

quite^d debilitated by a dysentery, causing ten stools in twenty-four hours, I have an inclination to try the yellow gum from Botany Bay. Pray prepare me some, and a small aromatic opiate* at night, for I sleep very indifferently; and whether better or worse by the trial, thou mayest expect to receive my acknowledgements, and any pay required from

Thy friend,
W. DARTON.

7 mo. 18, 1793.

P. S. I am so faint I can hardly write.

Three days afterwards I received the following.

W. Darton having found great and sudden relief from the pills, and knowing several of his friends now afflicted as he was, requests his friend Chamberlaine to send him some of the tincture of the gum, as mentioned in page 55 of Medical Memoirs. If that is now impracticable, a double portion of the pills, not quite so large as the last, will be acceptable. W. D. has quite lost the pain in the abdomen, though it had been very violent indeed; three pills relieved that, and the violence of the lax is abated.

Gracechurch Street, 7 mo. 23, 1793.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Shall be glad if you will give the following Communications a place in the next Number of your useful publication. To Mr. Jenkinson, late house surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary, an apology is due for the delay, his paper having been in my possession nearly two years. The second communication, which I have been favoured with by Mr. Boutflower, a very respectable surgeon of considerable experience in Salford, appears of peculiar importance, as it corroborates an idea suggested in my first paper on Opiate Frictions, where I endeavoured to shew the expediency of giving them a fair trial in Tetanus and Hydrophobia.† At length an instance of Tetanus has occurred, in which they have been made use of, apparently

* I sent no opiate.

† See Medical and Physical Journal for July, 1799, p. 447—9.

with considerable advantage; and the event having proved favourable, it will probably be the means of inducing others to have recourse to them in tetanic affections, (and I wish I could add, in cases of hydrophobia) by which means alone, their efficacy or inefficacy can be fully and fairly appreciated. But I shall refrain at present from farther comments, as I am preparing a few observations on this subject, which, with your permission, I purpose sending to be inserted in your valuable Journal. Allow me only to add, that the tincture of opium appears to be, in general, better adapted for external use than the powder; yet, I think particular cases may occur, where the powder will be found preferable to the tincture; as, for instance, where it may be necessary to join an opiate with a portion of ung. hydrargyri, (a useful addition where mercury, introduced by in-unction, has a tendency to pass off by the bowels, occasioning pain, diarrhoea, &c.) besides that the tincture does not unite so well with the ointment, the quantity generally used of the latter will not imbibe enough of the former to answer the intended purpose.

I remain, &c.

Manchester, Oct. 2, 1781.

M. WARD.

CASE I. Communicated by Mr. JENKINSON.

“ Betty Richards, ætat. 14, was admitted into the house on July 8, 1799, in a state of great debility, arising from the ravages which a caries of the hip, assisted by the misconduct of her master, had made in her constitution. She had been troubled with diarrhoea for several weeks; and a few days after her admission, a vomiting came on. Opiates, astringents, and aromatics were prescribed, and administered in conjunction with a proper and nutritious diet and wine, without checking either the vomiting or looseness; opium was likewise administered, clyster-wise, in starch mucilage, by which the looseness, but not the vomiting, was restrained for a time, and for a time only.

“ Three drachms of tincture of opium, and one of the linimentum saponis, were now ordered to be rubbed into the shins, night and morning; and all other medicines omitted. The first portion produced a good night, though she had scarcely slept at all for the last week; and the vomiting disappeared till towards morning, when the effects of the opium had ceased. The second portion and every other, for several days, had the same effect as the first; but it was now found necessary to increase each portion of the tincture to half an ounce. By this plan the vomiting and diarrhoea were, the one effectually prevented

vented, and the other much lessened, while food (which had, previously to its adoption, never remained with her for more than a few minutes) was both sought for and retained.

“ Her situation was such as to preclude all expectation of recovery; but her life was certainly rendered more comfortable, and her existence prolonged several days.

“ JOHN JENKINSON.”

Manchester Infirmary, Nov. 3, 1799.

CASE II. MR. BOUTFLOWER'S Letter to Mr. WARD.

“ Dear Sir,

“ AS the following Case bears testimony to the good effects of the Opiate Frictions, recommended by you in the 5th number of the Medical Journal, I have much pleasure in sending you the particulars of it.

“ John Mortice, ætat. 13, had the misfortune to be thrown under the wheel of a rope manufactory, by which the teguments and tendons of his left leg were much lacerated, and the tibia laid bare to a considerable extent. On being called to him immediately after the accident, I brought the edges of the wound together by means of the interrupted suture, and applied a bandage. The next day he was tolerably easy. On the 4th I removed the dressings, and was surprised to find the appearances not so favourable as I could have wished; the lips of the wound had assumed a dark colour; there was a considerable tension and swelling of the limb, which rendered it necessary to remove the ligatures. A common poultice was now directed to be applied, and at my next visit I had the satisfaction to find the sore looking better; a separation had begun to take place of the discoloured parts, the swelling was lessened, and every thing indicated a favourable prognosis. These flattering appearances, however, did not continue long; in a day or two he complained of a stiffness and rigidity of the muscles of the neck; he had pain when he attempted to swallow, and the new granulations of the wound had changed from a bright to a pale colour.

“ From these symptoms, I did not hesitate to consider the case as an approaching locked jaw; I therefore directed him to take a grain of opium every six hours; to be allowed as much wine as he could drink; and, at the suggestion of a friend, spirits of turpentine were applied to the wound, with a view of exciting inflammation. On the three following days he continued to grow worse; his jaw was stiff, more closed, and would only admit the edge of a tea spoon: he could not raise his

his head from the pillow without assistance; and when done negligently, gave him violent pain, and brought on convulsive motions of the whole body, of the kind termed Opisthotonos. He sweat profusely, and the opium he had taken procured him no sleep; his pulse, during this time, was slower than natural; no inflammation had been excited in the wound from the application of the turpentine; indeed, a striking insensibility was peculiarly manifest, as he felt no pain when it was dressed.

“I was now induced, from the success of some trials you had made with opiate frictions, to try their effects in this case. Half an ounce of laudanum, combined with two drachms of oil and the yolk of an egg, was therefore directed to be divided into two equal portions, one of which was rubbed into the thighs night and morning. No internal medicine was given under this plan except two grains of opium at bed-time. For some days the symptoms continued with very little change or abatement; he kept his ground, at least, if he did not get much; the rigidity every where remained, and had extended to the injured leg. — On the 6th or 7th day (for I do not write from notes) after the application of the liniment, he was evidently better; had slept two or three hours in the night, which he had not done since his first attack; the jaws were strikingly more separate, and I observed on moving him on his side to dress his leg, it was done with much less difficulty than before. From this period his recovery was gradual, and he went on so well from day to day, that I did not consider any thing necessary for him except nourishments; the application of the liniment was therefore discontinued, and his recovery trusted to the opium, which he had regularly taken at bed-time. I had very soon reason to repent of the alteration I had made, for my patient not only made little progress after the frictions were laid aside, but actually appeared to be growing worse again; I was therefore obliged to give directions for them to be re-applied, which was done with manifest advantage, till every symptom of Tetanus had completely vanished.

I am, &c.

J. J. BOUTFLOWER.”

Salford, Sept. 22, 1801,