

they lead to the more general use of the catheter in different kinds of lingering labour; thereby lessening the sufferings of the patient, and preventing that danger to which the urinary bladder is, in particular circumstances, so much exposed; in either case, I shall feel myself very amply gratified.

Liverpool, March 1813.

VIII.

On the Effects of Cold Water given Internally, or applied Externally, in Four Cases of Abdominal Inflammation. By Mr T. SMITH, Surgeon, Kingussie.

THE signal advantages which have been found to result from the abstraction of morbid heat, by the application of cold water in general fever, have induced some physicians to think that it might prove equally salutary in symptomatic fever, arising from high local inflammation. This opinion, so contrary to the sentiments and habits of the majority of the profession, does not, however, appear to have been, hitherto, fully tried, or recommended to practice, by the surest of all tests—experience, which, in medicine at least, often confounds all reasonings *a priori*, and overturns every conclusion built upon analogy. In this state of the question, which cannot but be considered as important and interesting, I take the liberty to transmit the following cases of abdominal inflammation, in which cold water was employed, at first accidentally, and afterwards as a remedy, internally or externally, or both. These cases, which contain the whole of my experience for or against the use of cold water in that disease, are circumstantially detailed, in the hope that, if they are thought worthy of a place in your Journal, they may suggest some useful considerations to those who may be inclined, hereafter, to make trial of the same practice in similar circumstances.

CASE I.

On Friday, the 8th May 1812, I was called to JOHN MAC-EDWARD, mason in this village, aged about 30 years. On the 6th, after breakfast, he was suddenly seized, without any previous indisposition, with cold shiverings, followed by a violent pain in

his

his belly, and vomiting. Before I was called, he had tried, by the advice of his neighbours, ardent spirits and pepper, castor oil and injections. The first of these produced an aggravation of the pain; the latter were rejected without procuring a stool. I found him complaining of violent pain in the whole right side of the abdomen, particularly in the hepatic region, greatly increased by a full inspiration, and by pressure: also of sharp pains, shooting occasionally to the right groin, attended with a sense of numbness of the right thigh, so great as to impede his power of moving that limb. He had incessant vomiting, or retching to vomit. His eyes and skin were of a yellow colour, which, I was informed, appeared within the two preceding days; abdomen tense and hard; skin hot and dry; tongue white; thirst great; pulse 100, full, and somewhat soft; urine scanty, hot, and high-coloured. Upon inspection, I found that the part of the groin where he complained of the darting pain, was below Poupart's ligament, at the place where femoral hernia protrudes; but, on the most careful examination, I could not discover the least tumor or swelling; nor did pressure create or aggravate the pain: and the patient assured me that he never had a rupture.

I drew about twenty ounces of blood from his arm; ordered a large blister to the part affected, and a clyster to be administered. The bleeding almost completely relieved the pain; but the clyster was retained, and he continued to vomit from time to time, the matter vomited being a little feculent. The blood drawn was not sisy. The pain having recurred with violence in the course of a few hours, and the injection being voided without feces, he was again bled to the extent of twenty ounces, which produced a great and immediate mitigation of the pain. This blood was sisy, with a firm cupped crassamentum. Another clyster was soon after injected, which brought off some feces. The remaining part of this day, he continued free from pain, except upon pressure, or a full inspiration, and when he attempted to lie on his left side, he complained of a pricking sensation in the whole right side of the abdomen. He had no other stool, and the feculent vomiting returned. He was ordered a pill, containing one grain of aloes, and one of calomel, every hour, till a motion should be procured. At two o'clock, A. M. of the 9th, I was called to see him. The pain was as violent as ever; vomiting incessant; no stool. I again drew about twenty ounces of blood from his arm, by which he was again relieved. I desired the warm bath to be prepared. Before eight o'clock, A. M. the pain recurred with aggravated violence, and he was put into the warm bath without benefit. Before this, the vesicatory had been removed, but had not operated, the skin underneath being

