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This is a very valuable & scarce book and never to be sold. B. Waterhouse

BOERHAAVE'S

Medical Correſpondence;

Containing

The various SYMPTOMS

Of

CHRONICAL Diſtempers;

The PROFESSOR's Opinion, Method of Cure, and Remedies.

To which is added,

BOERHAAVE'S PRACTICE in the Hoſpital at *LEYDEN*, with his Manner of Inſtructing his Pupils in the Cure of Diſeaſes.

LONDON:

Printed for JOHN NOURSE, at the *Lamb*, oppoſite *Katherine Street* in the *Strand*.

MDCCXLV.

Timothy L. Jennison's

PREFACE.

THE *Collection of Letters, here offered to the public, must prove entertaining and useful: They are chiefly* Histories *or* Descriptions of Chronic Disorders, *some of them very uncommon. The late Doctor HERMAN BOERHAAVE was consulted in all the Cases, and we have in the following Sheets his Reasonings, on the several Symptoms. It may be justly said of this great Man, that he reduced the Art of Physic to its genuine Simplicity, and by his noble Improvements of it, has done Mankind the greatest Service, as well as gained to himself an immortal Name.*

These Letters were copied from the Originals sent to the Doctor, and Care taken to make no Alterations; this must appear

to every one, who is a Judge of his Style, *and Method of Cure in the like Cases.*

'Tis well worth our Notice, that FRICTIONS are so much recommended by Boerhaave *in these Disorders; on this one Article he often lays the Stress of the Cure, which must appear to many as something trifling, not to say,* ridiculous. *What great Service, they may ask, can be expected from rubbing the Body a thousand Times if you will, in order to remove an obstinate Disease?*

To answer this, *we may recollect that in all Chronical Cases there are these two Defects, to which the Physician ought to pay a principal Regard,* viz. *the Solids have lost their proper Tone, and there are Obstructions in the Viscera: The Intention then must be to* strengthen *the too much relaxed Solids, and remove the* Obstruction. *For this Purpose* Hippocrates *recommends Friction, and explains its Conditions and Effects in these Words* * strong Friction *(says he) braces,*

* Ἐν τῷ καὶ ἰσχυρόν.

gentle

gentle Friction looſens, much Friction diminiſhes, and moderate Friction increaſes the Fleſh. *The great Maſter gave no further Explication, as he often wrote in ſuch a Manner, as to be underſtood by thoſe only, who had made a Progreſs in the Art: But* Galen *has left us a moſt elegant Comment on theſe Words, wherein he ſufficiently explains* Hippocrates *his Senſe.*

" *Soft or gentle Friction (ſays he) looſens or reſolves thoſe Parts that are braced* " *or conſtipated. Thoſe Parts are ſaid to* " *be braced or conſtringed* (*by* Hippocrates) " *that do not eaſily move, by Reaſon of ſome Dryneſs, Cold, Inflammation, Schirrhus, Tenſion, Repletion or Weight* †. *No Words can more properly expreſs the Nature of obſtruction, than theſe do. Long after the Time of* Hippocrates, *when this Remedy was much in Vogue, the Phyſicians began to mark the different Sorts of* Frictions, *their Degrees, Duration, and Parts of the Body that*

† In his ſecond Book, of *Preſerving Health*, where he diſputes at large on this Matter againſt *Theon* and others.

were

were to be rubbed in the ſeveral Diſeaſes, and likewiſe other Circumſtances. They claimed the Glory of all theſe Things to themſelves, as Inventors and Improvers in the Art; either through a real or pretended Ignorance of Hippocrates *his Writings, who had delivered the Sum of this Doctrine many Ages before. For Example,* Aſclepiades, *as we learn from* Celſus, *ſpent the greateſt Part of a Treatiſe in this very Argument, of which he claimed the Invention; and as* Celſus *himſelf acknowleges, he gave in it more full and diſtinct Precepts,* where *and* how Friction *was to be applied, than had been done by any of the Ancients. This Treatiſe periſhed with his other Writings, to the great Prejudice of the Art; 'tis true indeed, that through a fooliſh Itch of diſputing, he loved to ſubtiliſe and confound its ſpeculative Principles; but he bore quite another Character, when he came to the practical Part, and treated of the Cures of Diſeaſes. This appears from the Writings of* Celſus, *who in moſt Caſes follows his Method of Cure. The whole Sect of the* Methodiſts

thodists, *made the greatest Use of* Frictions, *and different Aspersions of the Body in Chronic Disorders, as one may easily see in* Caelius Aurelianus, *whose Writings alone escaped the Shipwrack of that famous School.*

Aretaeus, *has left us a most beautiful History of chronical Distempers, with a rational Method of Cure:* Friction *is much recommended in most of them, and if the Disorder proceeded from a Defect in any particular Part, he determines both the Place and Measure of* Friction. *On this Subject he displays his great Judgment, when he treats of the* Epilepsy *and* Cephalacæa*.

This Author of so great Authority, if we may credit the best Critics, borrowed most of his System from the Writings of Hippocrates, *and is on that Account esteemed his exact and* faithful *Commentator.----But in the present Argument,* Galen's *Testimony is alone sufficient, nor is it necessary to cite others, whoever carefully reads him on this Subject, must soon be convinced, that the Use and Ef-*

* *An obstinate and violent Head-Ach, returning on every slight Occasion.*

ficacy

ficacy of Friction, *was esteemed by the Physicians of that and the preceeding Ages, an Object worthy of their Enquiries* †, *being all agreed that it was the principal Remedy in* Chronical *Cases; and accordingly they had constant Recourse to it, when their Intention was to strengthen a weak Body, or by a quick Distribution of the* Aliment *to recruit a Languid one, or if the Indications were to excite the vital Heat, or digest and bring away bad Juices, their Practice was still the same. There were Disputes, 'tis true, sometimes concerning the Place and the Manner of administring it; but its Efficacy as a proper Remedy, was never called in Question. Nor is this any Way surprising; for in so delicate a Subject, Difficulties must naturally occur, before the just Measure and Limits can be precisely determined.* Galen *undertook this difficult Task, and has at large described, in what Manner this Remedy must be accommodated to different Ages and Temperaments.*

† A Physician ought to be skilful in many Things, especially in the Nature of Friction. *Hippoc. de Articulis.* §. IX.

Neither

Neither did those ancient Physicians order Frictions, solely *in Chronic Cases; for they likewise enjoyned them in* Putrid Fevers; *in* Tertians *too and* Quartans, *which had frequent Returns, and were of long Continuance; they practised the same. In these last, some ordered the whole Body to be rubbed over (which was* Galen's *Method) and others the Belly* only *and* Hypocondriac *Regions. This they constantly did before the* Paroxysm, *in order to attract the digested* febrile Matter, *by Virtue of the Heat, towards the Surface of the Body, there to be discharged.*

From these Facts it is plain, this Remedy was in the highest Esteem with the Ancients, for the Preservation of Health, and the Cure of Diseases. Other Nations, too, who probably never saw the Greek *Writings, make great Use of this Instrument of* Nature. *The* Chinese *and some* Indian *Nations, if our Travellers deserve Credit, cure several stubborn Disorders, solely by* Friction, *a Remedy which neither Books, nor Reasoning seem to have suggested, but Use and Practice; much in the*

same

ſame Manner, as country Farriers, by the meer Guidance of Nature employ frequent rubbing, both as Food and Phyſic for their Horſes.----Boerhaave *then, had very good Reaſons to order,* the Parts to be rubbed with warm, dry, rough Cloths. *As being a Rule of the Art, equally recommended from the Reaſon of Things, and the Authority of the moſt ſkilful Phyſicians.**

It will poſſibly be asked, how a Remedy ſo well recommended came to looſe its Credit with the Moderns, ſince it is certainly much neglected in the preſent Practice.----This is principally to be aſcribed to the new Reaſonings, which were adopted by the Phyſicians of the laſt Century, who introduced quite a different Theory of Chronic Diſeaſes. *Some ingenious Men, who applied themſelves to* Chemiſtry,

* *It had been an eaſy Matter, to have accounted for the Effects of* Friction, *from its Phyſiology; as it accelerates the Motion of the Blood in the extreme Veſſels, and ſo proves a* Stimulus, *diſſolves its viſcid Particles, promotes Perſpiration,* &c. *But this did not properly come into this Diſcourſe, which ſeems only intended to prove it to have been the conſtant Practice of the greateſt Phyſicians among the Antients.*

at

at first were satisfied with explaining Medicine only from Experiments in that Art, but soon after they attempted to form from thence a new System.

In these Disorders, according to their Doctrine, either an Acid, *or a specific* Ferment *prevailed; or a Putrefaction had infected the Juices and Humours of the Body; or some other fictitious Cause was always at Hand to solve the Appearances: Next, the Liquids becoming exalted, broke out into some different Species or other, and so produced different Kinds of* Chronic *Diseases: As these were specifically different from each other, there was a Necessity to find out new and* Specific *Remedies. And in a short Time nothing was to be heard of, but* Antacids, Elixirs *of all Sorts,* Quintescences, Sudorifics, &c.—*No Wonder then if amidst so many pompous Medicines,* Friction *was neglected, as something mean and trivial. The Physicians of that Time, racking their* Brain *to find out a Salve for every Sore, or a specific for every* Disorder, *but their own.*

Though

Though this was the Theory generally received, yet there were ſome practical Phyſicians who followed a very different Method. Such was Doctor Sydenham, *who is the propereſt Example we can bring, as he had intirely given into that viſionary Syſtem. He frequently obſerves* " *that theſe* (Chronic*) " *Diſeaſes are not to be cured by Medicines* " *alone---that daily Exerciſe is here, more ef-* " *fectual than the Apothecary's Shop---that* " *Mercury in the* Lues Venerea, *or the Bark in an Ague, are not more efficacious than* Riding *in a Conſumption, of which he tells us ſuch ſurpriſing good Effects, that, though his Veracity is unqueſtionable, ſome have in this Caſe ſuſpected his Judgment.*†

* *With Regard to* Chronic *Caſes, he muſt certainly be eſteemed the true Phyſician, who can produce ſuch a Remedy as deſtroys the Species of the Diſeaſe.* Sydenham's *Preface to the Hiſtory of acute Diſeaſes.*

† *He ſolemnly aſſures us, that* He *had ſaved ſome of his conſumptive Patients by this Remedy, after they had been ſubject to Night Sweats, and the* Diarrhæa, *a Caſe which* Hippocrates *and all ſucceeding Phyſicians had pronounced mortal.*

Accordingly,

Accordingly, in delivering this Method of Cure, he recommends a few Stomachicks, and lays the whole Stress on Air *and* Exercise; *and thus this great Man's Sagacity and Candour delivered him from those Errors in* Practice, *which were the natural Consequences of this* Theory.

