

shilling; they filled with a limpid fluid, which afterwards matured, and in about three weeks went off, the crusts or heads remaining two weeks afterwards; the scars when I saw them being left, and having the appearance of large and irregular spots, from their union with each other, especially upon the back, where were the greatest number of them, although they existed in all other parts of the body, and on the scalp. They gave me the idea of its having been what is called "*Swine Pock.*"

The child is perfectly well, and his parents entirely convinced that the Cow-pock is not at all influenced by this circumstance, more especially, as it was so strongly confirmed by that of the child *sleeping for a fortnight with another child who died of Small-pox, without receiving the infection.*

Rockingham Row, Newington Butts, Oct. 20, 1802.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN your Journal for May, I observed an account of a case of Cataract, in which the accidental occurrence of inflammation had removed the disease. From which, together with some observations of Mr. Ware's, the ingenious narrator, Mr. Crowfoot, seems to think, that it might be sometimes expedient to excite artificial inflammation in the tunica conjunctiva or cornea, for the removal of that disease. The two following cases may probably give some idea of the success to be expected from such practice; and are therefore much at your service, if you esteem them worth inserting in your very useful publication.

I am, &c.

*Grantbam,
Oct. 17, 1802.*

B. LEESON, Jun.
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

ROBERT SMITH has been blind of his left eye from his infancy, which defect evidently arose from a collection of opaque, milky fluid, within the capsule of the crystalline lens, occasioning an unusual prominence of that eye. He is a very stout, athletic man, about three and twenty years of age, constantly employed in the occupations of husbandry, and very regular in his mode of life. On the eleventh of March, he applied to me in consequence of violent inflammation, which had attacked the diseased

diseased eye, attended with very severe pain in his head, and very general increased action in the system. The usual antiphlogistic method of treatment was pursued, together with scarifications of the tunica conjunctiva, bleeding from the temporal artery, and the application of the vinum thebaicum to the eye. In about ten days the inflammation was subdued. It now became desirable to ascertain what effect the inflammation would produce on the previous disease, and the eye has since been inspected at different times for that purpose. When a month had elapsed from the cessation of the inflammation, the crystalline lens was observed to have become perfectly clear, and has ever since remained so; the globe of the eye is also lessened, but still the vision is equally imperfect, as before this attack of inflammation; although no other appearance of disease is evident, than a lessened sensibility in the iris to the stimulus of light.

Elizabeth Rimmington, aged twenty-one, is perfectly well in health, of a firm, muscular habit; has cataracts in both eyes, which have been there since her infancy. She has sufficient vision to distinguish light from darkness, and to guide herself in places to which she is accustomed. The cataracts have the appearance of being in a soft state, giving the idea of a milky fluid being enclosed within the capsule. As the left eye was possessed of most vision, it was proposed to operate first on the right eye, and should that succeed, to proceed to the other at some future period.

On the 20th of December, 1801, having prepared for the operation, a knife was passed through the cornea in the usual manner, and the capsule of the crystalline being wounded, a milky fluid was immediately evacuated with some force, part being expelled through the incision, and part effused through the globe of the eye. Under these circumstances, it was unnecessary to complete the incision, and I therefore withdrew the knife. The patient was put to bed in a dark room, and treated in the usual manner; for several days I had the satisfaction to believe, that she would recover the sight of that eye with little pain. The inflammation and fever succeeding the operation being trifling, at the end of a week she was released from her confinement. At this time, the effused liquor was perfectly absorbed, and the eye was, in every appearance, free from disease, the iris contracting and dilating very rapidly on the admission or expulsion of light; still her vision was less perfect than immediately after the operation. Apprehending this to arise from the capsule remaining unabsorbed, I recommended nothing to be applied for a short time, hoping absorption would come on, as the office of the part was now no longer necessary. This not taking place in a month, some stimulating applications, with a view to promote absorption, were used, but without any

better effect; and I am sorry to add, that at this time, October the 14th, the patient remains with the same imperfect vision as before the operation, notwithstanding the eye is free from any visible imperfection. In the first of these cases, the diminished sensibility of the iris may shew some deficiency in the optic nerve, probably co-existent with the formation of the original disease. But in the second, the eye exhibits every appearance of health, and it is only upon the opinion of the non-absorption of the crystalline capsule, that the present blindness is to be accounted for, and even this might be supposed to occasion some visible defect in the eye. This supposition contradicts the opinion of the best modern surgeons, who maintain that parts will continue no longer than their functions are necessary, on which opinion, the operation for the extraction of the cataract is supported. As far therefore as this case goes, it will lead to a very guarded prognosis in every operation, even in the usual mode, for cataract; and to a much more guarded one, should the mode of treatment suggested by Mr. Crowfoot be adopted.

On the New Chemical Nomenclature.

THE nomenclature of the metallic salts is very defective in not expressing any distinction between the salts formed by the different oxydes of any metal combined with the same acid. The sulphat of iron, for instance, signifies indifferently a compound of sulphuric acid, and either of the oxydes of iron. It has been proposed to distinguish them by terming that salt which contains the metal more highly oxydated, an oxy-sulphat. This mode is, however, very objectionable. By it we can only distinguish salts formed by two different oxydes, whereas several of the metals are capable of several degrees of oxydation. It is particularly objectionable with respect to metallic muriats, for an oxymuriat properly signifies a salt containing oxymuriatic acid. We are by no means authorized to suppose it an indifferent matter, whether the super dose of oxygen be combined with acid or with the metal.* I should propose to distinguish the salts of different oxydes of the same metal, in the manner

* In which state of combination it exists in any salt, may be known if the exact proportion of the ingredients be accurately ascertained. For the quantity of oxygen must be exactly sufficient either to form one of the oxydes of the metal and no more, or it is in that state of combination for which the quantity exactly corresponds with what would be required.