being only thickened and shrivelled. Pulse 120, hard, contracted; and he had vomited a large quantity of matter, resembling coffee-grounds; thirst urgent; heat of skin pungent and equal. I made the patient be supported in bed by an attendant, and drew from his arm, in a full stream, 24 ounces of blood. He fainted, and, while I was binding up the arm, had a pretty copious liquid alvine evacuation, of a natural appearance. On recovering from the swoon, he felt himself perfectly free from pain. The whole of this blood, as well as of that drawn in the morning, exhibited, on cooling, the buffy coat, with an exceedingly firm cupped crassamentum. A large blistering plaster was again applied to the abdomen. At nine o'clock, P. M. the report was as follows: Pain has not recurred during the day; has had repeated discharges of flatus per anum, but no feculent dejection; has vomited his drink twice or thrice, and has still considerable pain on pressure; pulse 120, and hard; thirst urgent; is extremely desirous that he should be allowed to drink cold water; but this it was not thought prudent to permit. On the morning of the 10th, the pain having twice recurred with excruciating violence, I was again obliged to have recourse to the lancet twice, at the interval of a few hours. This blood (about 46 ounces in all) was still sizzly, cupped, and firm. After the last bleeding, the pulse, which before was hard, contracted, and about 126, became 140, and soft; the pain was perfectly relieved; the vesicatory had not operated, and was now removed. At eleven o'clock, A. M. (two hours after the last bleeding), I visited him, and found him in the following state: His countenance fallen and cadaverous; respiration panting, and oppressed; the pain of which he formerly complained was gone, except at intervals a momentary twitch in the right groin; he was constantly changing his posture; his extremities were cold and clammy; and his pulse could no longer be felt at the wrist; his demand for drink was incessant, and what he drank was vomited almost as soon as swallowed. Except the oppressed breathing, his chief complaint now was a sense of burning heat in the stomach and abdomen, and he again earnestly intreated that he might be allowed to drink cold water. His request was now complied with: and I shall relate here, minutely, its apparent effects, which I watched with anxiety, and noted with care.

I gave him, at first, about two ounces of water, at the temperature of 45° Farenh. This he swallowed greedily, and said it gave him much comfort; no pulse; he soon vomited the water. (It is proper to mention, that his feet and legs were from this time kept constantly immersed in hot water, as long as I continued to administer the cold drink.)

I next gave him about four ounces of the cold water. Immediately after he had swallowed it, I thought I felt the artery at the wrist vibrate under my finger, but cannot be certain that it did so. He again soon vomited a part of the water.

In a short time he called for more cold water. I gave him about a pint of it, allowing him to drink it off, if he was so inclined. He drank it off at one draught. With inexpressible satisfaction I felt the pulse, almost instantly, commence at the wrist, and it continued to beat very distinctly, and with tolerable firmness, 134 times in the minute.

Half an hour elapsed before he was allowed any more of the cold water. In the course of that time, he vomited twice, and twice had a sharp, but momentary, twitch of pain in the right groin. The spot being again examined, no swelling could be perceived, nor did he complain of the least pain when it was firmly pressed upon.

At the expiration of the half hour, he drunk another pint of cold water. Soon after it was swallowed, a gurgling noise was heard in his bowels, followed in a short time by an involuntary copious liquid alvine evacuation, accompanied by much flatus. His pulse, after this, beat 128 in the minute, full and regular. After this I remained with him upwards of an hour, during which he continued free from pain and thirst. The vomiting was much abated, and, before I left him, a gentle warm moisture began to appear upon his face, neck, and upper extremities. His body I did not feel, and his legs were immersed in warm water.

Two o'clock, P. M.—Has drunk some glasses of wine, but no cold water since I left him; pain and thirst have recurred; pulse 138; heat of surface great and distressing to his feelings. I caused the quantity of bed-clothes to be diminished, forbid the use of wine, and gave him upwards of a pint of cold water to drink, with the effect of procuring immediate relief from every uneasy sensation. The pulse fell to 128, and he had soon a considerable discharge of flatus, and voided a large quantity of urine, without pain or difficulty.

