

health and vigour, both of mind and body, that, as every circumstance of blood-letting evidently shews, by taking from the body this important fluid, either copiously or suddenly, we deprive it of a "somewhat" that, probably, is never renewed. Or there is some sudden derangement of the minute organization of the body, that time cannot, or but imperfectly, repair. Though the constitution may from circumstances, such as losing its blood in a slow and gradual manner, or from losing it in small quantities, and at short intervals, be able to conform itself to this reduced quantity with a tolerable share of health, yet that degree of vigour, which required the full quantity of blood for its support, is for ever gone.

Lastly, as all the phenomena of inflammatory fevers evidently point out their seat to be in the sentient system, and which operating as the cause of the irregularity of the sanguiferous, would not our practice be more rational, if it consisted in the use of such means, as from their known powers will most effectually, as well as speedily, exhaust the sensorial power, which had been accumulated during the cold stage, previous to the accession of the pulse, increased heat, local pains, &c. instead of then suddenly diminishing, by a large evacuation of blood, the activity of the whole body; on the entire degree of which necessarily depends the secretion or production of this sensorial power in sufficient quantity for the purposes of life? But it may justly be apprehended, that the due production of sensorial power in quantity proportioned to the necessary expenditure thereof by the usual stimuli, thus suddenly interrupted, may never again be acquired.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your humble servant,

A. HUGGAN.

Mr. REEVE, on a successful Case of Hydrocephalus.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following case of Hydrocephalus Internus, which occurred in my own child, should be deemed of sufficient importance to deserve a place in your very valuable Journal, the insertion of it in your earliest Number, will much oblige,

West Suffolk Regiment,
Chelmsford, Oct. 29.

Your most obedient servant,

R. REEVE, Surgeon.

The

The subject of this history, at the age of eight months, in the beginning of December, 1798, could stand alone, and had every appearance of a healthy, forward child. His temper was unusually placid, and his spirits invariably good. Towards the end of the month he became extremely costive, and though medicine for a time relieved him, he was frequently and violently seized with pain in the abdomen, which was generally mitigated by a clyster. He had at times a great heat, and apparent uneasiness in the posterior part of his head, and seemed unable to support it; was extremely restless at night, and watchful to an extraordinary degree, all which was supposed to arise principally from teeth. From this time he ceased to grow, except the head, which, towards the end of January, 1799, was perceptibly increased in size, and his costiveness was become so obstinate as scarcely to yield to the most active purgatives. It was this singular state of the alimentary canal, which had existed upwards of six weeks, that first led me to suspect some material derangement in the state of the brain. On the 12th of February, he was convulsed in the night, and there was such an accession of fever that it was thought adviseable to give small doses of Antim. Tartaris. till it should have sufficiently cleansed the primæ viæ; but it produced little or no effect. The following day he took castor oil, which was repeated a second time before any motion was procured; the abdomen was very hard, and of an extraordinary size; his stools were of a clay colour, and of such an adhesive nature that they could not easily be separated from his napkins; his urine was frequently high coloured, secreted in large quantities, and gave a yellow tinge to his linen. On the 16th, he was put into a warm bath, afterwards wrapped in flannel, and put to bed; a dose of James's Powder was given him, which occasioned several motions of the above description. He cried incessantly towards evening, shrieked in the most distressing manner, and appeared delirious. His fever now ran very high, pulse frequent, 130 to 140 in a minute; incessant thirst; and he had such a voracious appetite that he would take with indifference either medicine or food. The next day the warm bath was repeated, and some neutral salts and absorbent medicines were given, but apparently with no advantage, the fever still continuing with unabated fury till the 19th, when a mitigation of his sufferings took place, and for a few hours he appeared perfectly easy; but at four o'clock the following morning the fever returned, pulse 130, in which state he continued for several days, and during that time never closed his eyes. In the evening of the 21st he was evidently delirious, his eyes had a most dazzling brightness, and were continually rolling; his cheeks redder than scarlet. On the

the 22d the fever abated a little, but no sleep. On the 23d a drowsiness came on, which continued uninterruptedly till the 28th; he moaned incessantly, tossed his head from side to side frequently, put his hand up to it, ate voraciously, but took no notice of any thing. The nature of the complaint was now decided; the increased size of the head was very apparent, and the veins running up the left parietal bone extremely varicose. On the 29th his drowsiness abated, and he appeared less oppressed. March the 2d, a blister was applied to the anterior fontanelle, and it was determined to give a grain of calomel twice or three times a day, as the stomach and bowels were found to bear it; but it was soon observed to occasion too much pain and irritation to be continued; it was therefore given up for the Ungtm. Hydrarg. fort. of which half a drachm was rubbed in every night. During this time, till the 16th, no material change took place; but his oppression was now increased, and the fever greatly aggravated; he looked death-like pale, moaned much, tossed his head incessantly from side to side, put up his hands to it, coughed violently, vomited a little, and had slight convulsions in the eyelids and muscles of the mouth. All hope at this time of his recovery was lost; he cried a great deal, had much pain in his bowels, which were distended by flatus to an alarming degree, and the only relief that could be obtained was by clysters. He continued in this deplorable state till the 26th, with so little variation that it would be tedious to give the occurrences of each day. The mercurial friction during this period was omitted for a few nights, owing to the excessive irritation he was in, and neutral salts, carminative and absorbent medicines were given, in order to palliate the most distressing and prevalent symptoms. The blister was still kept open, which discharged copiously at the fontanelle. On the 26th he began to revive again, and to appear easy and take notice. At this time a profuse perspiration came on, particularly about the head, which was encouraged by enveloping it in warm flannel. The mercurial frictions were again had recourse to, and the quantity increased to two scruples every night, for the admission of which into the system, the most scrupulous exactness and attention was observed; for several days he continued nearly in the same state. On the 2d of April, his bowels were in excruciating pain, and much distended with flatulency, though every thing that could be suggested, had been done to counteract that tendency. His diet consisted of the most nutritious broths, with little or no farinaceous matter; his strength was supported (when a cessation of feverish symptoms justified the exhibition) by a cold infusion of bark and Madeira: he screamed for hours incessantly, and very