But Boerhaave *well understood* " *the Simplicity of Nature in these Disorders and* " *taught us, that* Chronical *Diseases though* " *infinitely various with Regard to the* " *Symptoms, yet were not very complex in* " *their Origin, nor required so many different Medicines, or so various a Method of Cure.**

The Medicines here recommended are few and simple; chiefly the Gums and Juices of the aperient Plants. The Doctor though very skilful in Chemistry, seldom used its Preparations, not that he was insensible that uncommon Cures had been affected by them, in desperate Cases. A prudent Physician how-

* *See his Aphorisms, last Paragraph of the Chapter on Chronic Diseases.*

ever

ever will be cautious how he orders ſuch Medicines as frequently prove fatal to the Patient, in caſe the Viſcera *are not ſound and ſufficiently ſtrong to bear the Shock they give; Circumſtances not always ſo eaſy to deſcry.*

We may likewiſe add, that theſe ſtrong Remedies were not ſo well adapted to Boerhaave's *Intentions; for in thoſe Caſes eſpecially, purſuant to his Doctrine, we muſt proceed by ſlow Degrees, ſuch as the Nature of the Diſorder and the Laws of the animal Oeconomy require. Nor on the other Hand, need we pay too ſcrupulous a Regard to that exquiſite Accuracy of Conſtruction, which ſome Anatomiſts imagine, who being but moderately acquainted with the Laws of the animal Syſtem, fancy ſuch a Connection is eſtabliſhed betwixt the ſeveral Parts of the Body, that a ſmall Diſorder muſt derange the whole Structure.*

Thus we Mortals conſtruct Machines; but we our ſelves are framed by the great Artiſt in a more tranſcendent Manner, for when a Diſeaſe attacks us, numerous Auxiliaries

iliaries occur from every quarter to drive it off, and ſhould it perſiſt, many are the Stages of its Progreſs, before it ſpoils the elegant fabric. Diſeaſes then, as well as Health admit of a conſiderable Latitude. *Hence the Phyſician, who keeping the Body ſoluble and promoting Perſpiration, does at the ſame Time reſtore elaſtic Force to the Fibres, muſt render greater Service in thoſe Caſes, than is commonly imagined: For Nature will thus have a fair Opportunity, to exert her Forces. This* Boerhaave *attempted chiefly by* Friction, *and gentle deterſive and aperient Medicines, which (that Nature might have Time to work) he generally ordered to be tried,* at leaſt for ſix Weeks together, *in Hopes of Amendment.*

Theſe are the chief Things remarkable in our Authors Method of Cure in Chronic *Diſorders, which in a great Meaſure muſt prove conſtant, as it will often do great Service, but never can do harm. This Courſe was not only prudent, but particularly to be recommended in* Boerhaave, *who was at a great*

great Diſtance from theſe Patients, and had frequently confuſed and imperfect Hiſtories of the Caſes tranſmitted to him. It muſt however be allowed, that had he been preſent he might probably have made ſome Alterations in the Preſcriptions, and adapted them better to the Conſtitution of the Patient, and the Stage of the diſeaſe.

It was propoſed to add to this Volume ſome other Papers of the Doctor's which came lately to our Hands, as they relate to the Hiſtory of Chronic Diſeaſes.----*But we have delayed the publiſhing them now, till we ſee what Reception theſe Letters meet with.*

C. B.

N. B. The Letters and BOERHAAVE's Anſwers marked (***) were wrote originally in *Engliſh.*

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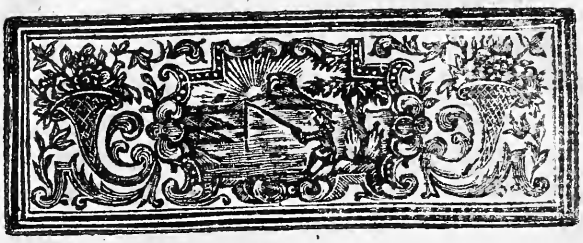

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LETTERS

LETTERS

TO THE

Late DOCTOR *BOERHAAVE*,

With His ANSWERS.

LETTER I.

To the much honoured Doctor BOERHAAVE, *Professor of Medicine*, &c, &c.

SIR,

THE lady who begs your advice, is now entered her thirty first year, and threatned with a consumption, which I am afraid is hereditary: That the animal fibres are much weakned, is but too apparent from her thin habit of body, the natural strength much wasted, and her legs swelling at night, *&c.*

SHE injoyed a pretty good state of health to her twentieth year, when after an acute fever, she was attacked with a *Chlorosis*, *Fluor albus*, and the

 whole

whole train of hyſteric complaints the ſex is ſubject to; but particularly, ſhe complained of a head-ach and lowneſs of ſpirits. The phyſicians who attended her during the fever, from their too great care, had ordered her to be blooded ſix times, and that plentifully. This brought on a cough, with which ſhe has been afflicted theſe laſt ſeven years, and which rather increaſes. Her ladyſhip had formerly been too often at balls, and ſit up late at night, not knowing the bad conſequences. With regard to eating, ſhe has been always extreamly moderate, and never uſed any ſtrong liquors. She complains ſometimes of a painful conſtriction of her breaſt, and daily throws up by coughing a *Phlegm*, which taſtes ſometimes ſweetiſh, and at other Times ſaltiſh: The greater quantity of this matter there is evacuated, the freer ſhe is from all other complaints, which I think ought carefully to be conſidered.

THE due perſpiration is obſtructed by the ſmalleſt cauſe, and then the cough always grows worſe. She complained once or twice of *Hectic Fits*, but they were ſlight; 'tis eaſy to perceive that her fleſh falls gently away.

SHE married at twenty ſix, and three years after was brought to bed of a daughter, ſince that time the *Chloroſis* has in a great meaſure gone off, tho' the *Menſes* do not as yet come regularly; when ſhe

was

was with child, her whole face was covered over with ſcorbutic pimples, not unlike thoſe that Drunkards are often marked with, which have not altogether diſappeared.

BE pleaſed, ſir, to give us your advice in this caſe, which I am confident will prove both for the benefit of the patient, and honour of your character.

I am Sir,

With the utmoſt Regard

Yours, &c, &c.

Doctor BOERHAAVE'S *Anſwer.*

SIR,

I Have conſidered the caſe you ſo accurately deſcribe, and which you have likewiſe treated with great prudence. A tender and delicate make of body, and particularly a weakneſs in the lungs, is I believe, the original cauſe whence the diſorder proceeds. Therefore all evacuations are in my judgment improper, as muſt likewiſe be whatever impairs the natural ſtrength; on the other hand, what recovers or increaſes it muſt be carefully purſued. As frequent rubbing the body and proper exerciſe, with dry food and of eaſy digeſtion, are of great uſe for this end, I moſt heartily recommend

them. I ſhall order a few things by way of *Phyſic*. Let the lady every three hours take three of the pills A, drinking immediately after, one ounce of the medicinal wine B, and this particularly when the ſtomach is empty. If after reflection you approve of this courſe, (and only on that condition) I would recommend it to be tried for two months, when I hope the patient will be ſenſible of it's good effects.—Do you in the mean time, make what alterations in it you judge proper. This province your worth and capacity intitles you to. I ſhall always be proud to be eſteemed as your Friend, and am, ſir, *&c*, *&c*.

A.

℞. *Aſae Foetid. Drach.* ſs.
Balſam. Peruvian. Drach. j.
Catechu,
Maſtiches,
Olibani,
Succi Inſpiſſat. Glycyrrhizae, ana dr. jſs.
M. F. Pilulae ſingul. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Cortic. Capparid.*
Cinnam.
Tamarisc. ana unc. jſs.
Ligni Santali Citrin.
rubr. ana drach. iij.
Limaturae Martis rec. non rubig. dr. xij.
Rad. Caryophyllat. unc. ſs.
Helenij. drach. ij.
Imperat. drach. j.
Sem. IV. *calid. min.* ana drach. ſs.

Mix them altogether and make a powder of them, whence with two quarts of White French Wine *or* Spaniſh, *make* S. A. *a medicinal wine.*

LETTER II.

SIR,

THE great character you have ſo juſtly gained, induces me to apply for your advice in the caſe of my misfortunate ſon, who is now ſixteen years old, and applies to his ſtudies. His temperament is phlegmatic, pale of colour, and is of a lax habit of body; his paſſions are eaſily moved. About five years ago, on catching cold in his Feet, he was ſeized with *Cramps*, which begun firſt at the roots of the toes and back of the *Metatarſus* of the right foot, but by degrees mounting higher, violently and with great pain contracted the muſcles of the foot and leg: He felt

the greateſt pain in the *Tendo Achilles*. The *Paroxyſm* laſted for ſome hours and then he injoyed his uſual good health. He has hitherto had two or three ſuch fits in the year, (eſpecially after catching cold) and they now return with greater violence, but without any obſervable relation to the changes of the moon. The two firſt years the *Spaſms* never went higher than the muſcles which move the right thigh, but ſince that time, beginning always in the old place of the right foot, they came gradually up towards the head, and then all the muſcles of the right ſide became convulſed in a terrible manner.

THE different ligatures we uſed were of no ſervice. When they reach the head, the muſcles of the whole body are drawn in a moſt violent and ſhocking manner, and he is then intirely deprived of all the ſenſes, both internal and external, or ſuffers an *Epilepſy*, which ends in a compleat *Apoplexy*, with ſnoring, frothing at the mouth, *&c.* For ſome minutes after the fit is over, there is felt a great cold in the right leg, which is eaſily done away by rubbing it. He ſuffered the laſt attack of this terrible diſeaſe about the beginning of the month of *Auguſt*; and is more ſubject to it, in the ſummer than in the winter ſeaſon. A cold northerly air agrees beſt with him.

THERE

THERE is one circumſtance which ought to be related, and that is, the patient is very ſenſible of a certain change, which he cannot well expreſs on the back of the *Metatarſus* of the right foot, ſome hours, nay, ſometimes a day or two before the fit, by which he can for certain aſſure us of its coming. A few days likewiſe before the fit, his colour changes and becomes paliſh and darkiſh; when the fit begins, ligatures round the ancle, *&c.* of the right leg ſtop it for ſome time. While the diſeaſe mounts towards the head, he feels nothing like to a blaſt of cold air. *(a)* By the preſcription of a Quack he has often drunk the Juice of *Jame*'s *Wort* and *Horſe Tail*, but this did him no ſervice.