Seven o'clock, P. M.—Has almost incessant hiccup; the vomiting has entirely ceased; no stool; has made water largely, and frequently; no thirst or pain, an uneasy sense of fulness in the abdomen excepted; pulse 120, somewhat contracted; has drunk upwards of seven pints of cold water. *Injiciatur statim enema domestic.* Eleven o'clock, P. M. The clyster succeeded in bringing off a large quantity of liquid feces, and the hiccup ceased; soon after he had another stool, spontaneously. He has again drunk very largely of the cold water, and the hiccup has

has returned; no vomiting; sweats profusely. I ordered another clyster, and desired him to drink more sparingly.

11th, In the morning. The clyster operated; afterwards he had two other motions spontaneously. Since last night he has had no hiccup, vomiting, or pain; pulse 112, soft. Nine o'clock P. M. Has slept the greater part of the day, and continues to perspire; has had two stools, thin and fetid; pulse 120; belly somewhat hard, and lying on either side creates pain.—Capt. pilul. cum calomelanos gr. iv.

12th. Eight o'clock, A. M. Has had three or four stools intermixed with scybala; no pain; no thirst; pulse 117.—Eight o'clock, P. M. Has had three stools more during the day, scybalous as before; has still occasional pain in the groin, and complains of considerable pain in the belly, near the spinous process of the ilium, where there is found some swelling and hardness; this part is extremely sore when touched; pulse 112. Rep. pilul. ut antea.

13th.—Nine o'clock, A. M. Between two and three o'clock this morning he was seized with considerable pain in his belly, with a sense of heat and thirst; he called for cold water, and drank, at repeated draughts, between two and three pints of it. The pain ceased, and soon after he had a motion to stool, which recurred no less than eight times in the space of two hours, with the effect of bringing off an enormous quantity of very offensive feculent matter, intermixed, as before, with hard scybala; has enjoyed an uninterrupted sleep almost ever since; pulse 105; can lie on either side, and can bear the abdomen to be firmly pressed, without pain.—Ten o'clock, P. M. Is more uneasy; pulse 120; tongue brown and dry; begins to dislike the cold water; he took some during the day, and felt it disagreeably cold in his stomach, and said that he had some sharp stitches in his breast, with cough afterwards. While I was present, he vomited, for the first time since the 10th, and, by the fluid vomited, I discovered that he had been drinking wine. I desired him to abandon the drinking of cold water, strongly forbid the use of wine; and, having no stool since the morning, he was ordered another pill.

14th.—Diarrhœa has returned, and he feels much relieved; feces of a yellow colour, mixed with dark green; pulse 112; some thirst; cough, with mucous expectoration; coughing produces pain in the groin; no perceptible swelling there.

15th.—Diarrhœa continues, very thin; pulse 120; other symptoms as before.—Capiat hora somni haust. anod. c. tinct. opii gutt. x.

16th.—Slept well; diarrhœa still continues, but the stools are less frequent; pulse 112; feels pain in the groin now when pressed.—Rep. haust.

17th.—Pain in the groin has been greater to-day, but is relieved when he discharges flatus; diarrhoea as before.

℞ Potionis carb. calcis, ℥v℞.

Tinct. kino ℥℞. M. capiat cochl. mag. i. post omni sede liquida.

℞ Haust. h. s. c. tinct. opii gutt. xv.

18th.—Expectoration copious, of a thick white mucus, in one instance tinged with blood; sweats profusely; has had only one stool to-day; pulse 100; tongue moister; cannot lie on either side; pain in the groin considerable at times, especially when he coughs. On examination, the groin is now evidently swelled; upon pressing with the fingers, the crackling of air is felt under the integuments; being pressed, it seems to retreat below Poupart's ligament, and returns forcibly when the patient coughs. Applicetur cataplas. emol. inguini, et rep. haust.

