

lactic, and draws conclusions favourable to his own method; but we fear that a much greater number of facts will be requisite before the efficacy of this or of any other mode of prevention can be satisfactorily established.

It has fortunately been proved by repeated experience, that of the persons who are bit by a mad animal, only a very small number feel any bad effects from the accident, whether means of prevention are adopted or not; and on the other hand, we have to lament that cases have occurred, in which even the caustic, though applied almost immediately after the bite, has failed to produce the wished-for effect. Of this we have a melancholy instance in the case which is the subject of the following article.

XX. *A Case of Hydrophobia. Vide Remarks on the Means of obviating the fatal Effects of the Bite of a mad Dog, or other rabid Animal: with Observations on the Method of Cure when Hydrophobia occurs; and the Opinion relative to worming of Dogs refuted. Illustrated by Examples. By R. Hamilton, M. D. of the Royal*

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Member of the Medical, Physical, and other
Literary Societies in London and Edinburgh.*
8vo. Ipswich, 1785.

THE subject of this case, the particulars of which are given in a Letter to Dr. Hamilton, from Mr. Tuson, surgeon at Boxford, in Suffolk, was a young gentleman, about fifteen years old, who was on a visit at the house of a friend in Jermyn Street, London, on the 6th of December, 1784, when a stray dog came into the room. The Lady of the house taking notice of its being very thin, ordered a plate of meat to be set before it, which the dog ate. Of this dog the young gentleman took particular notice, and while he was stooping down to examine it, the animal turned from its meat, and bit him on the right side of the lower lip. He was immediately sent in a coach to the house of Mr. John Hunter, who saw him within a few hours after the bite, and who lost no time in applying a caustic to every part of the wound. Dr. Turton was also consulted, and under the direction of these gentlemen, the Ormskirk and Tonquin remedies were administered,

nistered, and mercurial ointment was rubbed into his legs twice a day.

On the 24th of December he arrived at his father's seat in the county of Suffolk, and the day following, when Mr. Tufon first saw him, the wound in his lip was healed, and he was in perfect health. He continued, however, to take the Tonquin medicine, and to persevere in the use of mercurial frictions, but without any appearance of illness till January the 11th, 1785, when he complained greatly of a pain in his right ear, and soon after was attacked with head ach and sickness. These symptoms were succeeded by a very restless night, and the next morning, when Mr. Tufon saw him, he found him labouring under a confirmed hydrophobia. The remainder of the history we shall give in Mr. Tufon's own words: "I called," says he, "for something for him to drink: as soon as it was offered to him he was convulsed, particularly about the throat, and drank it with much agitation; this confirmed me in my opinion: he complained exceedingly of a pain in his head, and great thirst; his pulse was very quick, full, and hard, and he lay tossing about in the bed. I asked him, if he felt any uneasiness in his
" lip?"

“ lip?, He told me he felt pricking pains about
 “ the part the evening before, and at that time
 “ he felt a foreness on touching it. I desired
 “ that every assistance that could might be pro-
 “ cured. Two messengers were dispatched for
 “ two physicians. In the interim, I gave him
 “ three doses of the above musk medicines
 “ every hour, and proposed bleeding him; but
 “ as farther assistance had been sent for, I de-
 “ ferred it till they came: they agreed in my
 “ opinion. I took about ten ounces of blood
 “ from the arm; they wished to see him take
 “ some liquid; he took it in his hand, put it
 “ hastily to his mouth, and upon deglutition,
 “ all the muscles concerned in that action
 “ seemed very much convulsed. His tongue
 “ appeared clean, not dry. They ordered
 “ him—R. Cinnab. nat. & fact. aa gr. viij—
 “ Mosch. gr. x. — Opii. gr. j. — Conserv.
 “ Cynosbat. gr. ij. Syr. q. s. ft pil. ij.—Statim.
 “ sumend. & tert. quaq; hor. repetend. sine
 “ Opio. These he took regularly; likewise
 “ an injection with a pint of gruel, and two
 “ ounces of oil, thrown up for a clyster. A
 “ cloth wetted with oil was applied to his
 “ throat: his feet were bathed with flannels
 “ dipped in hot water for a considerable time
 “ toge-

“ together, and four scruples of the strong
 “ mercurial ointment were rubbed in twice a
 “ day, as they wished to promote a ptyalism.
 “ He passed most of the day in a chair, and
 “ now and then walked about the room. His
 “ eyes appeared very wild and red. He had
 “ a small stool from the use of the injection.
 “ He made very little urine; his blood ap-
 “ peared a little inflamed, and somewhat fizy.
 “ In the course of the day he frequently took
 “ bread moistened in tea or gruel. He
 “ went to bed in the evening early, and got
 “ two or three hours sleep (I suppose from
 “ the effect of the grain of opium) after which
 “ he appeared very restless, and convulsed; to-
 “ wards the morning he was exceedingly so,
 “ and not able to lie still a moment, constantly
 “ calling for something to drink, and com-
 “ plaining of great thirst. He then swallowed
 “ with great anxiety and perturbation, and ap-
 “ peared in the utmost distress.