A young gentleman who practiſes phyſic here, was conſulted, and adviſed him to eat nothing but fleſh and that high ſeaſoned, with bread that is well leavened; he forbid him the uſe of *Acids*, or what was ſweet; for ordinary drink allowed him cold water, and now and then a glaſs of wine, or ſtrong ale; recommended moderate exerciſe, and that long continued, warning him much againſt

(a) The matter which occaſions the fit, as it mounts towards the brain, is uſually felt by the patient in the manner deſcribed; hence the abſence of this ſign is here remarked. Ligatures often prevent the fit intirely, which they do by compreſſing the *Nerves*, and ought therefore to be made very tight.

catching cold. By his directions likewise he has lately begun to take the following medicines, *viz.* For the first five days, he takes the gummous pills: Then he takes the chalybeate pills, as prescribed by Doctor *Sydenham.* These he is to continue for a long time with a medicated wine, in which are infused *Gentian Root*, *Zedoary*, *Virginia Snake-root*, *Wild Valerian* and *Saffron.*

The same physician proposed to burn with a hot Iron the *Tendo Achilles*, where it is attached to the *Os Calcis*, and to pierce quite through to the bone: He thinks likewise it would be proper to make a few superficial burnings on the back of the *Metatarsus*, which ought to be kept long open by caustics mixed with strong digestives: But he will not allow this harsh operation to be performed, till he has your approbation. I beg therefore, sir, you will be so good, as give me an answer to these queries.

1*st*, Is there no radical certain cure for this dismal disorder? or how at least are we to provide against or prevent it?

2*dly*, Does the proposed method of cure please you, or is there not a better?

3*dly*, What diet would you recommend, and what exercises?

4*thly*, Are not the principal hopes of cure from the Burnings? If so, where must it be performed, in

in one or more places at the ſame time, and which?

5thly, Will not an iron about the thickneſs of an hen's feather be ſufficient? how deep muſt it be puſhed?

6thly, Is there not danger of his halting afterwards, from the perforation of the *Tendo Achilles?*

7thly, Will rubbing the parts with flannel, and this often repeated for a conſiderable time, promote the cure?

The ANSWER.

I Have with great attention read over and conſidered the ſubject of the letter, and heartily compaſſionate the gentleman's unhappy fate. After the cloſeſt reflections on the caſe, I offer the following directions as the beſt I am capable to give.

1ſt, Let the patient bath his feet and legs in warm water for half an hour, every evening before he goes to bed; then after drying them, they muſt be well rubbed for a quarter of an hour with dry coarſe flannels, which have been warmed. He muſt then immediately apply to the ſoles of his feet and back of the *Metatarſus*, the plaiſters *A*. Theſe muſt be kept on night and day, nor ever laid aſide, but while he is a bathing.

2dly, The exerciſe of walking, not vehement, but continued a good time will be of great uſe in

in ſtrengthning the bones of the *Tarſus* and *Metatarſus:* In the morning and evening, it will be proper to make an extenſion of the *Tarſus* and *Metatarſus*, ſuch as is uſually done in reducing theſe parts when *luxated.*

3*dly*, Let him twice a month, three days before new and full-moon, take the purge *B.* This he muſt do at ſix a clock in the morning, when his ſtomach is empty, and let him drink it all at once.

THE ſame days at ſix a clock in the evening, he muſt take the draught *C.* Theſe days likewiſe, after bathing, and rubbing his legs, he muſt gently before a fire do them over with oil of ſpike, ſo as it may be forced into the pores of the skin and there remain: This muſt be repeated as often he perceives by the change in his foot, that the *Fit* is a coming.

4*thly*, THE other days of the month that he does not purge, let him drink in the morning faſting three ounces of the *infuſion D.*

AS to his diet, he may eat what is light, ſuch as are the different preparations from grains of all kinds, herbs and greens; fiſh and fleſh he ought to eat of ſparingly, and for drink uſe ſmall Beer: Let him always go to bed betimes, and rather indulge in ſleeping.—If after the tryal of all this for three months, he perceives any benefit, he

muſt

muſt then ſteadily continue the ſame courſe for a year longer; if he does not perceive any change for the better, then muſt he ſubmit to the operation, which is to be performed with a round ſtylet of iron, about a thumbs breadth in diameter. This muſt be applied red hot to the back part of the heel, and made to burn as deep, as is uſual in the marking of criminals. *(a)* The ſcar is brought away by dreſſing it with *Baſilicum*, and then the ſore muſt be kept open by mixing the red precipitate with *Baſilicum*, as often as it begins to heal. He may purſue his ſtudies with moderation. This is the ſum of my advice, which I pray God may bleſs.

H. B.

Leyden 17$\frac{3}{3}$37.

A.

Gumm. Ammon.
Bdellii,
Galban, ana unc. jſs.
Emplaſt. Oxycroc. unc. iij.
M. F. Emplaſtrum ad alutam extend.

(a) Boerhaave expreſſes himſelf here in ſomewhat a vague manner. Not only the ſkin, but the tendon itſelf was to be burned ſo as to deprive it of ſenſe.

B.

℞. *Cinnabar. nativ. Hungar.* gr. x.
Resin. Guajac. gr. v.
Rhei, drach. ss.
Scammon. gr. viij.
Stib. diaphoret. gr. xv.
Syrup. Cichor. cum Rheo drach. vj.
Diu accuratissimè trita simul misce
Cum Aq. Stillat. Cichor. unc. ij.
F. Haustus.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Rhoead.* unc. ij.
Syrup. Diacod. drach. vj.
Tinct. Opii gutt. viij.
M. F. Haustus.

D.

℞. *Rad. Caryophyllat.*
Pacon.
Valerian. Sylvest. ana scrup. ss.
Rutae rec. drach. ij.

These must be cut very small and infused in boiling water like Thé. *Every day there must be seven ounces fresh prepared.*

LETTER III.

A Young gentleman of Fortune and merit, who is now in his twenty eighth year, lately consulted me about the recovery of his health, after having the advice of some very eminent physicians. When

When I had carefully conſidered his caſe, the greatneſs and duration of the diſeaſe, I found myſelf unable to give him relief, ſo adviſed him to apply to you, who are every where ſo much eſteemed, and by his orders I now tranſmit you the following hiſtory; the greateſt part of it the patient communicated to me, to which I have ſubjoined a few obſervations of my own, as I had not time to make *many*.

HE injoyed a good ſtate of health, at the time his parents ſent him to *London* for education: There he often eat at night toaſted cheeſe and bread with his companions, as he was a great lover of it. In the end of harveſt, after eating one night very plentifully at ſupper, he was ſuddenly awaked from his firſt ſleep, and ſeized with ſuch a difficulty of reſpiration and an oppreſſion, that thoſe who were preſent thought he muſt have immediately expired. About an hour after the ſymptoms wore off, without the help of any medicines, or any ſenſible evacuation, and he ſeemed intirely free from every ſort of diſorder.

FROM that to his fifteenth year, he had many ſuch attacks, commonly about the end of ſummer, or beginning of harveſt, which all went off without any ſenſible evacuation. The laſt *Auguſt*, the diſeaſe returned much increaſed, and kept him for ten weeks together: The phyſicians preſcribed

Cathartic

Cathartic and *Pectoral* medicines. A plentiful expectoration which now first appeared gave him relief. But his strength being much impaired thro' the long continuance of his Illness, he left the town and went home, where by the benefit of a freer air, proper exercise, and the use of a few *pectoral* and *attenuating* medicines, not too hot, he reached the twenty second year of his age in a tolerable state of health. He had however now and then a return of the *Fit*, especially on catching cold, or the diminishing of the spitting.

WHAT happens before and during the *Paroxysm* is pretty constantly as follows, *viz.* Before it comes, he feels as if his belly was blown up, and during the *Fit* itself has the sense of a great constriction at the pit of the stomach, and at his heart; this is commonly attended with great pain in the forehead and the joints: His urine before the *Fit*, is redder than usual and in smaller quantity, nor does he remember that it ever came away pale; he then likewise goes seldom to stool. During the fit, besides the difficulty of breathing, and the constriction he feels at his stomach with a dry cough, he has almost always a *Fever*, which it is easy to perceive by the heat of his body and quick tho' unequal pulse: Sometimes likewise he is cold and trembles as in an *Ague*, and then he is always sure of having a very severe *Fit*. All these

symptoms

ſymptoms increaſe during the *Paroxyſm*, till at laſt he begins to cough up a tough viſcid *Phlegm* in great quantity and makes water plentifully, which has a ſediment of a brick colour: The greater theſe two evacuations are and attended by the foregoing ſymptoms, the greater alſo has the relief been which the patient injoyed.

THE *Paroxyſm* ends commonly in the Space of eight or ten days, and when ſhorteſt the *Phlegm* is obſerved not to be ſo thick or viſcid as at other times, but much of the conſiſtency of thin jelly of harts-horn.

THE intervals of the fits are ſo uncertain, that the gentleman can ſay nothing particular about them.

THIS is the hiſtory of the diſeaſe to his twenty ſecond year, at which time he became *Hypochondriac:* On the approach therefore of the *Fit*, he is ſubject to great lowneſs of ſpirits, which joined to the other circumſtances I have already mentioned, bears very hard on him. When the *Fit* is over, he is for the moſt part chearful, breaths eaſily and has a good appetite.

I hope, ſir, your goodneſs will excuſe what faults I may have committed, in deſcribing the caſe, and beg you'll favour me with your advice. I ſhall conclude with praying that God may long preſerve you, who are not only the great ornament

of

of your profeſſion, but a public bleſſing to mankind. This muſt be the wiſh of every good man, and is in particular that of

Sir, your moſt devoted, &c.

BOERHAAVE'S *Anſwer.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your moſt acceptable letter; and ſhall think my ſelf happy in the correſpondence of ſo able a phyſician, which I wiſh may be as agreeable and uſeful to you, as it will prove to me. Allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you for the favourable teſtimony, I hear you give of me. Tho' I know very well my own poor capacity, yet from regard to your commands which I ſhall always (if in my power) obey, and thoſe of your worthy patient, I ſhall offer you the beſt advice I am capable to give.

