

gross habit, was subject to a furfuraceous herpes, which had continued on one of his knees many years, attended with a troublesome itching; he had often requested me to give him some medicines to relieve this, but I always refused, because I knew this herpes secured him against every other disease, and he was, except that, in perfectly good health. One day he perceived himself quite relieved from his itching, and could no longer see the herpes, which had completely disappeared, by reason of his having felt some chagrin on some occasion; but it only raged the more vehemently within, for in four days afterwards he was seized with such violent convulsions of the muscles of the thorax, and such acute pain, that he could scarcely move or breathe, and uttered doleful cries. Being called to him, I found him in a complete tetanus; I bled him both in the arm and foot, and although he had no fever, the blood always appeared very sizzly. I also gave him mild sudorifics, laxative glysters, and anodynes, and without having recourse to the affusion of cold water upon the thorax, as recommended by some practitioners, I had the satisfaction of seeing the pain and oppression in the chest daily diminish, and the power of motion increase; but as the disease did not completely go off, I thought it right to recall the herpes to the knee which it had previously occupied; for this purpose I covered it with a vesicatory, and when the discharge took place, the pains and oppression which he still felt in a small degree, completely left him, the herpes re-appeared, and the patient recovered perfect health. He continued quite well for about five years, when the herpes again disappeared, whether spontaneously, or from what cause, I do not know; the patient became drowsy and fell into an apoplexy, from which he could not be recovered.

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*To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

ON perusing the last Number of your useful Miscellany, my attention was drawn to Mr. Headley's Cases and Observations on Ophthalmia. The purport of this paper seems to be to call the attention of medical men to the administration

nation of the bark in the intermittent form of this disease. The hint of the use of this remedy, in such cases, he candidly confesses, he received from the late Mr. Saunders.

As the tenour of this communication might lead some to suppose, that the efficacy of this bark in ophthalmia was not generally known, I beg leave to observe to Mr. H. that it has been used for many years in that intermittent form of the disease to which he alludes. To prove this assertion, it is only necessary to refer to the works of that celebrated oculist Mr. Ware. Its use is first mentioned in his *Observations on Scrophulous and Intermittent Ophthalmia*, published in 1792, and afterwards in the first volume of his *Chirurgical Observations, relative to the eye, &c.* promulgated in 1805.

Here, however, he has judged it necessary to caution practitioners against its indiscriminate use, adding, "I feel it my duty to caution against the hasty adoption of this remedy, since the instances in which it is likely to prove useful are extremely rare, and if it be improperly employed in such large doses, it will increase the inflammation and much aggravate all the symptoms." Notwithstanding this, it appears to have been useful in several of the cases which Mr. Ware relates. He, however, gives the preference, in the intermittent form of the disease, to a solution of oxymuriate of mercury taken inwardly, in about the proportion of a quarter of a grain every night in any proper vehicle. Of the good effects of this remedy he thus expresses himself, "I have the satisfaction to add, that in a great variety of such cases, I have afforded the most striking relief by means of it, after the cortex peruvianus and various other medicines had been found totally incompetent for this purpose."

I may add, that I have had an opportunity of using it in two instances, in which its application, both internally and externally, speedily produced a cure, after the common means were tried in vain.

As to the cinchona, there is no doubt but it will be found useful as a powerful tonic, in many of these chronic, debilitated, and intermittent forms which the disease often assumes.

If I have used any expression in these cursory remarks, which may in the least tend to hurt Mr. H's feelings, I ask pardon, and beg leave to assure him, that the diffusion of useful knowledge, and not criticism, was my aim.

I am, &c.

W. HAMILTON.