

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IT must prove satisfactory to the friends of humanity, to hear of the extension of the Vaccine inoculation to this distant quarter: But I am sorry to add, that it is not likely soon to be generally adopted, and that fears are entertained of its falling into disuse the moment I depart.

Although at the head of those I have inoculated, stands the son and heir of his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary; although he and four others, on whom the inoculation has succeeded, have gone through the different stages of the disease in the mildest manner possible; and although the natural small-pox is at present committing mighty ravages in a neighbouring village, still no impression can be made on the stupid and torpid race of men who constitute the motley population of this capital. Abandoned to indolence, their whole life is little better than a vegetable existence; and they are neither to be roused from their lethargy by the force of reason, nor the fear of danger.

But perhaps I am ill adapted for a medical missionary; I can neither court, nor fawn, nor flatter; nor can I bring myself to relish the greater number of Greek, or even Frank societies, where the conversation is, for the most part, as insipid as the prevailing manners are mean and loathsome.

To make amends for the uncourteous reception the *vaccinia* has experienced in this place, I have lately transmitted, by an overland conveyance, a piece of rag, impregnated therewith, to one of my friends at Bombay; and a similar one to Mr. Werry, English Consul at Smyrna, who proposes immediately inoculating one of his own children.

The first matter with which I attempted to inoculate Lord Bruce, was contained on a thread which I applied to a small scratch made with the point of a lancet; but no inflammation of any kind ensued. After an interval of eight days, the operation was repeated on both arms; but still the attempt failed. At last, we received matter in considerable quantity, on a rag, with which charging a lancet, I was enabled to perform successful inoculation. The failure of the two first attempts was less owing, I apprehend, to the nature of the virus contained on the thread, which was no older than that which afterwards succeeded, and was collected and forwarded from Vienna by the same respectable gentleman, Dr. Del Carro, than to the

difficulty of applying and retaining a small and fine bit of thread over a very slight scratch.

Reflecting on what had happened, I proposed that the third experiment should be made by previously applying a vesicatory of the size of a small pea, and on dividing the raised cuticle, applying to the naked fibre a small morsel of impregnated rag; "for it is possible," said I, "that by the matter adhering too firmly, or too slenderly, to the point of the lancet, it may be either detained behind, at the lip of the orifice, or the requisite separation not ensue." But parental fondness over-ruled my reasoning, and I was obliged to perform the operation in the usual way. I endeavoured, however, by introducing the lancet obliquely, retaining it a few seconds in the wound, and pressing on the part with my thumb as I withdrew it, to insure success. Success followed, but I did not conceive myself warranted to dismiss my fears; and accordingly, in the inoculation of two other children, I employed on one arm the mode by incision, and on the other, that by vesication. In both ways the disease was communicated; but with this difference, that the local inflammation took place in the vesicated arm on the fourth day, while the incised one suffered no change till the ninth. As was predicted, from a knowledge of the general law of the disease, there was only one constitutional affection, and in both cases it accompanied the inflammation of the vesicated arm. Of five other children whom I inoculated at nearly the same time, by incision, only one received the disease. One of the remaining four I have since successfully inoculated by vesication; but to a second attempt, in either way, the parents of the others will not at present submit.

My practice in this disease has at no time been extensive; but my observation has not been, on that account, less accurate, and I feel no hesitation in recommending inoculation by a vesicatory, in preference to that by incision; the one being often liable to fail, while the other is in its nature almost infallible. In the former manner, I have been since informed, the Greeks sometimes inoculate for the small-pox. The principal objection that can be made against it, is the fear of its being attended with greater pain to the patient; but if an infant's pain is to be measured by its cries, that proceeding from incision is much the greatest, while the generated disease does not rise higher in the one case than in the other. So much for Cow-pox.

In a communication, which some weeks ago I did myself the honour to send you, I hinted my design of investigating plague, I am at present, for this purpose, soliciting admission,

sion into the Pest Hospital, supported by the contributions of the Franks at Smyrna; but its manager, a reverend friar, named Luigi, for reasons inscrutable to every one, persists in what seems to me a narrow-minded, cruel, and unchristian denial. Should I find no sop for this Cerberus, I will go from him to his constituents. I cannot believe they will be equally illiberal; but if in this respect I am likewise disappointed, I shall endeavour to hold them up to that universal reprobation they will in such case so eminently deserve. In the mean time, I continue to believe that the plague is in no instance either a contagious or incurable disease. If I succeed in establishing those propositions, the world will, I trust, rejoice in my success. If I fail, the matter will be no worse than at present. An enquiry, conducted in the manner I propose, will in all probability elicit some truths, which, for want of observers only, remain hitherto concealed.

To conclude, I pledge myself to two things; first, to make a near and personal observation of plague, in defiance of every obstacle that may occur; and in the second, if I survive the enquiry, to make an accurate and faithful report of every observed symptom, and of the effect of every prescribed remedy. However much attached to my present opinions, I shall hasten to recant them, the moment I discover them erroneous. All I ask of the public, is to hear me with patience, and to judge of me with candour.

Entertaining sentiments of respect for your valuable Publication, I have the honour to be, &c.

Pera of Constantinople, Dec. 7, 1800.

D. WHYTE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

A GIRL, fourteen years old, was suddenly seized with such violent spasms about the larynx, the sides of the chest, and the diaphragm, that it was feared she would soon expire. So quick was the recurrence of those spasms, that she could neither eat nor drink. She complained of a ball ascending from the stomach into the throat, and there exciting the spasms.

Her breathing was difficult, short, and attended with a hissing.

Her countenance was flushed,

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