AFTER accurately conſidering the caſe, I am of opinion, that the diſorder is an *Aſthma* cauſed by convulſion: The part affected is the *Diaphragm*, and in that place particularly, where the gullet paſſes through and is expanded into the ſtomach. The nerves there are very numerous, and have been irritated by the cheeſe, which was

ſwelled

ſwelled from the action of the fire on it, and of which the gentleman eat immoderately. Hence enſued a *Cramp* in the *Diaphragm*, ſtopping the reciprocal dilatation and conſtriction of the breaſt, and at that inſtant of time threatning an immediate death: The danger of being ſuffocated, was deſtroyed by the weakneſs ariſing from the original diſeaſe, and which indeed muſt have been the next ſtage to death itſelf. This ſort of weakneſs relaxes the nerves and muſcles when over ſtretched, and the vital force then acting procures relief for a time. But ſuch a degenerate ſtate of any part can again eaſily be revived, and that by every ſlight cauſe, as this misfortunate gentleman, has but too much proved. Sudden convulſions return and attack thoſe whom they have once infeſted, and as every new acceſs hinders the free paſſage of the liquors through the organs deſtined for the formation of the *Chyle*, 'tis no wonder their action ſhould be perverted, and thence *Melancholy*, or the *Hypochondriac* diſeaſe, be produced from a collection of that matter the antients called *Atrabilaria:* As this laſt however is but an effect of

C the

(a) What is commonly called the *Blood*, is a collection of all the different juices or humours in the human body, and muſt conſequently be compoſed of very different parts or particles: If then from any cauſe, the more ſubtile and liquid particles are drawn off, there will remain only the groſſer and heavier.—

If

the firſt, if the original cauſe can be deſtroyed, it will be eaſily removed.

WHAT I would propoſe in the method of cure is firſt, that every morning before he eats, his belly, and breaſt be rubbed well over with rough flannel, warm and dry; this muſt be done for a quarter of an hour, and likewiſe be repeated an hour before he ſups, when his ſtomach is empty: I earneſtly recommend this article to be carefully minded, as it is of great ſervice in theſe diſorders.

2dly, LET him ride every day, half an hour before dinner, and as much about an hour and a half before ſupper.

3dly, IN the morning immediately after rubbing, let him ſwallow five of the pills *A*, which muſt be done five times, allowing ten minutes betwixt the doſes and drinking after each, one ounce of the liquor *B*. He need not confine himſelf within doors, while he takes his *Phyſic*, but may take a gentle walk abroad.

4thly, HE muſt go to bed betimes, always by ten a clock and riſe early. He may eat his breakfaſt an hour after the rubbing is over, and then mind what buſineſs he has, till the time that he rides.

If this be carried to a conſiderable heigth, the blood will then change or degenerate into a black, thick, viſcid maſs, which is the ſtate here mentioned.

5thly,

5thly, FOR his eating I recommend what is dry, if it be of an easy digestion and taken in moderation; particularly, all ripe summer fruits, which if the season is warm and drouthy, he may eat with a little biscuit. Likewise roast flesh, river and sea fish dressed on the coals, greens of all kinds that are light, especially those of the *Succory* and *Lattice* tribe. When all this has been carefully practised for the space of two months, it may be proper to think of the use of chalybeate waters in the summer, which with proper exercise of body, and an easy state of mind will probably give a complete cure.

A.

℞. *Sapon Venet.* drach. iij.
Balsam. Peruv. drach. ss.
Trochisc. de Myrrh. drach. jss.
M. F. Pilulae. gr. IV.

B.

℞. *Rec. Acetosae pratens.*
Bellid. pratens.
Chaerophyll.
Cochlear.
Heder. terrestr.
Nasturt. aquatic.
Taraxaci ana q. s.

These must be well washed, cut and beat.—Then put them in a press and extract the juice, of which there must be vj *ounces fresh prepared every morning at* 6 *a clock.*

LETTER IV.

THE diſorder for which the lady begs your aſſiſtance, is a *Species* of *Leproſy*, for her ſkin is in many places covered with ſcurfy ſcabs and ſcales: They are to be found over the whole body, but are chiefly on the joints and head, and when they are ſcratched emit a white *Ichor*.

SHE was firſt attacked by it about the eighth year of her age, and it rather increaſed to the twenty ſecond, at which time ſhe conſulted me. I ordered her the milder *Antiſcorbutics*, with ſeveral things to blunt the acrimony of the ſalts and ſweeten her blood, liniments, waſhings, *&c.* But as this method did not ſucceed, ſhe underwent a ſalivation, from the uſe of calomel and a mercurial unction, and then the ſcabs fell off: For a month afterwards ſhe tryed a decoction of the woods, a decoction of the bark of elm which is much recommended by Dr. *Deventer*, viper medicines, teſtaceous powders and ſuch like,—but all to no purpoſe; for in the winter the diſeaſe returned. Next ſpring by taking ſome mercurial doſes ſhe had a gentle *Ptyalyſmus* and then recovered, when I ſent her to *Scarborough* to drink the waters on the

ſpot

ſpot, and bath in the ſea—but alaſs, as the winter came on, the ſcabs appeared again, and covered all her body.

As the diſeaſe proved ſo obſtinate, I thought a milk diet abſolutely neceſſary, and alſo adviſed her to go to Bath, and there under the care of Doctor *C*——— both drink the waters and uſe the Bath: She ſtayed there ſome months, and then returned home, in all appearance well and ſound. But the reſpite ſhe injoyed was very ſhort; for ſix months after the old diſorder returned and bids defiance, I am afraid, to the power of medicine.

HER mother was a native of the iſle of *Barbadoes*, and ſhe herſelf is now twenty ſix years old; The *Menſes* often ſtop, and when they do come, it is in ſmall quantity and attended with pain: She is often ſubject to the *Fluor Albus*, and has wandering pains through all the body, particularly in her head: She is reſtleſs in the night time, and has ſudden heats without any apparent cauſe, which likewiſe go as quickly off: She cannot bear the ſmalleſt degree of cold without uneaſineſs: Her complexion formerly clear and lively, is ſometimes pale, and at other times yellow: Her fleſh falls gently away. None can be more temperate, than ſhe is in every reſpect; ſhe intirely confines herſelf to a milk and vegetable diet, never taſting any fleſh: Rides abroad in fair weather. As her

ſtomach is often filled with *Phlegm*, ſhe takes vomits, and then uſes corroborating medicines. Thus you have, ſir, a deſcription of the preſent ſtate of this obſtinate diſeaſe, which has hitherto baffled the ſkill of our phyſicians.

BOERHAAVE'S *Anſwer.*

AFTER ſo many and proper medicines have proved ineffectual, I would now adviſe the lady to have all the parts where the diſeaſe appears, well rubbed over every morning and night with coarſe flannel, and that for a conſiderable time, and as ſtrongly as ſhe can indure it. The flannel muſt firſt be held over the ſmoak of burning brimſtone, that ſo it may be full of the fumes at the time it is uſed. And they muſt take different cloths, that ſo when one is uſing, the others may be kept above the fumes, and by that means the ſteam of the ſulphur ſtrongly forced into the pores of the ſkin by the friction: Her ſhifts likewiſe, ſtockings, head-dreſs, muſt be all ſmoaked in the ſame manner, before ſhe puts them on. While theſe *topical* applications are made, there muſt likewiſe be obſerved all the time a ſtrict regimen and proper courſe of phyſic, and great care muſt be taken, leſt the matter which is forced into the

ſkin,

ſkin, ſhould get into, and remain in the blood: This is beſt done if the patient would take the *Hydragoge A*, when her ſtomach is empty, twice a month, three days before new and full moon. The ſame days let her take at once the draught *B*, at ſix a clock in the evening. The other days of the month that ſhe does not purge, let her every day take thrice, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, each time five ounces of the decoction *C*. In the mean time exerciſe is extremely proper.—She muſt abſtain from all ſalted or ſmoaked fleſh, from every thing that is ſharp, from all fat meat, particularly bacon, *&c.*

A.

℞. *Æthiop. miner.* gr. IX.
Reſin. Jalapp. gr. IV.
Sacchar. albi gr. iij.
Scammon. gr. V.
Stib. diaphoret. gr. XIV.
M. F. Pulvis tenuiſſimus.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Meliſſae.* unc. ij.
Spir. vitae Matthioli dr. ij.
Syrup. Diacod. dr. VI.
Tinct. Succin. gutt. IX.
M.

C.

℞. *Rad. rec. Bardani* unc: iv:
Graminis unc. iij.
Eryngii unc: ij.
Lapath. acut. drach. ij.
Recentiſs. Scabioſae. m. j.

Make a decoction of theſe with a ſufficient quantity of fountain water, of which iv *pints are to be uſed.*

LETTER V.

THE lady who begs your advice had the misfortune of a bruiſe in the right *Labium Vulvae*, which ſwelled and inflamed; it afterwards ſuppurated and was opened, when it diſcharged a great quantity of *pus*: As the inciſion had been made too ſmall, it turned to a *fiſtulous ulcer*. The ſurgeon who attended her, betaking himſelf to the cauſtic conſumed almoſt the whole of the part, and ſo cured it. In the mean time her ladyſhip proved with child, and was brought to bed in the due time; but immediately after the birth, the *labrum ſiniſtrum pudendi* ſwelled, and that attended with moſt exquiſite pain, which obliged her to lie on her back for the three following days, with the right leg bended backwards. This tumour at laſt was diſſipated by proper fomentations, which her ladyſhip owed to the rough treatment of her midwife,

midwife. After this birth likewiſe ſhe felt a pain in her thigh, as if it was pricked with pins in ſeveral places at once: This was overcome however by uſing the ointment of *Marſh-mallows*, and that of *Amber*, but then the leg was affected with a kind of *numbneſs*, and now and then with fits of heat and cold, as is uſually felt in dipping in cold water: There remained ſtill a weakneſs in the thigh. Beſides all this, ſhe had likewiſe a very copious flux of a putrid matter from the *Uterus*, which ceaſed after ſeven weeks from uſing of *Aſa Fœtida*, and with it all the other ſymptoms diſappeared, except the forementioned pain in the leg.

HER ladyſhip was brought to bed next time of twins; it was remarkable that before the birth, ſhe always felt their weight in the right ſide of the *Abdomen*, whence that part was raiſed, and then followed an increaſe of the pain in the right thigh and leg.

SHE proved with child the third time and had a happy delivery, but was ſeized about ſix weeks after with a copious flux of whitiſh matter from the *Uterus*, and an *ardor urinae*, which did not leave her till next conception; this time ſhe did not long keep her burthen, but aborted in the third month: This was attended with a ſurpriſing flux of the *Lochia*, which were pale and watry, and then ſucceeded another of white thick matter, which

ſometimes

ſometimes came away without pain; at other times it was ſharp and fetid, occaſioning a heat of urine, and excoriating the parts: Theſe two laſt ſymptoms ſhe always had betwixt the return of the *Menſes*, at the appearance of which the flux, heat of urine, and the ſtiffneſs in the loins, the right thigh and leg wore off. But as ſoon as the *Menſtrua* ſtop, then returns the flux from the *Uterus*, which at firſt is whitiſh, then turns a yellow, thin, watry matter with ſlime in it: When it begins firſt, it is mild and has no ſmell, but turning afterwards of a blackiſh colour, it becomes ſharp and excoriates. She is ſubject likewiſe to great weakneſs, particularly in the loins and ſmall of the back, and feels a great ſtiffneſs moſtly in the right ſide, all down from where about the liver is, along the right thigh and leg to the ancle. Her colour is become pale, and the veins on the right ſide appear more turgid and ſwell'd than thoſe of the left. She finds relief from all thoſe ſymptoms, when there is either a copious flux from the *Uterus*, or the urine is very turbid and full of ſediment, and is freed from them intirely during the time of her *Menſes*; but when theſe are over, all the old complaints return.

