and precision, such a state, as our forefathers never dreamed of attaining to: and, while on the one hand nothing can be more delightful, or more calculated to excite enthusiasm for his profession in the mind of the student for the first time commencing the observation of disease for himself, than the accuracy of these diagnoses verified as they are by post mortem examination; yet, on the other hand what is so eminently calculated to depre-
padder, and discourage him, thus the knowledge of the fact that in many such cases science and art are alike
powerless to aid the poor sufferers, they can do nothing they can; but look with folded arms, at the prostrated state of the struggle, unable in too many instances, even to smooth the path to the grave, or to cheer for a moment, the anguished wretch, by even a miserable placebo; our art being in this respect is precisely the same condition in regard to the affording of relief, at the present time, as it was in the days of Hippocrates. But disheartening as this picture may be, it is not hopeless; quite the contrary, it is full of hope for the future; for many reasons. For first, if the art is to advance at all, it must be by the thorough cultivation of Physiology and Pathology, and by bringing this knowledge to bear, on the actual observation of disease at the bedside: the old plan of acting from the results of experience alone, has had a very fair trial, and amongst the innumerable blows aimed by it, in the dark, two only seem to have struck home: Reina has struck down Intermittent fever, and Sulpichr has either put out the itch, or slain the Acanthus Deablei, but why nobody has ever yet been able satisfactorily to explain the cause, and rational plan on the contrary, has this very accuracy of diagnosis, for one of its earliest triumphs, an accuracy utterly unknown, and undreamt of, fifty years ago; these advances being more particularly seen in the present modes of diagnosing diseases of the heart, lung,
Kidneys, liver &c., the additional precision derived from taking advantage of physical means of diagnosis as compared with the uncertain and fallacious methods formerly employed, of arriving at the seat of the lesion from the study of mere general symptoms alone.

Again, there is hope in the fact that, we are beginning to have glimpses of the modus operandi of some substances on the animal economy; physicians now-a-days are not quite so content as their forefathers were, to tread the quiet, comfortable old paths; to follow the time-honoured plan of pouring substances of which they knew nothing, into bodies of which they knew less; those who are engaged in advancing the art, and labouring most successfully to advance it, on rational principles are putting to the test of experiment the long established reputations of many an old medicament, and few of them indeed can stand such a test; but the truth is that it is much easier to discard old remedies than to invent new ones; still if these preparations, some of which are most nauseous and disgusting, are useless, also, why plague patients by compelling them to swallow such? But if on the other hand, we do find them beneficial, we are not to reject them, tho' their mode of action be mysterious and inexplicable, we would be very glad to welcome a few more such remedies as Quina has
proved to be, though we were for ever to remain ignorant of the manner in which they should accomplish such desired results, as it has done. Perhaps, the art is to make advances in both these directions, experience may determine the value of this or that substance, in certain circumstances, without being able to say why, such should be the case, merely taking cognizance of the fact; and on the other hand the Chemist, and Physiologist, having determined the modus operandi of those substances in the animal economy, may furnish us with rational indications for our guidance in their employment. But at present we are compelled to rely almost entirely on the former mode in our employment of new remedies.

To determine the value of empirical remedies, it is evident that series of experiments are the only methods of arriving at sound conclusions in regard to their efficiency as therapeutic agents, but it is to be expected that, as our knowledge of the processes of digestion and assimilation advances, we shall be furnished with some sure indications to guide us in the choice of remedies, than mere chance, or crude theory, or old tradition.

During the past Winter Session a number of very interesting experiments have been instituted under the superintendence of Professor Bennett and Christison in the Clinical wards of the Royal Infirmary, with a view
to determine the value of several medicines recently pro-
posed as remedies in some very intractable forms of dis-

case, some of these medicines were of recent introduction,
having been but lately brought under the notice of
the profession, others were well known drugs, and it was
the proposals in regard to the curative agency of those
ones well known diseases, which was new, and which it was
the object of these experiments to decide. The fullest op-
portunity having been afforded to the members of the exam

ining clasp for observing the progress of the cases, and not-
ing the results of the treatment, not only during the mid-
day visit by the physician, but also during the evening
visit by Dr. Blackstone the resident clerk. Having taken
advantages of this permission I endeavoured to ascertain
as accurately as possible by personal observation the result of
these trials, and to embody them shortly in the present
paper. The difficulties in the way of arriving at just
and sound conclusions in regard to the virtues of any
therapeutic agent are so great, as in many instances
to be almost insurmountable, this arises from the variety
of intercurrent circumstances, the tendencies of which are
to falsify our conclusions, from the impossibility of deter-
mining the amount of their influence in each particular.
We know that in a great many instances, diseases if left
to run their natural course, resolve spontaneously and
often in such an abrupt manner that, had medicines been employed no doubt might have been entertained of their efficacy in that particular instance, and hence the success of quackery in its various forms, and the popular belief in specific remedies, we must take into consideration the effects of diet and regimen, exercise, change of air, of scene, and of habits, the removal of exciting and the avoidance of predisposing causes of disease. The only satisfactory mode left us for arriving at the wished for conclusion, are by multiplying our experiments and varying as far as possible the outward circumstances in the presence of which they are administered, if then, we find the same results following the exhibition of any remedy under varying aspects of accompanying circumstances, in a large proportion of cases, we are fairly justified in ascribing those ameliorating effects to its use, no matter how mysterious they may be its mode of action on the living frame.

Many valuable remedies have doubtless fallen into undeserved neglect, not from their demerits, but from the careless and inattentive manner in which they have been administered. For instance Chloroform has been attempted to be administered on a handkerchief which had been thoroughly heated before a fire, previous to pouring the Chloroform on it, and under such circumstances it was no wonder the drug proved singularly inefficient, having evaporated before it ever had an opportunity of reaching the air.
Seapages of the patient; the same negative results followed its administration in one of the London hospitals, where a very ingenious inhaler was employed, furnished with two stopcocks, one to admit atmospheric air, the other chloroform; the patient inhaled vigorously, for a quarter of an hour, without the slightest approach to anaesthesia having been induced; but the phenomenon was at last satisfactorily accounted for, by the circumstance of the wrong cock having been turned: so in the application of escharsotics to sloughing or phagedenic sores how can a beneficial change of action be expected if the caustic never have an opportunity of reaching the living tissues? the simple precaution of mopping up the fluids which abound in such circumstances, and of removing as far as possible the gangrenous portion, having been neglected.

Another enormous drawback to the advance of knowledge in this important direction, arise from the monstrous evil (now in a great measure done away with owing mainly to the exertions of Prof. Christie and of the adulteration of drugs; an evil which at one time existed to an extent almost incredible, for instance the reputation of Bi-oxide of Potashium was fast sinking in the estimation of the profession in England, and no wonder it was, when by analysis it was discovered that the drug commonly in use contained about two thirds of its weight of Carbonate of Potash, and the same thing might have been said of almost all the valuable remedies then employed, which were worth admia.
In the experiments about to be related the greatest care and
circumspection were exercised in order that the remedies might
have a fair trial, and although the cases are not so numer-
ous as might have been desired, the reason having been a re-
markably healthy one; still they are pretty conclusive so far
as they go. During the course of the description and especially of
the earlier part of it experiments were instituted on the follow-
ing subjects. To determine the value of—

1. The Sulphate of Quina in the treatment of continued fever.
3. The juniper tar soap and other agents in the treatment of certain aut-
   oneous affections.
4. The Koupé to destroy tapeworms 

Sulphate of Quina in Continued Fever.

During the Autumn of last year communications from Dr.
Gundas of Liverpool appeared in many of the medical peri-
odicals to the effect, that he had discovered a new mode of
treating continued fever by means of which, that disease could
be rendered as manageable as Intermittent fever, and its
course be similarly cut short, the agent employed in both
cases being the same, viz. Sulphate of Quina: and one of
the first communications made to his class by Prof. Bonitz
at the commencement of his course in Clinical Medicine
was, that he had received a letter from Dr. Gundas detail-
-ing that gentlemen's new mode of treatment, and the reasons which led to his adoption of these new views in regard to continued fevers. It appeared from this document, that Dr. Dundas who had been practicing as a physician in Brazil for fourteen or fifteen years, had been greatly struck with the resemblance which the Liverpool typhus bore to the Remittent fever of the Brazil, a resemblance so close as to persuade him of their identity: he found this fever to prevail most extensively amongst the newly arrived Irish peacantry who had been drawn by the extremities of famine and destitution to emigrate, and he says it is the same fever which prevails so extensively amongst the lower orders in the large manufacturing and seaport towns of England, and Scotland, and which has in those places also been successfully treated as in Liverpool, by large doses of Sulphate of Quinino. Dr. Dundas administered the Quinino in doses of ten grains every two hours, and he says, that of those patients who took five doses, some who commenced its use on the fourth, and others on the eighth day after admission were quite well the next day, and able to sit up in bed. This proposal of Dr. Dundas appeared feasible enough, backed as it was by numerous instances in which the remedy had apparently proved successful; and as our knowledge on this subject is altogether empirical no satisfactory explanation of the effects of this drug, as an anti-periodic having yet been given; every communication of
such a kind becomes valuable, and is deserving your best atten-
tion. Viewing the subject in this light Prof. Beckett at once
commenced a trial of its powers, in some of the cases at that
time in the wards. Here it must be observed however that the
type of fever which then, and which throughout the Winter,
prevailed in Edinburgh was of a very mild form, a mere feb-
rilious; setting in, often it is true with very violent symptoms
undistinguishable from those of Syphilis, but on the seventh day
resolving spontaneously, or the breaking out of a copious diaph-
rosis, which appeared to be critical; and the patients speedily
recovered their strength after that date. Proper precautions
were of course accordingly taken to distinguish such cases
from those of genuine Syphilis, but no case at that time or
the latter disease, that some difficulty was experienced in
procuring a sufficient number of patients who could be un-
equivocally pronounced to be labouring under the genuine form
of pure Syphilis.