19th.—Swelling in the groin larger; skin inflamed. Towards the edge of the anterior spine of the os ilium, a hardened line, about four inches long and one inch broad, is felt, which is very tender when touched, but no redness appears in the skin. Cough less; pulse 105 to 110 to-day; had two formed stools.—Omitt. haust. anod. et mist astring.

20th.—Tumor enlarging; three copious soft stools; pulse in the morning 99, in the evening 105.—Rep. haust. anod. c. tinct. op. gt. xx.

21st.—The tumor in the groin pointing, it was opened to-day, and nearly a pint of thin white purulent matter, of a very offensive smell, issued out, accompanied with much air, and some long shreds, as of decomposed membrane; he slept well afterwards; pulse 95

22d.—Slept well during the night; sweated profusely; has an appetite for food; discharge of matter copious and fetid. Feels some pain in his back and loins to-day, when he coughs; pulse in the morning 95, evening 100. Rep. haust. anod.

23d.—Pulse in the morning 96, evening 100; sat up twice for half an hour to-day; much fetid discharge; two stools.—Rep. haust.

24th.—Discharge in the morning less fetid; pulse 90; tongue moist; in the evening discharge less; considerable pain in the groin; pulse 106.

25th.—Discharge copious to-day, of air and matter; tongue white; one stool; pulse 96, evening and morning.

26th.—Discharge copious, without feter; strength improves; pulse 96; sat up out of bed to-day.

27th.—Had some pain to-day, which was relieved by a free discharge of matter; one costive stool; thirst; pulse 94.

Capt. pilul. cal. unam, u. a. et haust. anod. h. s.

28th.—The wound being enlarged to-day, gave vent to much pus, free of fetor; pulse in the morning 88, evening 92.

Here my reports of this case close. On the 29th, I was under the necessity of going to a distance of 50 miles, and, on my return, on the 2d of June, had the mortification to learn that this poor man had died the day before. All I could learn farther of his case was, that on the evening of the 30th, or morning of the 31st, he was seized with a violent return of pain, which continued more or less the whole of Sunday the 31st. A medical gentleman, who was accidentally in the country at the time, and who did me the favour to take charge of this patient in my absence, attended him with great care and humanity, from the time of his relapse to his death. But as that gentleman left the country the same day that I returned, I had no opportunity of learning the particulars from him. I regret that I was not permitted to ascertain, by dissection, the source of the purulent discharge; the internal accumulation of which probably hastened, if it did not occasion the patient's death.

CASE II.

On the 21st day of July 1812, I was requested to visit WILLIAM MACINTOSH, labourer, Neudmor, who, five or six days before, had been seized with violent pain in his bowels, attended with obstinate retention of feces, and vomiting. I found him in the following state: He complained of pain in the abdomen, but said it was easier than it had been; his abdomen was tense and hot, and I could distinctly feel the fluctuation of a fluid within the parietes; pressure gave much pain; he complained of a burning heat in the abdomen; great thirst; vomiting; hiccup; respiration quick and laborious; pulse 138, extremely feeble; hands and nails of a purplish colour; countenance sunk; voice faint and tremulous; urine scanty, hot and high-coloured. Clysters have been repeatedly given, but no alvine motion has been procured, except by the first, administered at the commencement of his illness. He has vomited every thing given by the mouth. I ordered a large clyster to be injected, but, after waiting some time, finding it was not returned, I applied cloths wet with cool water to his abdomen, renewing them as they became hot; and as he found this highly agreeable and refreshing, I resolved to venture one step farther, and ordered him to be taken out of bed, naked from his waist downwards, and supported by two attendants, with his feet upon the floor (which was a damp earthen one) while I dashed several pailfuls of cold water upon his legs, thighs, loins, and abdomen. The first obvious effect of this treatment

was

was upon the strength of the patient. At his first getting out of bed, he was totally unable to stand without support; but after the water was applied three or four times, he could walk about the apartment alone, and at last, when he saw a pailful of water aimed at him, he sprung aside with great agility to avoid it. I desisted, on perceiving this symptom of dislike. Being questioned as to his feelings at this time, he said that the pain and sense of heat within him were gone, and, except in his legs and thighs, he had not felt cold since he left his bed.