To conclude, the lady grows daily worſe, her body decaying and fleſh turning looſe; is oppreſſed with melancholy and loſs of appetite, ſubject

to

to cold ſweats and a kind of trembling. She has taken many medicines by the advice of her phyſicians, ſince the month of *Auguſt* laſt year, which was the time the forementioned ſymptoms firſt attacked her; but none of them have done her any ſervice. We now earneſtly beg of you, ſir, who has juſtly gained ſo great a character, to ſend us your opinion about this diſorder, and if poſſible, preſerve this moſt worthy lady, who is an honour to her country, dear to all her relations, and a public bleſſing to the poor.

P. S. WE ought to remark, that the patient feels no uneaſineſs in the left ſide, but that the *fomes* of the diſeaſe lies intirely on the right, where ſhe feels a heat about the kidneys, and finds as if ſomething round was moving from the lower part of her belly towards the liver. The *Menſes* are much in the ſame regular way, as when ſhe injoyed her health, and always bring her relief from the forementioned ſymptoms.

The ANSWER.

THE many bad ſymptoms, which attend this complicate diſorder, ſignify, I am afraid, an ulcerous, or ſchirrous tumor in the right ſide of the *Uterus*, that furniſhes conſtantly a ſanious matter,

ter, which comes away in the time of the *Menſes*; when the womb is afterwards cloſed, the ſame muſt be there collected, and cauſe many bad conſequences, but being again drawn off by the menſtrual flux, the patient finds relief for a time. The bad effects of this turning to a virulent *Cancer*, are much to be feared, and perhaps a putrid death may happen firſt from a conſumption of the juices. *(a)*

As the diſtemper is now of long ſtanding, and has taken deep root, and has likewiſe baffled the many remedies uſed againſt it, deſtroying the natural ſtrength, and in a manner conſuming the patient; I do not ſee any great hopes of relief from all I can adviſe about it, who am abſent and at a diſtance. However, to obey your commands, I ſhall recommend the following articles.

1. Let the lady drink when ſhe awakes at ſix a clock of the morning, three ounces of the *Spa* water from the fountain *Pouhont*, and this mixed with as much milk, freſh from the cow. Let her do the ſame at eight, ten and twelve a clock. I

(a) When matter flowing from an ulcer or ſore in a particular part of the body cannot be diſcharged, it muſt then mix with the other juices, and ſo enter the blood; which hence becomes acrid, corroſive and corrupted. It is then unfit for circulating, and deſtroys the ſmall fine parts where it comes, ſo occaſions that ſort of death here called *putrid*.

ſuppoſe

ſuppoſe ſhe may riſe about nine, and let her take a gentle airing in a chariot till twelve.

2. LET her dine at one a clock, chiefly on ripe ſummer fruits and bread; ſhe may eat greens dreſſed any how, all kind of cakes and cuſtards, and freſh meat roaſted, and river fiſh broiled. She may likewiſe drink now and then a glaſs of old *Hock*.

3. AFTER dinner ſhe may again take the country air in her chariot. She may drink at ſix a clock of the evening her water and milk, as ſhe did in the morning, and do the ſame again at eight a clock. Let her eat a light ſupper at nine a clock, of what I have before recommended.

4. THIS method I would recommend to be followed during this ſummer ſeaſon, which ought to be continued and carefully obſerved, at leaſt for ſix weeks, with a total forbearance from all kind of *Phyſic*: my deſign in all this, is to ſweeten the juices, by freeing them of what is ſharp and corrupted, to endeavour to ſoften and cleanſe the part affected, ſo if poſſible heal it up; this method will likewiſe in the mean time refreſh and ſtrengthen the patient.

5. THAT this may prove the more effectual, it will be proper every morning before ſhe riſes, to have her belly well rubbed over near the part affected,

affected, with dry, warm coarſe flannel, and that for an half hour together. This ought likewiſe to be done at night before ſhe falls aſleep.—In all theſe things here propoſed, I moſt willingly ſubmit to the opinion of better judges. *(a)*.

H. B.

Leyden, 17$\frac{22}{6}$34.

LETTER VI.

A STRONG young gentleman of twenty years of age, has complained for twelve months paſt of a *Vertigo* *, head-ach and oppreſſion † at his breaſt; theſe ſymptoms kept no certain periods, and when they attack'd him, laſted commonly three or four minutes. During this time he had twice a fit of an *Epilepſy*, of which the firſt was in the

(a) Nothing can be a greater proof of the ſtreſs *Boerhaave* laid on the right obſervation of the *Nonnaturals*, than this letter is. Where other phyſicians would have ordered a multitude of medicines, to be uſed *externally* and *internally*, he preſcribes a total abſtinence from all *Phyſic*. Nor is his modeſty in delivering his opinion leſs remarkable. This was carried in him to an *exceſs*, and is a quality peculiar to all truly great men.

* A *Vertigo* is properly, when objects without us appear to turn round, attended with a dimneſs of ſight, and ſometimes an aptneſs to fall.

† *Anxietas*.

month

month of *February* laſt year: The ſecond in *January* this preſent year. In the laſt *Paroxyſm* he did not looſe his ſenſes altogether, but fell down on his face moving his hand to his head; his right arm and head ſhaked.— When he was aſked, he complained of a head-ach, and oppreſſion at his breaſt, pointing with his hand to thoſe parts. Theſe ſymptoms did not intirely go off, till he was plentifully blooded.

A melancholy accident fell out in the mean time; for a young gentleman his friend, who from his regard attended him during this illneſs, died in his arms delirious.— This threw him into raving madneſs, which however, was ſoon and perfectly cured by the care of the ingenious Dr. *C*—. His parents however deſired me to make particular mention of this circumſtance.

The ANSWER.

I WAS grieved when I read the deſcription of the diſorder: For it appears to be a true *Epilepſy*. There is no one circumſtance in it worſe, than the great diſtance betwixt the fits; for the longer time there is betwixt them, this diſeaſe has always been reckoned more difficult of cure, nor

can

can we eaſily judge of the effects of medicines, when the patient is attacked only once in the year.

I WOULD adviſe the gentleman to take the purge *A*, once a month, three days before full moon, at five a clock in the morning, mixed with rain water: That day he muſt keep at home, and eat very little dinner, nor taſte any thing that is acid, before five in the evening. The other days, he muſt drink three hours in the morning before breakfaſt, two ounces of Water in which freſh *Rue* has been infuſed, as *Thè*. Let him at five in the evening drink again one ounce more of it.

HE muſt at leaſt ſix times in the month, bath his feet and legs in warm water; this will be beſt done in the evening before he ſups, for three days ſucceſſively before full moon, and as many before new-moon. When this is over, he muſt rub his legs ſtrongly with warm, dry, rough cloths, ſo as to promote perſpiration, and draw the humours downwards from the head.

AT the ſame time he minds theſe rules, he muſt likewiſe uſe conſtant and pretty violent exerciſe of body, to ſtrengthen the nerves and brain, and preſerve the animal ſpirits in a lively ſtate.— I hope for every thing that's good from the obſervance

ſervance of theſe preſcriptions, which I heartily pray God may bleſs.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Cinnabar, Nativ. Hungar.* gr. x.
Lapid. Haematit. gr. vi.
Reſin. Jalapp. gr. iv.
Rad. Rhei elect. pulv. gr. vij.
Scammon. gr. viij.
Stib. Diaphoret. gr. vij.

Mix all theſe together, and in a glaſs-mortar beat them into a fine powder.

LETTER VII.

THAT I may the better deſcribe the gentleman's caſe, who now applies for your aſſiſtance, it will be proper to give a ſhort hiſtory of his by paſt manner of life.

HIS father was much troubled with the gout and ſcurvy, and he himſelf had the laſt to a violent degree when very young; it covered all his body with blotches and ſpots, eſpecially his face; thoſe appeared and diſappeared as he was in a good, or bad ſtate of health. *(a)*

(a) It was more agreeable to the nature of a ſimple *deſcription* (which all hiſtories of caſes ſhould be) to have inverted this laſt part by ſaying, *that as* thoſe appeared or diſappeared, *the patient* was in a good, *&c.*

At the age of nineteen he went to *Leyden*, where he was ſeized with a *Flux*, which under your care was ſoon cured. From *Leyden* he went to the army of the allies which was then in *Flanders*, and at war with the *French*, where he ſerved in one of the regiments of the *Scotch Hollanders*. From this time he led intirely a ſoldiers life, undergoing all manner of fatigue, watching, faſting and lying expoſed to the injuries and inclemencies of the weather, as much as any common centinel in the troops. He then uſed to eat that ſort of *Dutch* cheeſe called *Cummin-cheeſe*, and often made a meal of it, which brought on him ſuch a loſs of appetite, that he has never been able to recover it by the many medicines he has ſince taken.

In the year 1709, being now in his 25th year he returned home, and ſoon after had a commiſſion from his *Chief* for ſuppreſſing the thieves and rogues who then infeſted the north-highlands: this office often obliged him to travel over their hills which are covered with ſnow, to make long journies and lye in the night time expoſed to the open air, having no other covering beſides a *Highland Plaid*, which is the common dreſs of the inhabitants. As the weather was extremely cold, he drank often pretty plentifully of *Aqua Vitæ* by way of preſervative.

In

IN this manner he lived for ſeveral years, and from it the *Scurvy* grew worſe and became inveterate; he had likewiſe attacks of the *Gout* for theſe laſt ten years, which came for the firſt five years *regularly* in the *Spring* and *Autumn*, and always fixed on his left foot, but after the acceſſion of a very bad flux (of which I ſhall write more preſently) the pains were never confined to the feet, but wandered through his whole body, ſometimes attacking the *Stomach*, at other times the *Gutts* and left ſide of the belly; but the more they bore downwards, the greater relief the patient received.