The idea of administering Quinine in contin-
ued fever is by no means original, indeed we would expect
that after witnessing the great success attendant on its exhibition
in Intermittent fever, practitioners would be well disposed to give
it an early trial in continued fever also. Cullen says that
Peruvian bark may be admitted in cases of continued fever
either after considerable remissions have appeared, when it may
be employed to prevent the return of exacerbations, or the same
 footing as it is used in intermittent fevers, or in the advanced state of fevers, when all suspicion of an inflammatory state is removed, and a general debility prevails in the system; and he adds, with respect to the bark, good effects are to be expected from it, almost only when given in substance and in large quantity; and Dr. Christie in his Dispensatory speaks of its employment, he says, that its utility is more circumscribed is continued than in either intermittent or remittent fevers. The virtues once almost universally ascribed to Cinchona bark as a tonic, antiseptic and febrifuge, in the typhoidal stage and form of continued fever, are now no longer confided in, and have never been transferred to sulphate of Quina. But it is serviceable in certain circumstances. When distinct pneumonia occurs, particularly in the fever of childhood, and no obstacle exists from the presence of irritation in the stomach or intestines, sulphate of Quina often proves almost as perfect a febrifuge as its aque. It is also of service in the Syphilis of adults, when attended with exhausting, non-critical sweats, which it sometimes arrests. It promotes convalescence when this is retarded by general nervous debility, and still more by defective appetite and feebleness of digestion. I have repeatedly seen it arrest relapse in inflammatory fevers, when the relapse put on the intermittent character.

The number of cases in which this remedy was tried were nine in all, a number amply sufficient to elucidate the supposed virtues of the drug, if this were possible.
It is however to be lamented, that the high hopes which Dr. Dundas' confident statement excited, have not been realized in this city at least; and it is presumed there can be no reasonable doubt left on the minds of those who witnessed, and carefully observed, the progress of the cases that the subject received the fullest, and most candid consideration, and investigation. It might indeed have been desirable, had it been practicable, to have tried the effects of the Divina in the outset of a case of Dyspepsia, but from the prevalence of febricula such an experiment could never have proved satisfactory. We are inevitably forced to the conclusion then, that Dr. Dundas and those who have adopted and upheld his views, have all along been committing the mistake of treating a febricula, which would have got well spontaneously, without their interference, and one bad result at least has followed their experiment viz, that of raising the price of the valuable drug which they employed, and unfortunately there is reason to fear that it will soon reach a price which will place it beyond the reach of the humbler classes of the community to procure, unless means be adopted to prevent the annihilation of the Cinchona family. I now proceed to give a short abstract of those cases in the treatment of which this new suggestion has been acted on.

History. Has always enjoyed very good health up to the present attack. On last Sunday evening (4th) whilst in bed, was seized with pains, shivering as if from cold, this was succeeded by a hot and flushed condition of the skin with pains in the head and back, loss of appetite, inability to sleep at night, prostration of strength, and a constipated condition of the bowels. These symptoms came on suddenly without any premonitory warning.

Examination. His countenance wears in a well marked manner that peculiar aspect so characteristic of Syphilis, the features have a pinched and waxy appearance; the complexion of the face being dull, apathetic, or stupid, with a slight shade of anxiety. His mental faculties are as yet unimpaired but although he answers questions promptly and rationally yet it seems to cost him some effort to do so, being perhaps partly to muscular debility, partly to that apathetic condition so indicative of the disease.

Nervous System. Pain in the forehead and back, there is a general aching sensation or pain in his body and limbs, slight calcar-tubae tendinum, functions of special senses unimpaired.

Circulatory System. Cardiac sounds normal, Pulse 90, full and regular.

Respiratory System. Normal with the exception of an occasional cough, unaccompanied by any expectoration.

Digestive System. Tongue is moist, covered with a white fur with the exception of its tip and margins, which are pecten-naturally red.
and clear, appetite entirely gone, great thirst. No tenderness on pressure of the abdomen. Bowels were freely opened by medicine prior to his admission.

Genito urinary System Urine quantity specific gravity 10.24 albumen shows no trace of, on the application of heat and nitric acid.

Integumentary System. Skin dry and hot, there is no eruption what, ever on his body the extremities are cold.

Diagnosis. Continued fever. Treatment Ordered half a dozen leeches to the temple with a view to relieve the headache, and the following diaphoretic mixture:

1. Vini Arsenici Iodati, 2 grains
2. Vini Arsenici Cart. pedunc. 13 grains
3. Solutionis Muriatis, 10 grains
4. Brachmans Gum, 6 grains
5. Aqua unius p. oz.

One ounce to be taken every third hour.

Nov 8th (6th day of fever). His condition being much the same to day as it was yesterday he was ordered, to take Duke's sulphate grana doses, every two hours till five doses have been taken, and to omit the diaphoretic mixture.

In the evening its effects were noted, his skin is bathed in a copious perspiration and is cooler. Pulse 82 much smaller than it was during the morning. Bowels have been opened during the afternoon.

Nov 9th. The Diuresis was not withdrawn after the fifth dose, but has been continued regularly since every two hours, until now at 12 o'clock. Two doses of the medicine have been given with the only effect apparently, of reducing the frequency of the pulse, and rendering it smaller and weaker, he slept well during the night, was no increase of headache and continues in every respect in much the same condition. Ordered to go on with the
Drina in five grain doses, and to have two ounces of Wine in the after-
morn if required.

8 O'Clock evening. Has taken three doses of the Quina and one ounce
of the wine. The pulse exhibited the same phenomena after each dose
as on the former occasion, only being brought down about ten beats in
the minute and becoming much smaller; these effects however are
but transitory, as they disappear ere the interval between the doses has elaps
ed and his former condition becomes re-established without any ap-
pearance of permanent amelioration having been effected in his con-
dition. Pulse at present 40 small and regular. The urine is of a deep co-
lored and deposit some tincture of Ammonia, this may be accounted
for by the increased secretion of sweat which still continues. Ordered
to resume the ten grain doses of Quina.

Nov 10th Slept pretty well during the night, he complains for the first
time of having had some tingling in his ears during the morning
which poon went off however; the functions of the special senses have
certainly not been heightened, but if anything, rather blunted and the
course of the food has not been checked in the slightest degree. Was or-
dered to omit the Quina and to have four ounces of Port wine.

By Spiritus aetheris nitrici. 1 drachmas tres
Solutionis Ammoniae Acetatis sinensis cum cina semipe
Agua sinensae quattuor. Quaee et repetitio

A teaspoonful every four hours.

Afters this date the fever continued to run its usual course until the
14th day when it abated and he appeared to be in a convalescent.
state till the 21st day, when a relapse took place ushered in by nausea and uneasy sensations in the epigastric region, which were followed by a pretty severe attack of diarrhoea, which reduced his strength very considerably; these symptoms abated, and convalescence again went on till the 27th day, when a second relapse supervened accompanied by a smart attack of bronchitis, which brought him almost to the brink of the grave, however he again rallied, and the convalescence then went on uninterruptedly.

About the commencement of the fever, the Drina was tried also in the case of a woman named Stevens, but I have not been able to collect the particulars; it seemed however to produce no effect whatever, and the woman died from pulmonary complications.


History: State that on tuesday week or 9 days ago she was engaged in clearing hair for matskeep and felt very much fatigued in consequence and supposed she had caught cold; the next day she felt a general soreness over the body as if she had been beaten, and had severe pain in the head, back, and epigastrium, accompanied by nausea and vomiting; on thursday the vomiting ceased, but she still continued ill, and on saturday she suffered so severely from headache, that she took to bed, and swallowed a dose of
Colchicine pill, which purged her violently, increasing her debility very much.

Examination. Eyeballs, aspect of countenance with masked features somewhat pinched, voice weak and infantile.

Digestive System. Tongue harsh and dry, covered with a white fur. Bad taste in mouth, thirst, anorexia, some nausea, but vomiting has ceased. Some pain still in the epigastrium.

Respiratory System. Chest retracted throughout its whole extent in a marked degree, vocal resonance less than natural; the expiration is prolonged, and is accompanied by sighing and paroxysms on both sides, anteriorly and posteriorly. Has cough with slight mucous expectoration.

Circulatory System. Pulse 102, and strong, complains of palpitation, but no increased impulse is perceptible. Sound normal.

Integumentary System. Skin harsh, hot, and dry, no eruption.

Nervous System. Unisensal sense of continua, headache very severe, mental faculties unimpaired.

Genito Urinary System. Makes water freely but it is accompanied with a scalding sensation.

R. Vini Speratus unicae Drachmam.

Spirtitus. Aetheris Sulphurici, drachmum duas.

Solutions. Muriazi, Morphia, drachmum duas.

Aqua unius pex, Mace et Riguetor.

A teaspoonful every second hour.

11th Nov. The pain in the epigastrium and head is increased, was
ordered the following emetic. 12. Ruberis Specosorum, gran. quindec.
Antimonii tartarizati, gran. duo. To be taken immediately, and as soon
as its operation shall have ceased entirely, to commence two grain doses
of Dunia every two hours.
12th. Nov. She took the first dose of the Dunia last night between 9 and 10
clock, and up till now she has taken five doses, but the last one
has been vomiting. No apparent change seems to have been effected on
the symptoms; or general prospect of the case, the head ache and pain
in the epigastrium remains unabated. Ordered. Eight leeches to be
applied to the epigastric region, and five more doses of the Dunia to
be taken. Cold water to be poured on the head, should the pain continue there.
13th. Nov. Has taken the Dunia as ordered, the first dose only has been vomited
the rest were retained; the abdominal pain has not been relieved by the
leeching; and the cold affusion to the head has been succeeded by shi-
pering and chilliness. Pulse is 83 and full, the features are indicative of
much suffering, she is very deaf, and replies to questions rather inco-
herently. Ordered, warm fomentations to the abdomen. The cold affusion
to be re-applied to the head, and

R. Ruberis Opii, granum
Bismathi oxydi, gran. decem
Confectionis aromatica, quantum sufficit ut faint.
pilula duo. Signatur: One at bedtime, if necessary.
14th. Nov. Pain in the abdomen much relieved by the fomentations, but
still present. Pulse 88 and weaker, she complains of a sensation of swim-
mimg in the head. The nurse relates, that she had an epileptic attack.
last night, during which the fevers were much suffused; the eyes being fixed and the limbs slightly convulsed.

15th Nov. Her mental faculties appear to be more impaired to day. She answers questions incoherently; she does not complain of pain in the abdomen, being too apathetic to do so, but prepares these evidently causes suffering. Ordered eight ounces of wine daily.

17th Nov. Has evidently had an attack of paralysis, as there is evidently puffiness and flapping of the left cheek; the features however are not as yet distorted. Ordered to have the head shaved and blistered.