“ On the morning of the 13th (Thursday) he
 “ rose about ten o'clock in the state above menti-
 “ oned; at twelve his physicians saw him again:
 “ his pulse was then about one hundred and thir-
 “ ty. They then ordered him — R. Mosch. gr.
 “ xij.—Mercur. Emet. flav. gr. ij.—Opii. gr. j.
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“ Mucilag. G. Arab. q. s. ut ft. Pil. No. ij.
 “ tertia quaque horâ repetendæ cum vel sine
 “ opio prout res postulare videatur,—and con-
 “ tinued the use of the ointment.—They had
 “ not left him an hour, before he was taken
 “ with frequent vomitings, retchings, and
 “ constant spitting of a viscid phlegm. This
 “ came on before he took the Turbith pills.
 “ He took one dose with opium as soon as it
 “ came, which was about two o’clock. He
 “ was very sensible and pertinent in his answers
 “ and conversation till now, when a delirium
 “ came on, with such fears and horrors as are
 “ scarcely to be described—rubbing his throat,
 “ and walking up and down the room in great
 “ agony, but without offering violence to any
 “ one in it. He continued in this distres-
 “ sed state till about six in the evening, when
 “ he was standing up, and leaning on the house-
 “ keeper; and then nature, from his incessant
 “ talking and raving, being exhausted, he
 “ dropped down in a kind of fit. He was then
 “ laid on a bed quite senseless, and speechless,
 “ groaning, foaming at the mouth, now and
 “ then vomiting a dark brown choler, and ap-
 “ peared as if strangled. He expired about
 “ half

“ half past eleven at night. His lip after
 “ death did not appear altered.”

To Mr. Tufon's account of this unfortunate case, Dr. Hamilton has added the following letter, written to him on the occasion by Mr. John Hunter.

“ SIR,

“ I received the favour of yours. I am al-
 “ ways extremely happy when I can give any
 “ useful information; but all the information
 “ I can give you relative to the Hydropho-
 “ bia, is rather negative good than positive.
 “ All the means recommended were used
 “ in Master R.'s case. I saw him only a few
 “ hours after the bite. The lip was torn a
 “ good deal. The teeth had gone through
 “ and through, and had torn out a piece. I
 “ immediately applied the caustic to every sur-
 “ face that I conceived had been made by the
 “ dog's teeth; and when those sloughs came
 “ away, I went over the same field a second
 “ time; but, from the termination of the
 “ whole, I am inclinable to believe, that I did
 “ not touch every part where the teeth had
 “ been. He took the Ormskirk medicine by
 “ the directions of Mr. Barry, who sells it,

“ therefore we must suppose it was properly
 “ given. He also took the Tonquin medicine,
 “ viz. musk, cinnabar, &c. and rubbed in
 “ mercurial ointment till his mouth was sore.
 “ My whole dependence was on the caustic,
 “ but, I did not object to the others being
 “ given. I wish I could say more on the sub-
 “ ject in general. We seem to be as much
 “ at a loss how to treat it as they were a thou-
 “ sand years ago. I have not yet heard of the
 “ particulars of Master R.’s attack and symp-
 “ toms. I want very much to learn them.
 “ To ascertain a mode of cure will be very
 “ difficult. For a few cases not having the
 “ symptoms, under any course, prove but lit-
 “ tle. I know where there were twenty-one
 “ people bit by one dog; nothing was done
 “ for any of them, and only one was taken
 “ ill. If they had all taken medicines, then
 “ it would have been said, that they only lost
 “ one out of twenty-one.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ JOHN HUNTER”

In the preceding letter we find Mr. Hunter very candidly acknowledging, that, notwithstanding all his care in this case, some part of the surface, which had been in contact with the dog's teeth, might perhaps escape the action of the caustic*. This remark, from so able a practitioner, would induce us, under similar circumstances, to give the preference (where it is practicable) to the excision of the part bitten, previously to the application of a caustic. This mode of prevention by excision, certainly derives as much weight as a single case can give it, from a curious fact related by Dr. Hamilton, on the authority of Mr. Newson, surgeon at Woodbridge, in Suffolk, in the work to which we are indebted for the preceding history. The case we allude to is that of a servant maid who was bit by a dog in the fleshy and naked part of her arm. The laceration

* From the same dog that bit master R. a poor French woman received a bite on one of her hands the same day. The sore had caustic applied to it more than once, but not till several days after the bite. On Tuesday March 15th (the ninety-ninth day after the accident) she began to complain of pain in the cicatrix; on the 19th she had all the symptoms of hydrophobia, and she died on the 22d.

tion extended four inches in circumference; and within two hours after the accident, the whole of the part bitten was removed by excision, and to the extent of at least half an inch, both in depth and width, farther than the dog's teeth had penetrated. The wound was afterwards dressed with escharotics, and was kept open six or seven weeks, after which it cicatrized without any difficulty, and the patient remained well. The dog that bit this young woman, likewise bit two other dogs, and both of these, we are told, were secured, and in the course of eight or nine days discovered the strongest signs of madness.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS.

1. **J**OURNAL de Medecine de Londres, pour l'Année 1785, traduit * de l'Anglois de M. *Samuel Foart Simmons*, Medecin de Londres; par M. *Mafuyer*, D. M. de l'Université de

* In a well-written dedication of this translation of the London Medical Journal to M. Amelot de Chaillou, Intendant of Burgundy, the learned translator is pleased to offer the