very frequently alarmed those around him, who expected death every hour as a welcome visitor; but on the 3d, the alarming symptoms were considerably abated, and he went on from this time getting progressively better, till the 1st of May. Great hopes began now to be entertained of his recovery; but on that day he shewed great uneasiness—the fever returned—his nights were restless, and though opiates were given, little or no sleep could be procured. On the 5th, he was taken sick in the night, had violent pain in his bowels, and was very feverish all day. On the 8th, the fever again abated, and he remained without any material change for many days. It was now judged advisable to discontinue the mercury, which was accordingly done, and the blister healed on the head, but a small one was opened behind the ear. I cannot date the commencement of his recovery, till the period of dentition, which took place on the 4th of June, when an incisor of the upper jaw made its appearance. From this time to the 11th, he continued easy and cheerful; but now his fever returned—he had restless nights—cried suddenly and violently: these symptoms, however, abated gradually, and on the 26th, he was taken into the air, enjoyed it much, and seemed to mend perceptibly. Colliquative perspirations continued for some time, but at length gradually abated, and he began bathing early in September. His head is restored to its natural size, and there is no vestige of disease remaining in that part, except a small elastic projection at the anterior fontanelle, which is more open than it ought to be with a child at his age. I ought to have mentioned, that previous to his illness, a slight curvature of the spine was observed, which has increased considerably with his weakness, and renders him at this time, unable to sit up; but as I conceive this to be a consequence of an affection of the brain, it will be entirely got the better of, as he acquires strength. The lower extremities were also much affected in this disease. He usually lies on his back upon the carpet, and is now able to turn himself from side to side with great activity, and is uniformly cheerful and comfortable. His bowels are quite restored, and he has left off all medicine. The mercurial friction was continued 35 nights, during which time, two ounces, three drachms, and one scruple of the mercurial ointment were rubbed in. It will scarcely be credited, but I appeal for the truth of the assertion to the testimony of Mr. Slater, a surgeon of eminence at Margate; a gentleman as much distinguished for his humanity, as for his abilities in his profession, under whose particular care this very singular case occurred. And here let me pay that tribute of gratitude to which he is entitled; for his unremitting zeal and constant attendance; for
upwards

upwards of six months in the above very distressing disease; to whose exertions, candor obliges me to acknowledge, I attribute entirely the happy result of the case. The blister was kept open eleven weeks. I have not been particular in mentioning the different medicines prescribed for the various symptoms which occurred from the moment of his first attack; as I conceive they had no tendency, till the mercurial plan was adopted, to occasion re-absorption of the water in the head. His mouth was never much affected by the mercury, though sometimes he appeared to have a difficulty in swallowing. In this case, it was remarkable, that not the smallest dilatation of the pupils of the eyes was observed, through the whole progress of the disease, though he often betrayed much sensibility and uneasiness, on being suddenly exposed to the light.

General Remarks on Aliments produced by the different Classes of the Animal Kingdom, and their Influence on the Human Body. By J. J. VIREY, of the Val de Grace.

[Read to the Medical Society of Paris, the 7th Messidor, 6th Year.]

Non aer, non pontus, non tellus, denique cuncta
Sufficiunt nostræ vix elementa gulæ.

THE nature of the aliment with which we are furnished by every species of animals, has not hitherto been investigated with that attention which the importance of the subject requires; either the practical application of chemical knowledge has been neglected, or the opinion of the ancients, that crude result of an obscure and verbose system of physic, has been confounded with facts. Supported by sound experience, we shall attempt to travel over this thorny path with rapidity.

Sed quanto plura restant, quantoque mirabiliora inventu! Illa enim majore parte cibi, aut odoris decorisve commendatis ad numerosa experimenta duxit.

It is erroneous to maintain, that the nutritive quality is principally in the gelatinous substance of animals, since this is much less nourishing than the albuminous substance. The latter, when entirely animalised, requires only a light exercise, and a greater degree of oxygenation, to be converted into fibrous substance; but the gelatinous matter, being analogous