18th Nov. Worse to day, she appears to be conscious, but unable to speak or protrude her tongue when asked to do so either. She evidently comprehends the request and endeavours to do so, the left arm is partially paralyzed, but she moves it on being pinched. The sensibility of the paralyzed parts seems little impaired.

19th Nov. Died this morning.

Section Cadaveris. Body slightly emaciated. Left lung detached and pale anteriorly, its margin very irregular from emphysematus lobules with intervening sphenologically atrophied portions. Both of the emphysematus parts so much detached, as to appear connected with the lung by a pedicle. Several simply collapsed lobules along anterior edge, back part crepitates feebly. A small map of crustaceous deposit at lower part near surface. Right lung has several very large emphysematus bullae at apex, the largest the size of a hazel nut; around them are deep figures, and in several other parts of the lung greatly emphysematus lobule, but not so much general
Case 4
George Johnson, 21, Bootliver. Admitted 8th Dec. 1857

History. States that he was in perfect health up till the evening of Sa-
turday (29th Nov.) when after exposure to cold he had a rigor succeed-
ed by chills and a sensation of extreme coldness along the spinal
column, shortly after the skin became very hot, and a slight perspi-
ration broke out, the other ordinary symptoms of erysipelas are well marked.

Respiratory System. Normal.

Circulatory System. Pulse 158, full, impulses of heart increased in intensity.

Digestive System. Tongue furred. Coated at centre, cracked, anorexia,
intense thirst, bowels acting regularly.

Nervous System. Slight pain in head, and some confusion of intellect.

Integumentary System. Skin hot and dry, no eruption.


9th Dec. Did not sleep last night. Bowels constipated, Pulse
120, full, otherwise in same condition as on admission. Ordered a
draft of castor oil to be taken immediately, and after its action
has ceased, to commence taking ten grain doses of Quinia every
two hours. Vomiting at 6 o'clock Bowels have been freely acted on, there is,
considerable general excitement, great heat of skin and some sweating. Pulse is 120, full and strong. Ten grains of Quina were given at 8 o’clock p.m. Pulse 119, weaker. At 9 o’clock Pulse 112, soft, slight pinging in the ears. At 9½ o’clock a second powder was given. Pulse 103, softer, feels more comfortable, and is inclined to sleep. 11 o’clock p.m. Pulse 116, softer. A third dose was now administered and they were continued regularly throughout the night.

16th Dec. (12th day) Slept well during the night, and feels quite comfortable this morning, the skin is moist, there is some headache and pinging in the ears, pulse 84 of good strength, Urine 8 p. 100% pale, no deposit, other febrile symptoms continue. Ordered to have three ounces of Wine to night. 9 o’clock p.m. Pulse 88, very full and strong; ten grains of Quina were now given, and four powders containing five grains each were ordered to be administered every two hours; shortly after swallowing the ten grain dose the pulse sunk to 46 and became soft and compressible. Wine counteracted.

17th Dec. (13th day) Slept well during the night, the powders have been given regularly, pulse 74 of good strength.

18th Dec. (14th day) Was restless in the forepart of last night, but slept towards morning; has some appetite this morning, thirst not so great; tongue still white and figured; no eruptions on chins, pale, 90 weak; Urine pale with slight deposit.

After this date he progressed rapidly to convalescence and was discharged cured on the 4th Jan. 1862.

History: States that on Wednesday last about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, she was suddenly seized with pain in the head, general debility, and heat of the skin; with thirst, and anorexia; she has had no distinct eruption, but a general soreness of the body and limbs, which is becoming more severe, and this forms her principal ground of complaint.

11th Dec. Respiratory System. Respiration accelerated. 42 in the minute; there is pain, behind the sternum, on taking a deep inspiration. Dry rales accompany both inspiration and expiration; there is cough and slight expectoration of frothy mucus.

Circulatory System. Complaint of pain and palpitation in coronary region. Sounds are normal. Ape beats in normal position; pulse 120.

Digestive System. Tongue, dry, brown, and congealed. Bad taste in mouth; anorexia; thirst; nausea; bowels confined.

Nervous System. Pain in the body and limbs; none in the head.

Integumentary System. The chest and arms are covered with numerous, minute purplish, petechial spots, which appeared a few days ago; she has, a good deal at night.

Genito-Urinary System. Amenorrhea since June last.

The bowels having been acted on by castor oil, she was ordered to have ten grains of Buxina every two hours: the first dose was given about 1 o'clock p.m., when the pulse was 120 and full; at 2 o'clock the pulse was 106, fuller and stronger, no other physiological effect apparent, at 2 past 3 o'clock, took another dose, and at
½ past 4 O'clock, the pulse was 106; no physiological effects yet developed. At 8 O'clock she began to complain of slight deafness and ringing in the ears, pulse 106. Ordered, to take another powder, and if deafness increase after it, to cease taking them altogether.

12th Dec At ½ past 9 O'clock A.M., pulse 88 very small and weak, skin is cooler, slept a little during the night, took no Quinia since 10 O'clock last night. At 12 O'clock, pulse 86, of better strength, skin warm and moist, her aspect is by no means improved. She is very feeble, lies on her back and inclines to slip down in the bed, there is some abrasions, tenderness, other symptoms continue unaltered. Ordered, to stop the Quinia and to have eight ounces of wine daily. After this date, the fever proceeded in its usual course unchecked on the 13th day diarrhoea set in, which was however readily subdued by astringents. The urine became colored on the 16th day with brown coloured cathartic, soon after this, she became convalescent and was discharged cured on the 15th Jan. 1852

Case 6
Isabella Adamson 20. Servant. Admitted Dec 19th, 1852
This girl had been admitted, on account of an eruption of bosom on the side of the head, and she had been undergoing treatment for it, up to the 3rd of Jan., on which day after dinner she was seized with a rigor, which lasted for two minutes, and was succeeded with general convulsions of the body and extremities, lapse and general indefinable uneasiness. The febrile condition did
not declare itself in full force till the 9th on which day she 
was entirely prostrated, exhibiting all the usual phenomena 
of Syphilis. On the morning of the 9th there appeared a con sis-
table petechial eruption on the chest and arms; and on the 
morning of the 10th at 6 o’clock she commenced using the 
sulphate of Quinua, in two grain doses, at intervals of two hours 
at 8 o’clock, pulse was 106, full and soft, no headache nor 
sweating, the second dose of Quinua was now administered 
after swallowing the powder the pulse was 104. At 10 o’clock the 
pulse was 92. of former character, the head aches a little 
and there is some deafness.

11th Jan Complains of ringing in the ears to day, and of nausea 
she vomited two of the doses of Quinua, pulse was 94 in the mor 
ning, but rose to 104 in the course of the day. At the evening 
visit she was ordered ten ounces of Port Wine and to omit 
the Quinua.

12th Jan Pulse 104 still full and soft. Complains dark and 
more distinct, still some pain in the head, has thirst, thirst 
on the teeth, tongue furred or furred; the progress of the fever 
is manifestly unchecked,

she became very ill after this date, the attacks being a very 
severe one, but on the 24th she had fairly rallied and consol 
-
Case of

This girl was admitted on account of an attack of Acute Rheumatic inflammation on account, for which she had been undergoing treatment up to the January 6th, and was then convalescent, but on that day she was attacked with rigors, and general pains and stiffness of the trunk and extremities; for this she was ordered an emetic, which gave her some relief, but still, the dull pains and feelings of discomfort continued.

6th Jan.: The pains still continue, she describes them as resembling the rheumatic pains under which she had been suffering, tho' they are not seated in the joints. She had an hysterical attack this afternoon; the pulse is 90 and normal.

10th: The same symptoms have continued, and become aggravated; the pulse is 90 full and bounding; Ordered five, ten grain doses of Quinine at 2 o'clock, half an hour after the administration of the first dose the pulse had grown to 100 but had become much softer and weaker; at 1/2 past 3 o'clock the second powdered was given, the pulse then being 90 full and regular; at 1/2 past 4 o'clock it had grown to 106, but was weaker and softer; she is drowsy, and complaining of headache, and ringing in the ears, and some deafness. The remaining three powders were administered during the evening, but were immediately vomited; at 7 o'clock p.m. the excitement of the previous powders still continued, and the pulse was 105 and soft. Ordered a pill of Quinine at bedtime.

11th Jan.: Continues in much the same condition, slept some during the night, pulse 84 soft and full; at 5 o'clock p.m. had another dose of
Quina which was immediately rejected by vomiting, the headache and deafness are much increased, pulse 74 full and hard, all the other febrile symptoms exist in full force.

The fever saw its usual course till the 19th Jan. on which day all febrile symptoms had completely disappeared, and after this, convalescence slowly progressed.

Case 8 John Clark at 23 Blacksmith, Admitted 5th Jan 1852

History states, that he has always been in the enjoyment of good health previous to the present attack. He dates the commencement of his illness from Monday, the 27th Dec. last, and attributes its origin to a severe wetting to which he had been exposed on that day; during the same night he had several severe rigors, followed the next morning by increased heat of skin, pain in the head, back, loin, limb, thirst, anorexia, debility and drowsiness. During the last few months he has been out of employment, and consequently has been suffering from want of the common necessaries of life; pap he has not been addicted to intemperance.

Examination - Respiratory System - Percussion reveals nothing abnormal. Auscultation anteriorly at apex of chest some ribilant rales are heard on inspiration, posteriorly spongy rales are heard towards the base of the lungs; has cough with copious expectoration of mucopurulent matter, slightly streaked with blood, has a sensation of pain over the whole anterior surface of the chest.

Circulatory System - Normal, pulse 80 of good strength.
Digestive System - Conque red and moist, no abdominal uneasi-
ness, complete loss of appetite, constipation

Nervous System - Considerable headache, slight deafness,
Integumentary System - Skin soft, hot, dry, no eruption.
Genito Urinary System - Normal.

Ordered a dose of jalap.

4th Jan. Powels have been acted on by the purgative dose; the cough
and expectoration are very urgent.

To Vini Spaccamonto, drachmas.

Solutionis Acetatis Murphiis, drachmas, duas

Mistura Scillo unius quinque cum cinfore
tablespoonful three times a day.