HE drank *Goats Milk*, by the advice of his friends, by way of cure or palliative for the *Scurvy* and *Gout*; this is the general cuſtom in thoſe parts, and he has continued in it for theſe five laſt years, which that he might drink in its greateſt perfection, he went and lived in a village hard by the hills where the *Goats* feed, at ſome miles diſtance from his own houſe. There one day viſiting a neighbouring gentleman, he drank pretty plentifully of ſtrong *ale*, and was next night ſeized with a violent *Flux*, which has continued ever ſince: what he chiefly complains of with regard to it, is as follows.—He feels very uneaſy twitchings in his ſtomach and belly; theſe are pretty frequent, and his *Stomach* and left *Hy-*

pochondre are become tenſe and blown up, ſo as not to bear the preſſure of the hand without pain. He is much troubled with wind and belchings, with gripings in the guts, frequent ſtools, a *Nauſea*, head-ach and *Vertigo:* All theſe ſymptoms are heightned or diminiſhed by the frequent or rarer returns of the *Diarrhœa.* He is now in ſhort become lean and dry, though he was formerly of a very hale and plump conſtitution of body.

THE gentleman has for a long time abſtained from all kind of fleſh, unleſs fowl; and lives moſtly on a milk diet, drinking only a glaſs or two of white liſbon, or claret at meals, and ſeldom or never any Malt-liquor.

ALL *Emetics* have for ſome years by paſt purged him, and done him very little ſervice. The beſt ſort of *Rhubarb* has done him more good than any other medicine as yet tryed; but no method we could fall on has been able to remove the *Diarrhœa.* Your advice, ſir, in this difficult caſe is moſt earneſtly intreated by, *&c.*

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THIS diſorder which ariſes from ſo many different cauſes, attacking ſeveral parts at once, and producing very different effects, appears

pears to be extremely *complicate*, inveterate and difficult to be removed.

THE ſharp matter which cauſes the *Gout*, having been forced inwards by the many violent colds the gentleman indured, made its way along with his other diſeaſe the *Scurvy* to the *Inteſtines*, where weakning and deſtroying the veſſels it goes off, and ſo produces and keeps up an obſtinate *Flux*. *(a)*

THERE muſt be great caution and prudence uſed in attempting the cure, leſt this *excretion* being ſuddenly ſtopped, produce worſe Effects elſewhere: wherefore it will be neceſſary to ſubſtitute an evacuation through the pores of the ſkin, in its place.—I adviſe the careful obſervance of the following articles.

Firſt, let the patient every morning expoſe his body to the ſteams of freſh water contained in a large veſſel, and ſo hot that the vapour may plentifully aſcend: his naked body may be covered

(a) As a *Sagacity* in diſcovering the cauſes of a diſeaſe, is what properly conſtitutes the phyſician, ſo a plain and conciſe expreſſion ſerves to convey his conceptions to others. This *Boerhaave* was a great maſter of, and his ſhort deſcription of this moſt *complex caſe* is one inſtance of it, where in thoſe few lines he ſays as much as moſt others could have explained in as many pages: But no tranſlation can here come up to the elegance of the original.

with

with a cloak, reaching to his heels and lined with a wax cloth, which will keep in the vapour on all ſides, and direct it towards his ſkin. The vapours are kept warm by frequently pouring in more hot water. This muſt be done in a very cloſe room for about a quarter of an hour, and then his body muſt be well dryed with warm cloths, and when dryed let it be well rubbed over: he ſhould then immediately put on his cloaths, which muſt likewiſe be dry and well warmed.

Secondly, let him uſe the exerciſe of riding, and that long and frequently; this before dinner and ſupper as much as he can endure, but always when his ſtomach is moſt empty. The obſervance of this is what gives the greateſt hopes of curing the weakneſs of the inteſtines.

Thirdly, for bread let him eat biſcuit, and toaſt it if he likes it; rice well boiled and turned to a kind of cake, and barly gently boiled are proper for him; he may likewiſe drink of the milk in which the rice was boiled; freſh fleſh likewiſe roaſted, and river fiſh dreſſed on the coals will do him no harm. He ought to drink but little, and that of ſome generous and ſtrong liquor, of which *Brunſwic Mum* is the beſt; when he is thirſty he may drink milk and water.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Let him take every three hours of the day two of the *Pills A*, drinking after them one *ounce* of the liquor *B*.

Fifthly, Let him go to bed at nine and ſleep till ſix of the clock next morning: damp, moiſt air is not good for him, but he ought to walk abroad in fair and dry weather.

FROM the careful obſervance of all this for the ſpace of ſix weeks, I expect and wiſh for a change much to the better.

A.

℞. *Bulbi Ari recentis* drach. jſs.
Benzoin. gr. xv.
Croci gr. xij.
Maſtich.
Olibani ana drach. jſs.
Ol. Stillat. Cinnamon. gut. viij.
Rhei drach. j,
Succi Catechu drach. ijſs.
Terebinth. gr. xv.
M. S. A. F. Pilulae gr. iij. ſing.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Menth.* lb. j.
Sp. Menthae unc. j.
Tinct. Succin. drach. j.
M.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

A YOUNG merchant twenty three years old, a very ſober gentleman, not addicted to drinking or any other vice, fell ſuddenly into a ſpitting of blood in the month of *March* laſt year, without any external cauſe, and continued three days ſucceſſively throwing up pure red blood by means of a gentle cough. For ſometime after the ſpitting returned four times a day, and then it was diminiſhed in quantity for the two following days, being mixed with *Phlegm*, till at laſt all appearance of blood in it quite ceaſed, and there remained only a dry cough: he thought himſelf then in a fair way of recovery, as did all his friends, for his appetite was good, and he eated all kind of meat in his uſual manner, not in the leaſt complaining of indigeſtion. Yet ſome time after, he became lean and his fleſh fell away, which his parents and friends could not ſo ſoon be ſenſible of, as he was always of a thin habit of body, and continued to mind his buſineſs with his uſual alacrity. In the beginning of ſummer, he tryed a milk diet for ſome months, drinking goats milk and whey made from it, but without any benefit; in this ſtate he continued till the month

of

of *October*, at which time he was ſeized with a cough, which was rather wet than dry, which he and his acquaintance imagined he had contracted from a *Cold* that was then epidemical, but contrary to all expectation it has remained with him till now, and he throws up a tough viſcid *Phlegm* of a green colour, the cough being likewiſe more frequent and violent: about the tenth of this preſent *January*, he fell into moſt profuſe night ſweatings, attended with a great decay of his natural ſtrength and loſs of appetite.

DURING the whole courſe of the diſeaſe, he never complained of any pains in the breaſt or ſides. His ſtools are every way as uſual in health, and his urine is pale.

THUS, ſir, I have given you a deſcription of this worthy gentleman's caſe, as I had it from himſelf and friends. They wait with impatience for your advice, which will likewiſe oblige,

Sir, your moſt
devoted ſervant, &c.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER carefully conſidering the caſe, I am of opinion that the patient labours under a real conſumption, from a ſuppuration in the *Lungs* after

after the ſpitting of blood: the progreſs the diſorder has already made, which is evident from the waſting of his ſtrength, ſweatings in the night, and decay of his fleſh, denotes a very bad ſtate. The fears of the preſent and future misfortunes are ſtill the greater, that ſo good remedies as were hitherto tryed have proved ineffectual, and the diſeaſe gained ground notwithſtanding the beſt advice.

THE beſt method I can propoſe, is, that the gentleman ſhould ride as much as he can every day when his ſtomach is empty, and indeavour to increaſe his journeys by degrees; that he ſhould go to bed at eight of the clock, and ſleep in a bed well dryed in a room on one of the high floors; that he ſhould riſe betimes in the morning; his ordinary drink ſhould be freſh *Mead*, mixed with qual quantity of milk; he may eat all kinds of grains prepared any how, ſoft herbs and greens, milk, river crabs, ſhelfiſh, and now and then be allowed a little freſh fleſh. He ought to eat very ſparingly at a time, and make the more meals.

LET him take every three hours in the day three of the *pills A*, drinking immediately after them three ounces of the liquor *B*. Let him likewiſe before he goes to bed, take off at once the draught *C*.

HE

HE may make a tryal of what I here propose for two months, to see if it will do any service. I pray God may bless it.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ss.
Balsam. Peruv. gutt. xv.
Mastich.
Olibani
Opopanac. ana drach. ss.
Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat. drach. iij.
Terebinthinae drach. ss.
M. F. Pilulae. gr. iij.

B.

℞. Recent. *Agrimon.*
Betonic.
Foenic.
Hyssopi
Melissae
Veronic.
Virg. Aur. ana Man. $\frac{1}{4}$.

These must be cut very small and infused in boiling water like The: *let there be prepared* XVI *ounces every day.*

C.

℞. *Balsam. Peruv.* gutt. iij.
Ol. Amygdal. dulc. drach. iij.
Syrup. Diacod. drach. v.
Vitelli ovi gr. xv.
M. F. Haustulus.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

A WORTHY lady about forty five years of age, of a thin habit of body, has complained for theſe two laſt years of a weakneſs in her joints; none injoyed better health than ſhe did formerly, unleſs that her ſtrength was impaired from frequent child bearing, for ſhe has born fifteen children, and thrice miſcarried. She feels the weakneſs moſtly in her left ſide, and there is now a conſtant ſwelling in both her arms and hands, ſuch as old people are often ſubject to. She ſometimes feels a pain, though very gentle in her arms and ſhoulders. She never had the ſmalleſt complaint with relation to her head, her breaſt or appetite. Her pulſe is regular, and proportioned to her ſtrength, and ſhe has long and ſound ſleeps. Her ſpirits are low, and when ſhe walks ſhe ſtaggers and is apt to fall.——— There is hardly any other ſymptom needful to be related; for from what I have already wrote, the nature of this diſorder will be ſufficiently underſtood by moſt phyſicians, and more particularly by you, who are ſo eminent in your profeſſion. But as our aſſiſtance has hitherto proved fruitleſs, we have recourſe

courſe to you, begging your advice. She drank the *Bath-waters* warm, which are a *chalybeat* mixed with *ſulphur*, and that for ſix Week together. She has likewiſe tried for a long time *Caſtor*, *Aſa Foetida*, *wild Valerian Root*, *Mart. Tincture* with the *Spa* water, but all to no purpoſe. The *Menſes* return every fifth week ſo copious, that ſhe is ſometimes obliged to take aſtringents.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

IN bodies which have ſo often been full and diſtended by pregnancy, and then emptied by births and miſcarriages, the veſſels become at laſt weak, lax and eaſily moved; from this cauſe proceed *varices*, *(a)* particularly in the womb, and many ſurpriſing changes in the different humours. As the *Nervous* ſyſtem is alſo much weakened and changed, it produces *tremors*, and involuntary motions, with a copious diſcharge of blood from the *Uterus*, and all the other ſymptoms which I obſerve you have ſo carefully remark'd.

(a) WHEN the coats of a *vein* are from any cauſe overſtretched, they become flaccid, and yielding to the blood in that particular part bulge out, and raiſe the ſkin: This ſwelling is called *Varix*. The ſame happening in an *Artery* is termed *Aneuriſm*.