Before going to bed he took a few turns about the apartment, and in two or three minutes had a call to stool, and voided the clyster, mixed with some very fetid matter, and two or three hard scybala; at the same time he had a copious evacuation of urine. Being dried and put to bed, and bottles with warm water applied to his feet, after resting a little, his pulse was found to beat 124 in the minute, fuller and firmer; his voice was stronger, and his respiration more slow and easy. On taking my leave, I desired that he should drink only cold water when his thirst demanded; that cloths wet with cold water should be applied to the abdomen when the heat and pain returned; and that he should take every three hours a powder containing

Supertart. potass. ʒi.
Nitratis potass. pulv. glycyrrhiz. āā gr. v. M.
23d.—He was carried in a cart to-day to his brother's house, at the distance of nine miles from his former place of residence. I saw him in passing through this village; he complained of no pain in his abdomen but what the shaking of the cart created; has had several stools, intermixed with portions of indurated feces; has not vomited since last report; thirst less; pulse 88; has drunk cold water, and had cloths wet with cold water applied to his abdomen repeatedly.

24th.—By message I was informed that the looseness was excessive. I sent an astringent mixture, desiring a spoonful to be taken after every loose stool.

25th.—I was called, and found him complaining of tenesmus and griping pains in the belly, aggravated by drinking cold water; acid vomitings; abdomen tumid, extremely tender to the touch, and appearing to contain a larger quantity than before of effused fluid. Applicetur abdomini emplast. mag. vesicat.—Capiat omni bihorio, donec subsideret vomitus, magnesiæ gr. x.

30th.—I was informed to-day that the blister operated well, and that the vomiting ceased soon after he began taking the powders, but that the swelling in the belly continues, though without pain. Continuentur pulv. diuretic.

August 28th.—This patient called upon me, having walk-
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ed seven miles. I found his abdomen less swelled, though a fluctuation was still perceptible. He had no thirst; his bowels were regular, and he voided his urine in sufficient quantity. In the beginning of December he again called upon me, having been to the harvest in the south since last report. He had recovered his health and strength completely, and every hydropic symptom had disappeared.

CASE III.

August 20th, 1812, I was called to the wife of Hugh Ross, carpenter, Dunaughton. She had been delivered of a child on the 15th, and on the 17th was seized with cold shivering, and pain in the belly and head, the lochia and secretion of milk being greatly diminished. I found her in the following condition: Respiration quick, oppressed and suspiratory; pulse 150, extremely feeble, and at times intermitting. She complained of pain in her belly and forehead; her abdomen much tumefied, hot, and so tender that she could hardly bear it to be touched. Her attendants said that she was at times delirious, and that she had a second shivering of cold a short time before I arrived. She vomits frequently, and the fluid vomited is very acid; tongue dry and brown. She does not complain of thirst, but drinks with avidity when it is offered her. Hands and feet cold; lochia suppressed; mammæ flaccid. She is said to have had one or two loose stools to-day of a frothy appearance. The chalk mixture was given her, and cloths wet with cold water were desired to be applied over the whole abdomen.

21st.—I saw her early this day. The cold cloths have been applied frequently, with much relief to the feelings of the patient. She has had two or three loose stools; vomiting has ceased; appears less debilitated to day; abdomen still tumid, hot and tender; pulse 135.

I now renewed the cold applications, which had been abandoned for some hours, applying cloths wet with cold water in which salt was dissolved, and renewing them as soon as they became hot. This practice was continued for about an hour, after which, upon examining the pulse, I found it 108 in the minute, and full. The patient expressed no uneasiness from the cold applications; on the contrary, she said they removed that sense of heat internally, which she had felt most distressing; and I observed, that after the cold water had been applied some time, the tenderness of the abdomen became much less, so that at length she could bear it to be firmly pressed without experiencing almost any pain.