8th Jan. Was delirious last night, and very restless; in morning, this morn-
ing, cough much better & expectoration is diminished; pulse 108, weak,
Ordered, ten grains sulphate Quina every two hours. At 2 O'Clock pm
the first dose was administered, in half an hour vomiting ensued
and part of the Quina was ejected; at 5 O'Clock pulse 100, soft & regular.
About 4 O'Clock the second powder was administered, at which time
the pulse was 110, and full, shortly after being swallowed it fell to 104
& became softer; at 6 O'Clock the third powder was given, before ad-
ministration the pulse was 112, after, 106, and soft. At 4 O'Clock he
complained of some ringing in the ears. At 8 O'Clock the fourth pow-
der was given, pulse 110, weak and soft, there is ringing of the ears,
deafness, and some muttering delirium; at 10 O'Clock, the fifth dose
was given, pulse 104, full. At 11 O'Clock pulse 112, other symptoms continue
9th Jan. (12th day of fever) W-as restless during the fore-part of the night, but slept after getting the 6th dose of Quina at 12 O'clock, pulse is 70 weak.
other symptoms as before.

11th Jan. No day, there is a well marked petechial eruption all over the chest and abdomen, great thirst, sores on the lips and gums. Tongue red & moist at margins and black towards the centre. Countenance flushed. This hot day, the delirium ales continues. It is clear therefore that the fever is proceeding uninterruptedly.

Jan. 16th (19th day of fever) Patient a good nights and is much improved. By this day, tongue is cleaner. thirst less urgent. Pulse of good strength. From this date convalescence commenced & went on steadily till his dismissal.


History. Has been exposed to the contagion of Buphagus from her mother and sister, both of whom have died of that diseases. She was seized with rigors, and severe headache on Saturday 16th Jan. but does not complain of pain elsewhere; there is no eruption perceptible, nor was any seen in the cases of her mother and sister.


19th Jan. No change perceptible to day. Ordered, five doses of the sulphate of Quina containing 6 grains each, the first dose was given shortly after 12 O'clock p.m. previous to its administration the pulse was
10 o'clock, pulse 90, regular. The second dose was given at 10 o'clock p.m., pulse was 96, not so full as before, but harder. At 1/2 past 4 the pulse was 100 and weaker, complains for the first time of ringing in the ears and dizziness, she is perspiring abundantly, and there is much flushing of the countenance. At 2/3 past 5 o'clock the head symptoms had nearly disappeared. At 6 o'clock p.m. the third powder was administered, the pulse being then 100, full and soft, half an hour afterwards the ringing in the ears had returned, but the headache was quite gone. At 8 p.m. the fourth powder was given, pulse 112, moderately full and soft, and in half an hour it had fallen to 96 and was unchanged in character, ringing in ears continues. She had the fifth powder at 10 p.m.; it seemed to produce a copious diaphoresis.

18th Jan. The feverish symptoms have abated remarkably, the headache is gone; pulse is 94, soft and weak.

She continued to improve till the 23rd, but on that day a relapse appeared to have taken place and the feverish symptoms became greatly aggravated. On the 25th the pulse was 108, full, and hard, coarse, hot, and dry, and diarrhoea had set in with considerable severity. She was ordered three, five drop doses of Dr. Norwood's Cinchuma Viridis, and one, two drop dose during the night; the two first doses were retained, but all the others were vomited immediately. The effects of the drug on the pulse were not very remarkably manifested, probably because a sufficient quantity to produce its physiological effects had not been retained. She continu-
ued to lessen or sometimes better, at other times worse for a
considerable period; after this date; but the abdominal symp-
toms became more and more manifested, and severe;
indeed it turned out to be one of the best marked cases we
had of the abdominal typhus "dothan entovite" this disease;
both as regards the progress of the disease during life, and
the morbid appearances in the intestines seen after
death.

It is quite evident then, from a review of these cases, that Dr.
Gundas' crude theory and much promted practice, have not
stood the test of fair trial in any one case where genuine typhus was
the disease as treated; not only has Quinua, in large and sustained dose,
failed to cut short the attacks, it has not in any instance seem-
ed even to conduct the fever in a subdued form to a favorable ter-
minations; more than this, it would seem to exert a decidedly per-
nicious influence in those cases where the nervous system is the seat
of complication, especially where the cerebral map and its func-
tions are seriously disordered. One important fact however
in a physiological point of view has been gleaned from
these experiments viz. the remarkable influence which
the Quinua possessed in many cases, of lowering the pulse;
this was more or less manifested in all the cases, but in some
was quite remarkable, as it took place a few minutes
after the dose of the drug had been swallowed, and was
evidenced long before its well known influence on the nervous system had been at all exhibited. The contractions of the ventricles appeared to be not only diminished in number, but their force likewise seemed greatly abated, the pulse became often quite soft from having been hard or full; this remarkable effect on the circulatory system, seems to have been generally overlooked in the study of the actions of this drug, on the animal economy; perhaps it, further investigations may tend to throw some light on that mysterious antiperiodic action, on which it's fame rests, and which, if cleared up might afford a clue to the unravelling of problems of the greatest moment, in practical medicine. This effect on the pulse was transient, paking off more quickly in some cases than in others; in general the frequency and hardness had returned within the two hours, which intervened between the administration of the doses.

It is easy to conceive how this peculiar effect might lead the hasty observers into this mistake of concluding that, from the improved state of the pulse, the fever had been suddenly cut short; this circumstance may perhaps have materially contributed to the error in question. However this may be, we know that it is an error, and further speculations would be unbecoming in such a paper as this.
Nitrate of Potash in Rheumatism.

It may be advisable before proceeding to the consideration of the various modes of treatment, proposed in this disease, to give a short sketch of the opinions entertained by our best authorities, in regard to its varieties and their Pathology. This peculiar kind of inflammation manifests a decided tendency to attack the fibrous tissues of the body, in preference to all others, at least in the first instance; though ultimately, in its progress it may extend, by continuity, to any adjoining tissue. There are two forms of it, the acute, and chronic; the former often subsiding gradually into the latter, although the chronic form may be assumed from the very commencement in many instances; the disease never having assumed the acute form at all.