IT

It is but too plain that the diſeaſe has taken deep root, ſince the lady has not been relieved by the good advice, and the many excellent remedies ſhe has hitherto uſed. As I am a ſtranger and have no greater helps at command, I muſt find it very difficult to preſcribe more proper remedies: I approve much of what has been tried, and think it ought to be continued, as the cure in theſe caſes requires long time. What I ſhould think would do moſt ſervice, is a gentle conſtriction of the body by proper bandages and napkins, that ſo the veſſels may be lightly preſſed, and by the means of that preſſure the liquors condenſed. This remedy performs what we could not eaſily believe, nor obtain from other aſſiſtances, but always on this condition that it be uſed at firſt gently, and afterwards gradually and prudently increaſed. It will likewiſe be extremely proper to rub over all the back and belly pretty ſtrongly with rough, dry, warm flannel; for I do not know a more powerful remedy againſt *tremors* which proceed from ſuch a cauſe. A dry diet on roaſt beef and biſcuit, with high ſeaſoning of muſtard, wild radiſh and nutmeg will beſt agree with her, and to drink but little: To this we may join *Brunſwic Mum*, of which ſhe may drink before ſhe goes to bed. As for medicines theſe are the beſt which ſtrengthen, and at the ſame time do not by their

acrimony

acrimony too roughly move the humours. The pills *A*, taken three times a day will ſuffice, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, always drinking after them one ounce of the medicinal wine *B*, This courſe muſt be kept to for ſix weeks, and gives us good hopes of a change much to the better.

A.

℞. *Catechu puriſſ.* drach. ij.
Lapid. Haematit. drach. ſs.
Maſtich. drach. j.
Oliban.
Sarcocoll. ana drach. jſs.
Rad. Rhei pulv. drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. iij.
M. F. Pil gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Cortic. Capparid.*
Cinnam.
Tamariſc. ana unc. ij.
Ligni Santali citrin. drach. vj.
Limaturae Mart. rec. non rubigin. dra. xij.
Nucis Myriſticae drach. ij.
Rad. Biſtort.
Tormentillæ unc. iij.
Semin. contus. Plantagin. unc. iij.

Make all theſe into a groſs powder, and with a ſufficient quantity of Rheniſh *wine, let there be prepared S. A. a medicinal wine.*

LET-

LETTER X.

SIR,

WE now apply for your advice, as we are perſuaded that *you* (if any one) can give us relief: The patient's caſe is as follows.——— He has no ſort of feeling unleſs that of cold, from his feet up towards the pit of the ſtomach; the middle of his legs and ridge of his back are particularly ſtupified, as is lately alſo his breaſt and neck. He complains of a conſtant conſtriction, which like a rope binds all the region that lies betwixt the navel and ſtomach about four inches on each ſide, ſqueezing the ribs and then mounting higher produces nauſea's and vomitings. 'Tis now about twelve years ſince a pricking and itching ſeized the ſole of his left foot attended with heat, and next morning the whole leg and ſole of his right foot were affected in the ſame manner: About fourteen days after, he loſt all manner of feeling in theſe parts, which could not be recovered by the exerciſe of walking, friction, or ſweating. This *Numbneſs* gradually aſcended, and after he was let blood ſpred over all the belly. He went then to *Bath* where he received great benefit from the hot bath, and often as he was

waſhing

waſhing the ſenſe of feeling returned as low as his knees, but went quickly off. For ſome years afterwards he again tryed the warm bath, but to no purpoſe: he then uſed the cold bath, and walked after it till he ſweated, but with equal ſucceſs. By the advice of a Quack he took a certain purging medicine every ninth day, beſides a *ſudorific* he uſed daily; the effect of theſe was, that in a moments time all the vital heat ſeemed to leave his body, nor had he any feeling left but in one place of his belly. He then let blood twice a year, and had many different ointments applied to the ſpine of his back. The only remedy that ſeemed to do him ſervice was riding, which he too much neglected: he has likewiſe ſometimes a looſe belly, which always agrees with him, as does alſo warm weather. 'Tis now nine years ago, that he firſt was ſeized with the oppreſſion at the ſtomach which has ſince increaſed, and that ſame year, he complained of the uneaſy ſenſation of cold along his back. He is a baker by trade, and now about fifty five years old; he himſelf imagines that he contracted this diſorder from the many heats and ſweats his imployment expoſed him to. He is of a ſanguine pale complexion, and always loſes his breath on uſing motion. His hairs are black and thin; he uſes a moderate light diet. His ſpirits are pretty good, and he goes ſeldom

to ſtool. I beg the favour of your advice and preſcriptions in this caſe, which will be moſt acceptable to me, who can never forget the many obligations I am under to you.

I am, ſir, &c, &c.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER carefully conſidering the caſe, I am of opinion that the cauſe of the diſorder is ſeated in the nerves, and that principally proceeding from their being too ſlightly affected which impedes the ſenſe of feeling. It will be exceeding proper to cauſe the patients back be well rubbed from the neck to the *os ſacrum* with rough, dry, warm cloths; this muſt be done every morning as ſoon as he riſes, and that for a good time and pretty vehemently: then muſt be applied over all the part a leather girdle three inches broad, on which the plaiſter *A*, has firſt been ſpread. This muſt be worn night and day, nor ever laid aſide but during the time of rubbing, and then immediately be put on again. He muſt uſe a great deal of exerciſe, and let him thrice a day when his ſtomach is empty, take five of the pills *B*, with one ounce of the liquor *C*. All I have recom-

recommended muſt be carefully performed for the ſpace of ſix weeks, in hopes of a cure, which I pray God may grant.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Emplaſt. Melilot.*
Galban pur. ana unc. j.
Olei Caſtorei unc. ſs.
M. pro Emplaſtro.

B.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. j.
Aſæ fœtid. drach. ſs.
Balſam. Capayb. gr. xv.
Bulbi Ari vec. drach. jſs.
Caſtorei
Croci, ana gr. xv.
Myrrhæ, drach. ij.
Terebinth. gr. xij.
M. F. Pil. ſing. gr. iij.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat: Lavendul.*
Roſmarin.
Rutæ,
Salviæ, ana unc. iv.
Spir. Sal. Ammon. dr. ij.
Tinct. Succini drach. j.
M.

LETTER XI.

A GENTLEMAN fifty years old, who always lived in a hurry of buſineſs, and eat and drank very heartily, uſing at the ſame time a good deal of exerciſe, was ſeized ſome few years ago with a ſcorbutic humour, which firſt attacked his gums, and afterwards he complained of a ſwelling of his ſtomach after eating, and painful motions in his guts: he had formerly injoyed a very good ſtate of health, and imagined his ſtomach and guts to be affected in that manner, from his ſlow digeſtion. When theſe ſymptoms firſt attacked him, he had two iſſues cut near his ſhoulders, which have been kept running ever ſince, and brought him ſome relief. For ſome months bygone he has been troubled with the *Haemorrhoids* to a great degree, which return by very ſhort fits; they bleed but little, nor is there any conſiderable ſwelling externally: the ſurgeon who examined the part does not think there is any danger of a fiſtula. The gentleman himſelf is of opinion, that this was brought on from the long ſederunts he had during the ſeſſion of parliament: He has taken *Aethiops mineral* in large doſes, and

and made likewiſe many external applications, but all to no purpoſe.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant, &c.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE diſorder appears to me to be owing to a collection of viſcid matter in the *Vaſa Hypochondriaca*, which turning acrid, corrodes the bowels and guts; perhaps too begets worms, and afterwards proves proper food for them. It will be proper to take thrice a day, a hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, when the ſtomach is moſt empty three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them one ounce of the liquor *B*. The gentleman muſt at the ſame time uſe a great deal of exerciſe, eſpecially at thoſe hours he takes his *Phyſic*, and I principally recommend riding.

HE may make three meals a day, and eat ſparingly each time, which is much better than loading his ſtomach at once. In the morning when he awakes, all his belly and ſides muſt be well rubbed with flannel, as ſmartly as he can bear. He ought to go to bed betimes, and riſe early, and diſpatch his buſineſs in the forenoon.

This course carefully observed for six weeks gives good hopes of a recovery, which I pray god grant.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ſs.
Aſæ fœtid. drach. j.
Balſam. Meccani gutt. x.
Bulbi Ari rec. drach. j.
Croci gr. x.
Curcumae drach. ſs.
Galbani,
Rhei, ana drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. xv.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Cochlear.*
Majoran.
Meliſſæ,
Pulegij
Roſmarin.
Rutæ.
Salviæ ana unc. j.
Spir. Lavendul.
Roſmarin. ana unc. ſs.
Tinct. Succini drach. ij.
M.

LETTER

*** LETTER XII.

SIR,

THE many civilities I have received from you, encourage me to aſk one more, which is to go to Dr. *Boerhaave* and aſk his Advice in this Caſe.

AN old gentleman in years a relation of mine, has been much troubled for theſe two years paſt, with what he imagines the gravel; it comes away from him in red gritty ſand, but lately he has had very great pain in making water, and ſuffers great pain if he rides on the pavement in a coach, it making him then make bloody water, ſo that he apprehends there is a ſtone in the bladder, or one a forming; therefore he deſires to know what courſe or regimen Dr. *Boerhaave* adviſes, whether he knows or believes there is any thing to be preſcribed, as a *Saxifrage*, or whether he thinks the *Spa* waters are good to waſh or carry away ſuch a diſorder, and what *Spa* he would adviſe, and whether he muſt be obliged to go to *Spa* and drink them on the ſpot, or whether the waters can be ſent here as to be of effect, and in ſhort, let him take time to conſider and ſend him his full opinion and advice of this diſorder.

PRAY ſend word what diet and conſtant drink at meals he preſcribes the patient.—He has been adviſed here to the incloſed electuary which he is now taking, of which I ſend the original receipt, which you will be pleaſed to ſhew Dr. *Boerhaave* for his approbation.

℞. *Pulp. Caſſiæ recent. extract.* unc. jſs.
Rhei opt. pulveriz. drach. j.
Terebinth. è Chio probè lot. dr. VII.
Spec. Diatragacant. frigid. ſcrup. j.
Pulver. Glycyrrhiz dr. ſſ.

Mix theſe together in a ſufficient quantity of Syrup of Marſh Mallows. Take the quantity of a walnut in the morning faſting, drink after it a pint of Beer poſſet-drink with nutmeg and ſugar. Keep warm all the morning, take this at the new and full of the moon, beginning ſix days before the change every other morning, for you muſt be ſure to take it every new and full moon three times each.