23d.—By message, I was informed to-day that the looseness
continued

continued with the effect of weakening her extremely, and that she had considerable cough and pain in the belly, aggravated by cold drinks, which she had taken by my directions. I sent some chalk powders, with orders to give one after every loose stool; and desired her drinks to be made warm.

28th.—I was called to visit her to day. She had been much easier, though very weak since last report, till yesterday evening, when she was seized with a return of pain in the abdomen; pulse 128; tongue foul; thirst; cough; no stools.

Applicetur abdomini emplastr. mag. vesicator. et capiat omni bitorio, donec exoneretur alvus, Pulv. rhei, Pulv. glycyrrh. āā gr. v. M.

This patient residing at a considerable distance from me, I did not see her again till about three weeks after the date of the last report, when, upon calling, I found her on foot, with no complaint, except occasional pains in the abdomen, which appeared to arise from costive bowels. She was now nursing her child, and had abundance of milk. By the occasional use of the pil. rhei comp. she was soon liberated from the pains, and now enjoys a good state of health.

CASE IV.

February 2, 1813.—HUGH MACKAY, miller, Arbroilich, was suddenly seized this morning after going out, with violent pain in the abdomen, about the navel, and between that and the spinous process of the right os ilium, with general coldness and excessive weakness, so that he could not stand. I saw him about two hours afterwards; pain as before, and unremitting; feet cold; no heat of skin; tongue clean; pulse 64 and firm; had one alvine motion soon after the pain began, and has since had frequent desire to go to stool, but without being followed by defecation of any kind. Vomits frequently; has some thirst; took some ardent spirits but vomited it immediately. I drew 20 ounces of blood from his arm; gave him an ounce of the ol. ricini; made warm fomentations be applied to the abdomen, bottles with warm water to his feet, and the enema domesticum to be injected.

8d, eight o'clock A. M. The oil was rejected soon after it was taken; several clysters have been given, but all of them have been returned without feces; pain as before: pulse 60; no heat or tension of the abdomen; tongue white; blood drawn not sily. He was ordered another ounce of the ol. ricini, and to refrain from drinking, in order if possible to prevent the oil from being vomited.

4th, 10 o'clock P. M.—Having been called off to a distance,

I did not see him since last report till now; pain worse and more extended; the oil was vomited after being retained upwards of two hours; many injections have been given, and he has been put into the warm bath twice, without effect; pulse 72, full and hard; abdomen very tender to the touch, but not very hot; other symptoms as before; desires cold water to drink, but has not been allowed it by his attendants. I again drew about 20 ounces of blood from his arm; ordered him a pill, containing two grains of aloes, every hour, and cold water to drink when he desired it.

5th.—Has not vomited since last report; pain was easier during a great part of the night, but is now violent; no stool; urine hot and high coloured. The patient says that his drink during the night was *cold*, but that, since morning, his attendant refuses to give any but *warm* drinks. Blood last drawn cupped and sizzly. Knowing the reluctance of those about the patient to cold applications of every kind, I gave him myself a draught of cold water, and administered, with my own hands, a clyster containing upwards of two pints of *cool* water. The patient, who before was almost screaming with the pain, became immediately quiet, and in less than two minutes voided the injection, with some portions of soft feces. In about half an hour, notwithstanding that the patient continued easy, I administered another clyster of the same kind, which was again returned with a still larger quantity of soft and apparently broken down feces.

6th.—Slept well during the night, and perspired considerably; continues free of pain; no stool; no thirst; pulse 60, soft.

7th, 4 o'clock, A. M.—While under profuse perspiration, he awoke about an hour ago, with a cold shivering upon him, and the pain in his belly recurred with aggravated violence; feels nausea, but has not vomited since it began; pulse 70, full, throbbing; thirst great, but he has refrained from drinking. I bled him to the extent of 22 ounces, which somewhat abated the pain; ordered him a powder, containing 2 drachms of cr. tart. every hour in cold water; at the same time a clyster, as warm as he could bear it, was injected, but returned without feces.—10 o'clock A. M. Pain violent, much increased by pressure and by a full inspiration; abdomen full, hot, tense and hard; urine hot and scanty; pulse 72, hard; thirst less since he began taking the powders; has not vomited; blood last drawn exhibits a strong buffy coat.