Those parts of the body where the fibrous element occurs in greatest abundance viz the tendons, and ligaments surrounding the joints, are consequently the most frequently its seat; one of the joints only may be affected, but more generally several of them are attacked simultaneously; and in such circumstances the disease very frequently manifests another of its distinguishing charac
...tenetics, nip its tendency to metastasis, or shifting from one joint to another, or to some internal organ; and herein lies its most perilous peculiarity, as the internal organ which in mine cases out of two it chooses is the pericardium. Did this inflammation merely attack, and remain permanently confined to the fibrous structures during the attack; we have reason to believe, that neither part nor system would suffer anything beyond transient impairment, for though the inflammatory symptoms may reach their highest acme, and the agony endured by the miserable patient be almost intolerable, yet suppuration never occurs till the areolar tissue becomes implicated; and even this is rare; but the inflammation is seldom confined to the fibrous tissues, it spreads rapidly to the serous membranes, and the products of their inflammation thus excited consists more frequently of plastic than puriform exudation, occasionally however pus may be formed in the larger joints, but never in the pericardium, its course and progress in this structure being similar in this specific inflammation to that form of inflammation which is produced in any other manner. One of its most frequent sites is that portion of the serous membrane which is reflected over the valves of the heart, and "when it does not at once prove fatal," the permanent injury which it causes to their function lays the foundation for organic disease of that most important organ which ultimately terminates fatally. A less frequent site is the atherotic coat of the eye and here unless the action be instantly subdued, irreparable injury may be done to the delicate structure therein...
contained, and severe impairment or destruction of its functions may ensue; the acute form however seldom occurs in it; the chronic more frequently. Most commonly it first attacks the ankles, knees, shoulders, elbows, or wrists, sometimes every joint in the body appears to be implicated, and the patient lies utterly helpless, every attempt at motion causing the most exquisite agony, so that even the gentlest efforts of the nurse to shift his position cause so much suffering to the patient that these attempts cannot be persevered in; the presence of the bed clothes even can hardly be borne. The system of course sympathizes largely with the local affection, and this is manifested by a high inflammatory fever, the erysypela of Cullen; which is entirely distinct from, and never shows any tendency to pass into, the form of dyschus; the pulse is rapid, full, and hard; the digestive system is considerably disordered; manifested by a white and furrowed tongue, at times naturally red at the margin, and tip, thirst, and constipation; there is however in most cases no marked disturbance of the bowels. The urine is purulent, high coloured, and very acid; sometimes loaded with lithates, at other times clear. Skin sometimes dry, but usually profuse perspirations break out at irregular intervals, exhausting the patient without relieving his distress, and this eruption is further remarkable for its acidity, and its peculiar powerful odour. The nervous system has all its functions disordered often when the pericardium is attacked, but so long as the disease is confined to the joints, delirium does not come on, although from the extreme suffering and the protracted want of sleep, we should be inclined to suppose
this would likely ensue. Acute Rheumatism has been divided by Dr. Chambers into two varieties, the distinction being founded on the implicatiors of the synovial membrane in the diseased action, or on that action remaining confined to the fibrous tissue. The one variety he calls Synovial Rheumatism, the other Fibrous Rheumatism. The first named variety most frequently attacks the larger joints, especially the knee, implicating the synovial membrane at an early period after its onset. The consequence is a rapid increase of its peculiar secretions, so that shortly after the commencement of the pain the joint becomes distended with fluid, bulging out through parts of the surrounding tissues which yield the most readily to its pressure and producing thereby a very characteristic swelling fluctuation indeed can often be readily distinguished by percusion. The Fibrous variety on the other hand, attacks the fibrous tissues alone, in the vicinity of joints, producing some redness of the part, but it is not till the pain has lasted for some considerable time that any swelling take place, and the effusion is not as in the former case into the joint, but into the areolar tissue surrounding it which is consequently rendered edematous. The constitutional distress in this latter form is far greater than in the former, although the local suffering may be less severe. It is this Fibrous Rheumatism which is so commonly seen in stout, young adults, and sometimes children, amongst the lower classes of society, and the younger the patient, the more dangerous is the disease; recurring as a consequence of exposure to cold and moisture after copious perspiration has
been going on for some time, when the system has been somewhat enfeebled and not able to resist the depressing influence of the cold: thus it is very commonly seen in female servants who have been employed in washing clothes; during the process they are very thinly clad with a view to coolness, but when drying the clothes in the open air they neglect making any addition to their clothing, and consequently the exposure for any length of time to this low temperature, induces, amongst other complaints, this specific inflammation of the fibrous textures; a most torturing, tedious and often fatal disorder, fatal because of its liability to leave the joints for the pericardium, there to produce changes which if not speedily rectified by active and suitable treatment, must necessarily destroy the patient in a very short time, or lay the foundation for organic lesions which shall ultimately prove mortal. The dyspnoic variety, again, is not attended with such an intense amount of fever, and relief is commonly obtained after the serous effusion has been poured out into the interior of the joints; it seems to be somewhat allied in its nature to gout, and hence has been called Rheumatic Gout; it occurs more frequently in persons of the better class, and of middle age, and is often particularly amenable to the action of Colchics, which indeed in many instances appears to cut short the attack as if by specific agency; but, most important difference of all, it is peculiarly distinguished by being greatly less liable than the other form to attack the pericardium; in all these particulars it seems to bear a much closer analogy to Gout than to Rheumatism. It is not intended in the present
sketch, by any means, to take up the subject of Rheumatic Carditis, as it is both foreign to its object and as no instance of this disease having as yet occurred in the Clinical wards this peculiarity we have not had an opportunity of studying the disease from nature, but several of the cases of Acute Rheumaticus which were under treatment the Winter having been complicated by Cardiac affections as indicated by abnormal murmurs attending the sounds of the heart; it may be advisable to glance at these physical auscultatory signs which are supported by the best authorities to indicate the period in the disease when the organ becomes affected. These murmurs are two in number, and from this distinction are extremely valuable as indicating the part of the affections the first of these is a friction sound, usually called a to and fro sound and is indicative of inflammation of the heart, the pericardium, and reflected over the external surface of the heart; a well marked instance of this occurred in a young man in the Male Clinical Ward during the Winter of 1849, 50 and this was the only opportunity I ever enjoyed of hearing the like; there was no possibility of mistaking this sound, as it approached in character to the noise produced by the action of rubbing the palm of the hands back and forward on each other, when they are very dry. The second of these sounds is the bellows murmurs accompanying the frict sidesound of the heart, and denoting impalpation of the endocardium in the inflammatory process, since it is the result of an exudation poured out on the valves, and forming warty excrescences on them; it is heard loudest at the base of the organ, is single, follows the
systole, and resembles a puff or slight whiff. Both these sounds may exist, and be discernible at the same time, or the bellows rumble may be masked by the superior loudness of the friction murmur; or either may exist alone; or the bellows sound may take the place of the friction sound. But sometimes a bellows sound depending on a totally different cause may have existed previous to the attack of Rheumatism, or may even follow the active depletion practiced during the first or second stage of the malady, with a view to subdue it; hence the necessity of distinguishing carefully the origin of the two sounds and guarding against the very likely source of error in diagnosis. Now as regards the treatment of the Dilatous variety of this very common affection, it may be premised that such is still a question vexata amongst practitioners, waiting for its solution, like the treatment of numerous other blood diseases, on rational indications of cure, derived from the clearing up of the mystery that still hangs over the Physiology and Pathology of the blood itself; a mystery which there is good hope of being cleared away in a very short time through Prof. Bennett’s researches in this important direction. At the present time however the disease is treated in a purely empirical manner: no two authors seeming to be agreed on any one definite line of procedure, and the most perplexing diversity of opinion being held on the subject even amongst practical men. Two circumstances of importance
appear to have been overlooked in its general treatment, and these errors have no doubt led to many mistakes and much malpractice; viz. the supposition, that a murmur accompanying the first sound of the heart, always indicates commencing endocarditis; and secondly, that, that form of the disease which attacks the fibrous tissues is amenable to that specific mode of treatment, which is so successful in those forms of Rheumatism which approach more nearly to the acute character. The great object of dread in the course of this malady being the superelevation of either endo- or pericarditis; and the fears entertained on this point being undoubtedly in many instances but too well founded; and, whilst attention to the state of the cardiac organ, during its progress, is a matter demanding the most careful and minute watching, still there is reason to believe, that in many instances, these fears have been exaggerated: Acute murmurs having been detected accompanying the first sound, and their import having been mistaken for an evidence of commencing valvar disease; has led to the adoption in many instances of a course of mercurial poisoning, with a view to the arrest of the supposed inflammatory attack, and the introduction of this metal into an enfeebled system not requiring, and consequently intolerant, of its action, has led to the most ruinous consequences, and is attended with results little less formidable than those supposed...
leens which it was purposed to repair. The occurrence of these murmurs need excite no surprise, if we consider the treat-
ment to which some patients have been subjected in this country, but
which has been more especially advocated in France, by M. Bou-
ville and niz. Venesections to the following amount. On the first
day of the attack, he takes away blood to a full extent measured
in palettes. From a delicate person, to the extent of 4 palettes, equal
to sixteen ounces; but if the individual be plethoric he would with
-draw it in a much larger quantity. On the second day of the attack
he would take two more bleedings of four palettes each, and in
the intervals, cupping and leeching the affected parts; on the third
day he would proceed to a further general and local bleeding; on
the fourth day, if the pains, swelling, or be not materially dimin-
ished he recommends another bleeding; on the fifth day if the
disease be not wholly subdued, again bleed to three palettes
from the arm; or to an equal extent from the affected parts.
Should relapses occur, bleed again. The mean quantity of blood
thus drawn from a healthy person would amount to four or five
pounds, or if necessary to six or seven pounds. Immense success
was stated by the author, if this plan, to follow its adoption; as
the disease never continued beyond one or two weeks instead of
(as under the former system) enduring for five or six weeks; and
he states, there was no mortality whatever; it is most probable
however, that the latter result, followed in due time, as he says
that the disease never became chronic. His plan has signally
failed in this country, death from exhaustion, induced by the
excessive blood-letting being apt to occur: there can be little doubt
I think, that if patients, treated in this barbarous fashion, if they
survive, would soon become anaemic, and that the likelihood
of a murmur, accompanying the first cardiac sound, would
be no matter for surprise. There can be little doubt that even mo-
derate bleeding, such as is usually had recourse to in these cases
may, in delicate females, and others, give rise to an anaemic con-
dition, in which state very probably an endocardial murmur will
be heard, although is this probably present in every case of anaemia.
To this murmur may have preceded, before the coming on of the
Rheumatic attack, as was probably the case in the girl Brum
Case 5, being then probably functional, and one indication
amongst many of the hysterical temperament. It is almost im-
possible to many instances to distinguish, by its mere sound alone,
such a bruit, from one whose origin depends on organic change,
but a successful diagnosis may in most instances be arrived
at, by a careful study of the history of the case, and the collateral
symptoms. The second error which has been alluded to in refe-
rence to treatment, tho' by no means grave in its consequences,
not likely perhaps to do much, if any mischief, unless the physiolog-
ical effects of the Colchicum, have been pretty freely developed; yet for
the almost universal prevalence of the belief in the virtues of the plant
as a specific, or at all events, a most powerful remedial agent in the
treatment of acute Rheumaticum, it may be worth while to enquire
into the origin of this belief, and if it can be borne out by facts, there

may be no doubt that in Gout, and in that form of Rheumatic cases

the arthritic, which approaches in its nature to Gout, the various prepara-
tions of Colchicum (especially the wine of the seeds) have sometimes

whether bloodletting has been previously employed or not, an almost

instantaneous effect in aborting the further progress of the disease; but

thus it is evident that sufficient discrimination has not been em-
ployed by those who used it, to distinguish the two forms of the disease

and hence careless observers witnessing the magical effect of the

drug in cases of Rheumatic Gout, straightway try the remedy in every

case whether Glibros or otherwise, with which they may happen to

come in contact, and of course they meet with disappointment:

this is evidently the origin of the belief: and the want of attention to

the simple pathological fact of the characteristic distinctions between

the two diseases, has led to the misemployment of this drug, to the

risk of its being put aside as valueless in every instance, and to

the perplexing and contradictory statements as to its value made

by different practitioners. But the medicine has also been care-

fully subjected to the test of experiment, and in those cases in the

Infirmary in which it has been tried, it certainly does not appear

in any degree to have mitigated the patient's sufferings, and it is

Prof. Bennett's decision that in such cases, it is utterly use-

less, although its physiological effects may have been fully developed.

But even when the diagnosis has been clearly established,

can be done in many cases even to palliate; but in other cases,
amendment has followed the employment of various curative agents: some practitioners rely on powerful antiphlogistic means as encaustic, Calomel, &c.; example, or two grain doses, with Opium. Others trust mainly to the sedative effects of the various preparations of Opium. Many think that active diaphoresis and diuresis, succeed heat, and with this view employ Dover's powder, Antimony, Guaiac, Spirit of Nitrous Oder; and unquestionably, the disease often rapidly and decidedly subsides, and ceases, upon the exhibition of one or other of these modes of cure; but the very next trial of the same remedy, under what appears precisely the same conditions, may utterly fail. Under these discouraging circumstances, it becomes a very desirable object to discover some medicine, of more certain efficacy than any of those just named, and, accordingly, one has been recently proposed; which, certainly seems, so far as it has yet been tried, to surpass them all; and should more extended observation, and experiments, justify the high expectations held out by it, at present, it will prove a most valuable boon to the victims of this torturing malady. It is the Nitrate of Potash, during the period of Prof. Kemnott's attendance in the Clinical wards, it was tried in seven cases, and, during Prof. Christian's in one case up to the present date. Of course the usual difficulties, attending such experiments existed here in full force. yet it was evident that a marked and unmistakable influence on the progress of the disease, followed in most of the cases early after its administration. It is commenced at doses of 20 grains, three or 4 times a day, increased if need be to 30 or 60
grains; and is given largely diluted with water. As regards the action of nitrate of potash in this disease, little it is to be feared is definitely known in some instances, its good effects are not perceptible until its physiological actions have been slightly manifested, as was the case in the woman illustration. Case 5, but in other instances his improvement seems to be contemporaneous with increased perspiration from the skin and kidney; the irregular fits of perspiration is common in this disease afford no relief, but rather tend to increase the thirst; however, when perspiration is induced by the aid of this substance marked relief is obtained, and the urine from being scanty and dark colored usually becomes abundant, and on cooling deposits a copious sediment of the lithates. Whilst these few cases seem to demonstrate the superior value of this drug to most, if not all others, in the treatment of this disease, they do not, unfortunately prove it to be infallible; it is not therefore, by any means, to be regarded as a specific. Besides those cases in which it has been employed in the Clinical wards, there were others under the case of Dr. Robertson, in which a similar success followed its employment. I have not been able however to collect the particulars of those cases, but confine my account to such as were under personal observation in the Clinical wards...