I now applied a cloth wet with cold water over his abdomen, making it be renewed as soon as it became hot, and again administered a clyster, containing upwards of two pints of cold water. These applications again acted like a charm. They
were

were felt refreshing and agreeable to his feelings, and almost instantly relieved the pain; and in a short time the injection was voided, with considerable quantity of unformed and highly offensive feces, attended with large discharges of flatus; the pulse fell to 60, soft.

8th.—Continues taking the powders, and cold cloths have been repeatedly applied with relief to the returning pain; has had two or three loose spontaneous alvine motions; no thirst or pain at present; abdomen soft. Cont. pulv.

9th.—Has a gentle diarrhoea, but has never passed any indurated feces; pain has not recurred; pulse 54, soft. From this time the patient had no relapse, and rapidly recovered without further treatment.

To these cases, I beg leave to subjoin the following summary of the effects which appeared to follow the application of the cold water.

1st, A cessation of the pain and sense of burning heat internally, and of the thirst and vomiting.

2d, In one case, a restoration of the pulse after it could no longer be felt; in two others, a diminution of its frequency and increase of its fulness and strength; and in the last, a decrease of its frequency and hardness.

3d, An increase of the voluntary powers was observable in all the cases, particularly in the second.

4th, An increase of the action of the intestinal canal, by which its contents are propelled; also an increase of the secretion of urine, and of the muscular power of the bladder.

These effects evidently followed the application of the cold water in the preceding cases, *when the heat in the abdomen was great and distressing, and when the cold applied was felt agreeable, or at least not disagreeable to the feelings of the patient.*

But *when it was felt unpleasantly cold*, it appeared to create or increase the pain in the abdomen, and stitches in the breast and cough; not to mention other symptoms which followed more remotely, and which, in this nascent state of the inquiry, it would not become me to say were or were not effects produced by the cold water. One striking coincidence, however, was observable, with regard to the time at which these symptoms of irritation were produced by the cold water in the three first cases. In all of them, these symptoms followed its use immediately after a considerable diarrhoea. Are we to infer from this, that the superfluous heat was, in a great measure, removed by the diarrhoea, leaving the bowels in a state similar to that which is produced in the system at large by profuse perspiration?

I shall conclude with observing, that, in laying these cases before

fore the public, it has not been my wish to magnify the virtues, or throw a veil over the dangers attending the administration of a powerful remedy; but, by an open and circumstantial relation of facts, to assist, as far as my experience and limited sphere of observation permit, in ascertaining the rules by which its application may be rendered safe and efficacious, in a hazardous and often intractable disease.

Kingussie, March 19, 1813.

IX.

Case of Hæmatemesis. By Mr WILLIAM COOKE, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

THE history of Dr Walsh's case of Hæmatirrhœa, in the last number of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, induces me to send one of Hæmatemesis.

However accumulated the evidence may be, that similar morbid actions sometimes occur under very different circumstances, yet, perhaps, every striking instance is still calculated to do good, by counteracting a propensity to make general deductions from a few isolated facts.

The subject of this case was a young lady of an extremely vivacious and active disposition, whose earliest years were spent in London.

At three years of age she was attended by Dr Lettsom, in consequence of bilious affections, who perceived that her liver was enlarged. Reiterated attacks of hepatic disorders induced her removal into the country, from which she derived considerable benefit.

In August 1810, when about thirteen years of age, she was attacked by vomiting of blood, which continued several days: her amendment, however, was progressive, until interrupted by a relapse towards the end of the year.

At this time menstruation had not commenced, and consequently we looked for its occurrence as a crisis likely to effect a salutary revolution in the system. After a succession of vicissitudes, occupying several months, she again became convalescent. The catamenia appeared, and, from the advances towards established health that were now made, her friends congratulated themselves that she was outgrowing all the imbecilities of early life, and the more imminently dangerous attacks of later years.

The