State, that she was suddenly seized with a severe
pain in the left side on Friday last, after undergoing unusual fatigue and this was followed the same night by rigors and other febrile symptoms which have since continued without intermission. The pulse is 84 natural, heard, pounds normal. Complain of headache, and loss of sleep and especially of a severe cutting pain in the left axillary region, increased by pressure and motion. Cough is coated, there is some thirst, but the appetite is good, bowels are erratic. The skin is hot and the sweat at night.

Ordered Oolapo Nitrate Ty. Aqua Ty. A tablespoonful every four hours. Hirudine, xv

6½ No improvement to day. Has been using the medicine regularly. Ordered 9 c ad Ty. 4½

Pain not as severe to day, but is still present.

11th Continues much better, pain is only felt on coughing much. Convalescence proceeded somewhat slowly after this date and she was dismissed cured 22 February 1852.

Case 2 Anne Hanningham at 19 servant

Admitted 1st February 1852

States that about two days ago she began to suffer from sore throat which was so much swollen as to cause great pain on deglutition. On Thursday last she was exposed, during a great part of the day to wind and rain, and on Saturday she was
fevered with rigors, thirst, and other febrile symptoms. On Sunday she felt severe pain in the left knee; foot from whence it extended gradually, over all the joints of the body, and proving especially severe in the shoulders and neck, the ankle and foot are slightly tumefied. Pain is much increased on pressure and motion. The heart is of normal size, there is a loud bruit with the first sound heard loudest at the apex, the impulse is very strong. Pulse 120 rather full; the tongue is furred there is anorexia, thirst, no nausea, bowels open; the urine is rather scanty and turbid; the skin is hot but covered with clammy perpiration.

Feb 8th Pain are much increased in severity to day Pulse 90 full, R Potassa Nitrici. Zs Acqua Zvii Lignitus A wineglafsul every three hours. Urine deposits an abundant sediment of phosphates.

Feb 9th No improvement in the pain; to day febrile symptoms undiminished, some sweating, Pulse 104 full, Urine not increased in quantity; Kept with heart sound is rather low distinct; bowels open. R Potasa. Nitratus Zvii Mitto per Os every three hours.

Feb 10th Still no improvement in state of pains, there is now conjuncti

Aphthosis, Urine is not increased in quantity, but the deposit is more abundant. Pulse 104 full. Add the Mixture Potasa. Nitrici. Zs A wineglafisul every three hours.
Feb 11th. Slept some last night, but there is as yet no alleviation of the suffering, the urine is increased in quantity and deposits an abundant sediment. There is also increased diarrhoea. Pulse 92 full & strong Omittent Nudo Oatapa et

K. Dinantiae Colchicis Seminum Tip

Solutionis Brumae Morphiae gtt. xlv

Hydriprini Gypsumis 5iv

Aqua Tip. Mixo et regnum.

A Tablespoonful every 8th hour.

Feb 12th. Considerable diarrhoea, during the night, pains somewhat diminished, pulse 96, of good strength, the urine is less distinct, expression of countenance is improved.

Feb 13th. Improvement still continues, the tongue is moist, urine loaded with lithrates, pulse 92, of good strength.

After this date she continued to suffer more or less for a considerable time; the course of the disease being apparently uninfluenced by any medicine: it was the first instance in which the Oatapa Nitrae seemed entirely to fail. The improvement manifested after the exhibition of the Colchicum occurred too speedily to be fairly attributed to it; and, besides, this improvement was not permanent, nor that on the whole this appears to have been one of those cases for which the only remedy is "six weeks".


History. States that previous to the present attack, she had always enjoyed pretty good health, with the exception of a liability to a slight cough; has been lately subjected to much fatigue in her occupation as a sick nurse, and has been exposed to cold from sitting up for several nights in succession in a large room, heated by a fire, and ventilated by keeping the windows open; having no adequate protection from the cold draught, this caused she caught a sore throat and had pain in the chest. This occurred in the latter part of October last and from that time up to last Thursday week she has suffered from slight shivering and uneasiness, transient pain in different parts of the body, nausea and vomiting. About a fortnight before admission she had a distinct rigor, followed by heat of skin, and other febrile symptoms, with very severe pain in the joints, especially, much increased by any attempt at motion; the vomiting also continued; and last week she suffered from pain and palpitations in the carotid region, and at the same time an aggravation of her former symptoms, so that now she cannot move without suffering excruciating agony.

Examination. Nervous System. Mental function, unimpaired. Constant wakefulness, no headache; but severe pain apparently in every joint of the body.

Circulatory System. Heart sounds, impulse, rhythm, and position normal. Pulse about 100, weak.
Respiratory System. Normal.

Integumentary System. Irregular fits of copious, clammy perspiration, some with a sour smell. No oedema of the joints.

Genito Urinary System. Urine scanty, dark colored, deposits crystals of the triple phosphate, with some mucus.

Digestive System. Tongue coated—anaemia, thirst, occasional vomiting. No tenderness on pressing the epigastric bowels confined.

Ordered. 1/2 Muriatic, Morphia Seminigrum

Oleum aromati acqua quinquies. Mice Mitte rez. One to be taken every half hour.

Dec 2. 4th she took three of the powder last night, after which she fell asleep, and this morning feels somewhat better, she has also had the bowels emptied by an enema, and is now using a diuretic mixture.

Dec 5. Pain in limbs much the same, gets no relief, perspiration still copious, urine not increased in quantity, vomiting continues, has been employing diuretics and bowels powder.

Dec 6. Had an enemata last night, no pain in the joints, and limb being evacuating.

P. Ostacca Nitrosem nemiæ.

Aqua vinae per Manæ et spuceas

A tablespoonful every four hours.

Dec 7. Has taken three doses of this medicine, she perspired a good deal during the night, urine not increased in quantity, pain
Case 4. Janet Wright

This woman had been admitted early in December laboring under the usual symptoms of acute rheumatism and has been undergoing treatment by Dover's powder, Auriol, Bleeding &c. up to the 6th without any benefit whatever, when on that day she was ordered to take a mixture of Opium & Nitrate of Ammonia, a tablespoonful every three hours.

Dec 7. Has taken four doses of that medicine, but without effect. For ev'ry day took a dose of Dover's powder last night and slept well, pain in the shoulder very severe and also in the knee.

Dec 8. Pain still continue. Add mixture of Opium & Nitrate of Ammonia. To

Dec 10. Has been using the medicine regularly, the effect it makes her very weak, sleepy and stupid, she swears a good deal at night, and the urine is increased in quantity, is very thirsty and complains of bad taste in her mouth. Pain, gone Prefixing

pain is left severe.

Dec 7. Still swears a good deal, pain much the same. Add mixture of Nitrate of Ammonia &c.

Dec 7. Pains better, copious perspiration, urine increased in quantity, increase of the pulse and vomiting, and of the thirst.

Dec 10. Pain nearly gone, headache continues, refuses to use her medicines. Pulse 80 weak, much general debility. After this date the pains ceased entirely, and she was shortly after discharged cured.
Dec 13 still continues the medicine. No return of pain in the knee. Greatly relieved in shoulder. The increased secretion from the chin and kidney continues.

The improvement continued up to the 16th when she was dismissed for disorderly conduct.

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Case 5 Jane Divine 14 yrs servant. Admitted 19th Dec 1851.

History. States that last Sunday whilst engaged at her usual occupations, she was suddenly seized with severe febrile symptoms, accompanying a severe constant pain in the left ankle, which was increased by pressure and motion. It was red and tender. On Monday the right ankle became similarly affected, and then in succession the knees, shoulders, wrists, and fingers, the pain still continuing modified in character in the past 10th attacked. She has been undergoing treatment by diaphoretics without however having experienced any relief from them.

Examination. Circulatory System. Pulse 100. Full and soft. A soft bellows murmur synchronous with the radial pulse, accompanies the first sound, is heard loudest at the base, and is also heard along the course of the large arteries.

Nervous System. Cannot sleep from the pain, which is general, and is causing intense suffering.

Digestive System. Enque moist, prematurely red at the tip of marquis, no appetite, thirsts, nausea vomiting.
bowels are constant, some tenderness on pressure in the epigastrium.

Q: Urinary System—urine high colored, deposit, some sediment, moderate in quantity.

Integumentary System—skin moist from copious perspiration, knees and ankles are swollen and painful on the least pressure, the right wrist, especially near the metacarpal bone of the thumb is at present the seat of greatest suffering, and is red, painful and swollen.

Ordered, to be blistered with F 1/4 and to have a purgative every day.

Dec 28th—much worse to day, the pains in the wrist & hands are especially aggravated, copious perspiration still continues. Ordered, to have 1 potassa nitrici 1/2 Aqua 1/4 A tablespoonful every four hours.

Dec 21st—Sleep during the night. The sweating is still profuse.


Pulse 90 weak, flush of heat very indistinct. The pain is considerably relieved except in the left lower extremity.

Dec 22nd—Still continues taking the Potash nitricus, the improvement still continues, and she can allow the limbs to be moved about to day.

Dec 30th—the patient quite a cheerful appearance to day and is entirely relieved from pain to day, all the joints can be moved quite freely without exciting any pain. Pulse 68, skin cool, tongue clean, appetite returning, bowels regular exercise natural, some sediment. The urine is more distinct.
distinct to day.

Convalescence proceeded satisfactorily from this date the 9th of Oct when she was attacked by typhoid fever Sept.

Case 6. Margaret Bell, at 25, servant, admitted 29th Sept. States that last Wednesday she was engaged in working before an open window, some time after which she was suddenly attacked with rigor, hot skin, and perspiration, and on the same night severe pain commenced in the left hip and extended subsequently, to the knee & ankle of the same limb, shortly after, the right limb became similarly affected, tho the pain did not leave the left. She suffered long to intence as to prohibit the slightest motion and it became exacerbated at night, and at the same time copious perspiration broke out. The lower extremities are affected the most severely, and the joint are slightly red and tumefied. The heart sounds are normal. Ordered B. Cortape. Nitre, 1/2. Aque 1/2. A tablespoonful every 4 hours. Dec 5th has taken six doses of the medicine, but without any improvement, as yet in the pains, pulse 128.

Jan 2nd 1859. Pulse 120, skin cooler, slept well during the night. Urine deposit, a slight sediment. Bowels have been opened. There is now no pain anywhere, except on motion of the ankle. In the evening however after meal, exposing herself to cool the pain returned to the right elbow.

Jan. 3. Pains have again disappeared from all the joints, with the exception of the wrist, which is painful on motion. On the 5th of Jan. there was again an exacerbation, and she was bled to 1/4 y. after which the pains ceased entirely for the time; she did not leave the hospital, however till the 25th as she was liable to occasional slight return of the disease, which however appeared to subside readily enough to further doses of the Potas. Nat.

Case 4 James Rough at 36 Blacksmith. Admitted Dec. 29
States that he has suffered on two former occasions from attacks of Rheumatism. During his last attack three years ago, he was treated in this hospital; it lasted five weeks. The present attack came on nine days ago, with great severity, having been preceded by febrile symptoms, which appeared to have followed exposure to cold; the pain was very severe in all the joints but especially so in the wrist and knees. He has noticed within the last year or two that considerable palpitation of the heart occurs after much exertion, or indulgence in ardent spirits, but in his ordinary condition he is not troubled with it. At present the pain in the joints is not severe enough on attempting
motion; prepare on the right shoulder and ankle causes considerable pain. The cardiac dullness measures a few lines more than two inches across, the apex strikes the thoracic parietes in the normal position. A very distinct bellows murmur accompanies the first sound, is heard loudest at the base of the apex, is not prolonged along the course of the great vessels–the 2nd sound is more sharp, almost than natural; the radial pulse is not synchronous with the impulse of the heart, but follows it after a very appreciable interval. A few cisternalrike can be heard here and there over the chest. Tongue is slightly furrowed - appetite is impaired, thirst not excessive, there is slight diarrhea. The urine is normal. Skin is moist, but no excessive perspiration. At Potash Nitrate 30c Aquae Foji m a tablespoonful to be taken diluted with much water, three times a day.

Jan 31st: Pains much easier to day, the bellows murmur is much softer, less, urine deposits some lethiates is sweating a little to day, pulse 80, soft, regular, fever 99 1/2 (13th day) has no pain to day. continues to perspire a good deal, and the urine deposits a copious precipitate state of the lethates of ammonia. Pulse 68 soft, regular, complains much of weakness.

After this date the amendment continues uninterruptedly, although only one bottle of the nit of potash mixture had been used, & she was delivered cured on the 13th January.
had been used, & she was dismissed cured on the 12th of January.

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Experiments in the treatment of some cutaneous affections.

The pioneers of the clinical clap, and indeed the medical profession generally are deeply indebted to Prof. Bennett for the manner in which he has simplified, and rendered practically useful at the bedside, those complicated, and perplexing classifications of cutaneous diseases, which, in their original shape must have required no little industry, and expenditure of time to master in detail, and the incompetency of the task has, in all probability led, heretofore to great neglect of this most important branch of medical education, to the serious risk of the junior practitioners reputations and usefulness; as he is perhaps more likely to meet with such diseases at his outset in practice than any other clap of maladies whatever.

At present however, such inconveniences have been entirely obviated so far as at least as we possess, and in many instances treatment too, are concerned; not only by the new classifications, but by the opportunities afforded in the new cutaneous ward, for comparing this classification with the original diseases, thus obviating most entirely, and satisfactorily, the necessity for resorting to plates, however excellent and beautiful these may be. But many of these affections have acquired a notorious character for theri
intractability; seeming to be entirely beyond the control of all ordinary remedies, however varied and powerful these may be in their nature; or however careful, may be the mode in which they are exhibited, either constitutionally or locally. On the other hand, some of the affections are so mild in their nature, as to be amenable to almost any treatment; many of these indeed, after a time disappearing spontaneously, or under the use of domestic applications; but others the yielding readily enough to proper treatment, yet if neglected, do not recede, but may continue for an indefinite period, to plague their victims: of the latter claps, eczema, may be taken as a familiar example; a disease depending in many instances, but it is believed not in all, on the presence of a minute animal parasite, the Leucos derubic: Sulphur has been long and justly regarded as the specific in this affection, but it is now well known that many other substances have a like control over its ravages; this perhaps they are less certain and more tedious in their operation than it is, yet infinitely cleaner and more pleasant in their application; an atmosphere of sulphur being little less abominable than one of pitch, but sulphur ointment, or sulphurous baths may often be superseded by soap and water, oil, lard or other soothing substances, chloride of lime, alkaline baths; if none of these means be not enforced, the disease will in most instances last during the person's lifetime. Some of the most common and ordinary of these diseases, which we are meeting daily, are however
unfortunately also the most intractable, proving a constant source of annoyance, more especially if situated on an exposed part of the person, and lasting it may be, (as related by Prof. Christian.) for periods of 4 and 25 years, embittering the better portion of a man's existence, excluding him often from society, even when not under treatment, and yet, in very many instances, so carefully concealed by the patient, that even his nearest friend may not have suspected, that such an eruption existed. To discover means for removing such trouble some peeks, would prove an ordinary boon to society; and innumerable have been the remedies proposed, to effect such a desirable object, but the success hitherto attending these efforts has not been great. These have been three principal experiments, conducted in the clinical wards during the past Nexin having this end in view: two of them being directed towards the eradication of these very common forms Severe, Severe, and Severe: the third was of a totally different nature and object; it should not remain, speaking be considered under the same heading with them, as it is intended rather to prevent a deformity, than to remedy a disease: this is the new mode of preventing the pitting which so usually follows the confluent eruption of small pox, and which is remarkable as occurring on the face only; it is called the cutaneous treatment of small pox, and consists in preventing the escape of atmospheric air, to the confluent pox, either in its vesicular or pustular stage, by encasing over the face a
mixture consisting of equal parts of the Unguentum Hydraggin and Aetetine, or finely leviogated starch; this compound soon concretes into a firm mask, if made of a proper consistence; and on its removal, the surface of the skin is found to be quite smooth; there have been but few opportunities of testing its value, the reason, as we have only had three cases of varicella up to the present date; but in two of these which were under treatment at the same time, its beneficial effect was fully demonstrated; in one of the cases the face was absolutely covered with confluent pustules, and it was consequently smeared carefully with the ointment; the prospect of the case was most satisfactory, (altho' it has been feared it would turn out to be a very severe one) and on removal of the mask the surface was found to be quite free from pitting. In the other case going on at the same time and much milder, with only a few discrete pustule here and there on the face, the ointment was not applied, yet the patient suffered more severely than the former, and several depressions remained on the face after the healing of the pustules.

Two of these experiments, as I have said, were directed toward the satisfaction of Prenxa Seprna and Sezena. To judge from the number of such cases admitted during the past month it would appear, that these very unceasing and troublesome forms are of more frequent occurrence than almost any other, and it would seem from Prof. Chrestian's observaions, that amongst the better classes of society, they exist to a far greater extent.
that is commonly imagined, because the disease may have existed for a great number of years; yet being situated in those parts of the trunk and limbs, which are never exposed, the patient can manage to conceal his disease even from the knowledge of his nearest relatives. Considerable difference of opinion prevails in regard to the cause of these affections; it is maintained by one party, including Dr. A. & Chownson, Dr. Water and other London physicians, that these outward diseases are but evidences of disorders and arrangement going on in the alimentary canal; and they have directed their attention to such internal remedies, as shall best tend to rectify the disturbed conditions of the stomach and intestinal tube: trusting mainly to tonics, alkalies and arsenic; from which it would seem that they are disposed to consider an excess of acid to be present in that canal. Dr. Water considers external applications to be but of little use, and he says, that after trying a great many, he has lost confidence in them all with the exception of the warm bath; he considers that whatever tends to improve the general health, will hasten the departure of these eruptions: now, whilst it is un

doubtedly true that in a great many instances, a cure may be effected, by internal remedial means, yet we have good reason to believe, that the diseases often do not depend on disorder of the digestive functions; as these whatever of such disturbance can be found, in many instances, and hence of course more benefit is likely to be derived, from the application of local remedies, whilst
the former condition is best ameliorated by antacid, arsenic and decoctions of Dulcamara; the latter condition seems to have yielded more frequently and readily to the local application of pitch than to any other substance; the local remedies, indeed, have been exceedingly numerous, such as weak nitric ointment, white precipitate ointment, carbonate of soda &c. It is no wonder that substitute for tar have been eagerly sought for.

the patient who submits to a course of treatment by this substance paves through an ordeal of no ordinary severity. it requires obviously a total exclusion from society, which is best secured by a residence in the country, the patient lies in bed enveloped in an atmosphere of tar, every affected portion of the integument, being thoroughly moistened by a dose of the ointment, and it permanent application secured by a sheet wrapped round the patient's body; then comes the difficulty of cleansing the skin from this most adhesive film: the best way to effect this, is to apply the tar in the form of ointment, and previous to washing it off, to smear the body with oil, a some concrete oleaginous material as butter, castor, palm oil, &c and then wash thoroughly with soap. frequent ablution must be practiced ere the pitchy odour is entirely got rid of. After undergoing all this accumulation of discomforts during the prescribed time, it too frequently happens, that the disease is banished for a time, again returns with all its former intractability in the course of about
six weeks, as was very remarkably seen in one recent intractable case in the cutaneous ward. From the frequent want of success attending the use of pitch, and from the success attending the application of lard merely, in cases of eczema, Prof. Bennett was led to suspect that the credit of cure, when cure occurred, in the former instance might as well have been ascribed to the lard, as to the pitch, in the latter, and accordingly the substitute was tried in a good many cases, but it may suffice to say that it totally failed in every instance, and the superior value of the pitch was fully established.

Within the last two years Dr. Webster, a physician in Lire du Chapelle, announced that he had discovered a new variety of tar, the product of a species of the juniper family, and which he found to be more efficacious in this disease, than the ordinary kinds of tar. Prof. Christiansen procured a quantity of this some time ago, and used it in some cases in private practice with great success, he related the particulars of some of these cases to the class. In one case the patient had been afflicted during 35 years with Eczema and Psooriysis, on one occasion he had been all but well from the use of the tar ointment, keeping down the disease by sheer application of it, whenever the eruption recurred, but still, never rooting it out entirely. On another occasion he got nearly well from the use of internal remedies,
under the advice of Dr. A. J. Thomson. The Professor, partly concurring in this a good opportunity for testing the virtues of the new remedy, ordered a quantity of it to be carefully applied and the gratifying result was, that a manifest improvement took place in four days, and at the end of one week the patient was better than he formerly had been under the use of the ordinary taw in one month. At the end of one month, a mere trace of the disease remained; and he continued well for four months, when a slight return appeared on the neck, easily enough subdued by a fresh application; so that at this the disease may not be entirely eradicated, yet in its reappearance, it can be easily limited by a fresh application of this remedy. Another case was that of an officer who had been ill for seven years, he went to Aix la Chapelle, and there under the use of the Juniper Taw he was soon all better. This Taw is procured from two species of Juniper, the J. Communis and the J. Excelsa. Prof. Christian considers that the kind employed at Aix la Chapelle is the produce of the Juniperus Excelsa, and care must of course be employed in selecting this variety, it belongs to the same Class and Order Diacis Polyandra and to the Natural Order Coniferae or Pinaeae. This substance has been employed occasionally in medicine; it may with greater propriety be regarded as a volatile oil, a distilled Spirit than as a Taw; it is best employed in the form of a Soap, although an ointment has...
also been prepared, but the poux has many advantages over the oleaginous preparation, it is more powerful, apparently on account of getting into closer contact with the skin in this form than when in combination with balsam; it is more convenient, as it is as easily removed on the application of hot water, as ordinary poux is: the poux is made by combining Caster oil with Carbonate of Soda and then adding the jujupes tinct; it is made up in round balls in tins somewhat larger than a small nut; the colour is peculiar, being a combination of tan with that of the jujupes. A small quantity of it should be rubbed on the affected parts every night, which should be washed off in the morning. Its application is not usually attended with any pain, but sometimes patients complain of slight smarting which however is more likely caused by the rough manner in which they put it on the part, in one case of Ergotism it was applied so carelessly as to remove the tender cuticle, and of course in that case did more harm than good. As at present obtained the article is rather expensive, the price of each ball at Duncairn & Blochfield is 3s. It has been tried now in numerous cases in the wards of the hospital with some success, but the success hitherto has certainly not been great and by no means fulfills the expectations which it earlier trials had inspired, whether this may arise from any fault in the drug or in its mode of preparation yet remains to be proved.
treatment of these invertebrate diseases has been tried in a great many cases, and the utmost care has been taken to procure the proper application of this remedy; sufficient time having since elapsed (two months) to test its powers, I am sorry to say that no one instance did it seem to have proved serviceable, by no means even to the extent of the ordinary Merquantum Ories.

It is just possible that some error may have been committed in the preparation of the article which was employed at the Royal Infirmary; this suspicion being excited by the circumstance of Prof. Christian's first attempt in private practice having proved so successful. I had written out an account of several of those cases in which it was employed; but, seeing the uniform want of success in every instance, I deemed it unnecessary and useless to transcribe them. The conclusions therefore to which we are forced, in regard to this German invention is, that so far as our opportunities of observation extend, it is an unmitigated failure.
Kougo as a Vermifuge

An opportunity has been recently afforded, of trying the effect of the newly introduced plant in a very obstinate case of Tape worms, admitted into the Royal Infirmary. The disease is somewhat rare in this country, but the variety of worms which does occur is the Thania helicis; the characteristic distinction of this variety, was well observed by inspecting some joints of the animal, which had been voided by this patient. The characteristic marks are drawn more from the appearance of the joints of the animal, than from its head, since the latter being of small size and easily decomposed is rarely seen; and the marks on the former are quite sufficient. The body of the creature is composed of quadrilateral pieces or joints, articulated loosely, by one piece being dovetailed as it were into that immediately in front of it. In the centre of the body these pieces are square; but at the extremities, they are oblong as the taper in these directions. But the most characteristic mark is to be found in the site of the ovicistus and ovary, which in the Thania helicis is placed on the edge of each joint; there is a very conspicuous prominence with a depression in its centre, and these in most instances are placed alternated on one side of the animal and the other; on the right edge of one joint and on the left of that next to it. The patient, who came under our observation, had been affected for seven years with
this parasite, during three months only, out of the time had he been quite free from discomfort, from the use of remedies; he had tried a great variety of these, such as turpentine, pomegranate bark. Dore is without success, so that here was a capital opportunity for testing the alleged superiority of the Houfps. The flower is the part of this plant which is employed; it is imported from Abyssinia, where it is ordinarily employed as a vermifuge by the natives, who are afflicted with this disease to an almost insurmountable extent, the supposed reason for the frequency of its occurrence being the savage custom in which they indulge of eating flesh raw, and warm from the animal. It is said they are accustomed to take a dose of the Houfps once a month as a prophylactic. The plant was first discovered by the traveller Doree, but it is only recently that it has been brought into much notice, having been introduced less than twelve years ago by A. Doree, after whom it has received its botanical name of Doreeia Anthelmintica. It belongs to the Natural Order Floresae, and bears a considerable resemblance in its general appearance to our Doree of the Meadows. The dose of the dried flowers is half an ounce, and if this does not act with sufficient energy it may be repeated, an infusion is the form in which it is prepared, the patient being directed to swallow flowers and all, then to follow this with a dose of lemon juice, and if in two hours after
the worm is not discharged, he must take a purgative
dose to dislodge it.

Our patient, in the hospital, was treated strictly
in accordance with the above directions, but the result
was not satisfactory, a few joints only of the worm having
been expelled; some allowance however must be made
on account of the obstinacy of this case, which has hitherto
resisted the action of all the standard vermifuges,
perhaps too the activity of the plants may have been in
some measure impaired from keeping, or long

Two other experiments were commenced under Professor
Bennett's supervision, at a more advanced period of his
attendance in the Clinical Wards, but they were abandoned
before any definite conclusion could be arrived at in regard
to their action, or on the effects likely to be produced
by the medicines on account of which they were
prescribed. One of these experiments was to try the effect of
Colchicum in those diseases where the tendency was to death
by coma, induced by the suppression of elimination of
Urea from the blood, and consequently the poisoning of
that fluid thereby. Colchicum is said to possess the pro-
perity of increasing the secretion of Urea, and this point

might easily be demonstrated by the chemical analyses of uric acid in this condition when the full physiolog-
ical effects of the drug have been established. In one case of Bright's disease of the kidney, where the comatose ten-
dency was strongly marked, it was tried, and apparent improvement in the patient's condition followed; but then there was no proof that in this case the drowsiness had been caused by urea circulating in the blood, since the man was passing a very large quantity of urine daily containing more than the average proportion of solid matter, including urea; indeed this case went far to prove that the drowsy and comatose condition depended more on impoverishment of the blood, from the withdraw-
al of its red corpuscles, than from the mere elimination of urea from the system. In another case of Leucocytoclastic Maligna in which it was tried, it proved of no avail whatever.

The other experiment was to determine the alleged sedative effect on the heart actions of a cer-
tain tincture which had been transmitted to Professor Bennett from Dr. Horace Greene of New York, who had re-
ceived it from its discoverer Dr. Norwood of South Carol-
olina. This preparation proved to be the saturated tinc-
ture of a plant of the Belladonna family, the Veratrum album. It was alleged to possess very extraordinary powers over
many diseases, but especially over those of the heart. Diminishing its action even in organic affection (which would certainly be of very doubtful benefit to the patient). This communication favoured at times strongly of empiricism and the authors very confident statements, did not tend to excite any very great expectations in the minds of those who heard them; that this was likely to prove a valuable addition to our natural remedies. Nevertheless, it was tried in a few cases, and it certainly had the effect of bringing down the pulse remarkably in some of them, at the same time producing great sickness and sometimes vomiting, although given in very small doses. It did not appear however to procure any advantage over Aconite, another plant of the same order, nor indeed do its actions appear to differ very materially from those of the Aconite; hence its use was discontinued in the wards, before any satisfactory conclusion as to its virtues or powers could be arrived at.

Conclusion.

In reviewing the foregoing experiments, it must be confessed that their results have not been so satisfactory as might have been desired; but still it is a matter of no small consequence to decide whether the virtues which have been ascribed, perhaps from improper motives, to
new remedies are able to stand the test of candid experiments, conducted in a public hospital; beyond the reach of every kind of delusion and trickery. It is evident that, whilst such a mode of procedure would if generally adopted, establish on a firm basis, the just reputation of valuable remedies, and send them forth to the notice of the profession with a guarantee which would be above suspicion; it would on the other hand expose the worthlessness of much to which is attempted to be foisted by interested or self deceived persons, on the profession and the public; and if such supervision had been earlier enforced, it might have saved our materia medica from the influx of much worthless rubbish, which however, having become time honoured can now hardly be cleared away, and expunged from it.

It is satisfactory to be able to state, that the only question, in respect of which there could have been any doubt as regards the effects of Sulphate of Quinia in typhus fever, viz its administration at an early period of the attack; has been settled, within the last few days by Prof. Chrichton, who made trial of the remedy, in the case of a young girl, who had caught typhus within the hospital, from contagion acquired by associating too closely with another patient recently convalescent from that disease. A well marked measles eruption appeared a very few
days after the febrile symptoms became first declared, and under this fortunate conjunction of circumstances which left no doubt of it being a case of genuine typhus, a fair trial at a sufficiently early stage of its progress became practicable. Five 8 grain doses were administered, but without producing any amendment whatever; the usual effects of the drug on the circulation were not manifested in this case; the pulse was 100 at the commencement of the experiment and precisely the same number at its close; the day after the typhous aspect was decidedly more pronounced and extreme deafness appeared to have been induced.

The results of the trials of Nitrate of Ammonia in Acute Rheumatism are very satisfactory and induce the expectations, that in a more extended investigation its superiority to other remedies shall be fully apparent.

The Juniper tea it is to be feared is not likely to add much to our success in the treatment of Pneumonia and Eczema and as regards the other experiment it is manifest that a more extended series of observations must be made ere we can pronounce decidedly on their respective merits.