N. B. The patient finds ſomething ſoreiſh on the neck of his bladder, whether it proceeds from the gravel fretting as it paſſes, or a little ſtone preſſing, which makes him piſs often, he cannot tell.

*** BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE conſidered the graviliſh incommodity with blood watering, and after all the application poſſible to me upon it, I am able to ſay,

1*ſt*, THAT

1*ſt*, THAT a little, but a ſharp ſtone, is found and lodged in the kidneys, which being rubbed through great motion of the body, principally in a coach on the pavement, made a ſolution in the blood veſſels there.

2*d*, THE pain in making water is not all times a ſign that there is a ſtone in the bladder, but ſoon it arrive * that there is the greateſt in theſe, where the cauſe is only ſituated in the kidneys ſelf.

3*dly*, SUPPOSING the caſe is ſo, I know no better method to cure it ſafely, than that the patient will drink for his common drinking, ſimple freſh whey, boiled with a little chervil and ſweatned with a little honey, that theſe is the healthſomeſt in this caſe, but the whey muſt be made twice a day that it may not ſower; a little canary at dinner and ſupper for the ſtomach ſhall be good.

4*thly*, ALL ſorts of vegetable meats are the beſt here, from kitchen herbs, ripe fruits, and farinous kinds.

5*thly*, EVERY three hours of the day ſhall be kept † a ſcruple of the maſs, *A*, immediately drinking upon it two ounces hot from the decoction *B*, this muſt be ſo ſtill continued the whole day from morning to evening, at leaſt ſix weeks ſucceſ-

* *It often happens.* † *taken*

ſucceſſive: I cannot doubt, it ſhall do very great good effect; god bleſs it.

CONCERNING the uſe of the *Spa* in this caſe it is very doubtful, becauſe the Power from theſe waters is very driving,* if then the ſtone is very ſmall, more time it is thriven out, but if the ſtone is bigger than it can paſs through the water canall going from the kidneys to the bladder, great danger of ſtopping the urine is made and hath killed many body by imprudent uſe of it; therefore I never recommend it in ſuch caſes, before I know the ſtone is little enough to paſs, which is not all times eaſy to diſcern.

THE method I have recommended do more good than any other in ſuch a ſingular caſe as I find here, and therefore I am more ſure therein, becauſe it hath never any danger in one, and it do all times very great benefits. *(a)*

H. B.

(a) THE caution *Boerhaave* here gives about the imprudent uſe of the *Spa*, is of the utmoſt importance, and ought to be attended to more particularly in this country, where it is ſo much the cuſtom to uſe different *Spa*'s in thoſe caſes; which are all of a forcing nature, leſs or more, and conſequently to be ſuſpected.

* *forcing.*

A.

A.

℞. *Caſſiæ opt rec. fiſtul. extract.* drach. VI.
Mannæ lectiſſimæ unc. j.
Maſtiches
Olibani
Rhei ana drach. j.
Succi Glycyrrhiz. inſpiſſat depurat. dr. VI.
Terebinth. puriſs. drach. jſs.
M. F. Maſſa.

B.

℞. *Flor. rec. Alth.*
Rhoeados ana unc. ſs.
Fol. rec. Parietar.
Scabioſæ
Virg. aur. ana m. jſs.
Rad. rec. Fœnic. unc. iij.
Glycyrrhiz. unc. jſs.

Boil theſe in freſh water for the ſpace of half an hour. Then add to them one ounce of Aniſeed *well beaten, and cloſing the veſſel keep it hot without boiling for an hour longer. Let there be about four pints of the* Decoction.

*** LETTER XIII.

I HAD the ſmall pox when I was five years old very ſeverely, immediately after which there fell a diſorder in my eyes, which ſhewed itſelf in blood-ſhot, weakneſs and violent watering, ſometimes attended with a very great pain. They

They continued ſo for four or five years, during which time, I tried all kinds of remedies, ſuch as ſhaving the head, cold bathing, ſweating, diet, bleeding, bliſtering, *&c.* with great variety of applications to my eyes; ſuch as waters, ointments, and cooling poultices, but received no continued benefit from any. When I was nine or ten years old, they began to mend of themſelves, and continued perfectly well and ſtrong for ſix years, at the end of which time they relapſed into the old way, with this difference only that I have intervals in which they are pretty well: it is now about five years ſince the return of this diſorder, in all which time I have not been able to make much uſe of my eyes, for upon any trial of them, they become blood-ſhot, weak and ſo very painful, that I have been ſometimes obliged to ſit in the dark for a month together. I have tried all the old remedies with many new ones, but to as little purpoſe as before; for upon the leaſt provocation, nay ſometimes without the leaſt viſible cauſe, I ſhall have very ſevere fits of ſore eyes, which continue a great while. I have otherwiſe thank god a very good conſtitution, and can complain of no other diſorder, except a little tenderneſs with regard to catching cold, which I take to be occaſioned by

the

the frequent confinements I am obliged to undergo. My colds ſeldom ſhew themſelves any way but in my eyes.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE more carefully I conſider the hiſtory of the diſorder of the eyes, the ſtronger are my ſuſpicions, that the ſmall veſſels which form the muſcles of the *Pupilla*, have too tender a feeling, to indure that contraction which is neceſſary for receiving the rays of light. I am not at all ſurprized then that ſo many remedies and different methods have hitherto proved ineffectual, as it is ſcarcely poſſible to apply there what would be proper to remove this cauſe. After thinking again on the caſe, I adviſe the patient.

1*ſt*, EVERY morning and evening to bath his legs in warm water for the ſpace of half an hour.

2*dly*, THEN he muſt cauſe them to be rubbed ſmartly, with rough dry warm cloths and continue this a good time.

3*dly*, LET there be apply'd every third day two cupping glaſſes to the hind neck: this muſt be done while he is bathing, and they may remain about half an hour without ſcarifying; then remove them and gently rub the part.

4*thly*,

4thly, He ought conſtantly to uſe green glaſs preſerves (as is the cuſtom in *Spain*) whenever light or colours ſtrike his eyes; this is the chief article in what I have to adviſe.

5thly, He ought often to waſh his eyes with warm water, then diminiſhing it's heat by degrees uſe at laſt cold water; this muſt be done every week gradually, that ſo his eyes may be brought to bear the cold.

6thly, Let him every morning before breakfaſt drink two ounces warm of the liquor *A*, and as much in the evening at ſix a clock. All I have recommended muſt be obſerved for three months, in hopes of relief.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Flor. Cyan. Seget.*
Sambuci ana pug. ſs.
Rad. rec. Fœnic. unc. ſs.
Semin. contus. Aniſi drach. ij.

Theſe muſt be cut very ſmall, and infuſed in rain water all night, and covered. Let them boil for a minute in the morning, and to iv *ounces of the liquor thus prepared, add always* vi drach. *of the* Rob. *of elder berries, for daily uſe.*

LET-

*** LETTER XIV.

IN the beginning of *June* 1724, I was taken ill with a violent fever, which began with a vomiting and looſeneſs, and turned into an aguiſh intermitting diſorder, which confined me to my houſe four months. The Doctor ordered me in the beginning to be vomited, blooded, and purged with *Rhubarb*, and afterwards I took a great deal of *Bark* in ſubſtance with ſimple bitters, and when the weather would allow and I was able, I went abroad; I recovered very ſlowly, and was about twelve months very feeble and weak, and ſubject to take cold. The firſt thing that hardened me againſt the weather was the uſe of a ſalt cold bath, ſo that I was in a confirmed ſtate of health for four years, till *April* 1728, when I was taken again with the ſame diſorder, though it did not riſe to ſo great a height. I went through the ſame medicines as before. I was confined with this ſix Weeks, and gradually recovered, and continued pretty well till *December*, when I was confined a month by the ſame diſorder. I obſerved the ſame rules as before, and recovered pretty well as the ſame ſeaſon of the year advanced, and continued well till

June

June 1729. I was confined near a month at this time; I only took the *Bark* in tincture, and ſimple bitters, I had a return of it *September* following, but it continued only a ſhort time: I continued well for about two years, when *November* 1731, I was taken ill in my head and ſtomach, as it uſed to begin, I vomited with *Ipecacuana*; after this vomit I found eaſe, but in a few days grew worſe, therefore I took another vomit and the tincture of the *Bark*, which did not remove my diſorder, and therefore took the *Bark* in ſubſtance, but notwithſtanding my diſorder prevailing, I had recourſe to a third, and afterwards a fourth vomit. I took a glaſs of bitter wine twice a day, and when the weather allowed went abroad on horſe back: I was confined this time three months, I continued pretty well till the twenty third of *March* 1734, when I was taken with it again. It began with a gentle looſeneſs as it uſually does, and though my looſeneſs is very gentle, yet it exceedingly diſpirits me; when I found the uneaſineſs of my head, ſtomach and loſs of appetite, I took a vomit of *Ipecacuana*, and next day took the *Bark* in ſubſtance, both which I repeated a ſecond time, and though I had frequent dejections and apprehenſions on my ſpirits it gradually left me; I was taken ill the eighth time, and was relieved by the ſame medicines.

THE

THE phyſicians term it an aguiſh, nervous intermitting diſorder; the ſymptoms and warning I have of its approach are; ſometimes before I am coſtive, afterwards have a looſeneſs, loſe my appetite, my head and ſtomach are very much affected, my head and temples are ſo affected, that I can ſcarce ſhave my forehead, or touch my temples, I have a noiſe in my ears and wind and pain frequently in my bowels. Sometimes I am cold, and chiefly at other times warm, my ſkin is diſcoloured, and will ſmart as if ſtung with nettles; I do not ſleep well, but am troubled with frightful dreams, as alſo with great ſickneſs and languidneſs over my whole body, and a great heavineſs and oppreſſion of ſpirits; in the hot fits I make a great deal of limpid, clear water which is without ſediment, and is more in proportion than what I drink, I loſe my fleſh and ſtrength, but am free of a cold or ſpitting.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I BELIEVE there has been a great diſpoſition of the body to the fever, which has been ſuddenly ſtopped by the *Bark*, hence an obſtruction in the viſcera and an indigeſtion, which I think by proper exerciſe, diet and method of phyſick,

may be cured intirely; you muſt go to bed at nine, riſe at five, and do all the affairs of attention before dinner; after dinner at times take moderate exerciſe of the body, walking, riding, *&c.* I ſee no uſe of the cold bath, in theſe caſes; all ſorts of ſoft vegetables are good, alſo roaſted freſh fleſh and river fiſh, and a moderate glaſs of good *French* wine at dinner, and ſupper; for common drink good ſmall beer, not too ſtrong, nor too old.

TAKE five pills *A*, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, with a ſpoonful of the liquor *B*, this is the beſt method to prevent the return of the fit; but if the fever notwithſtanding ſhould return, take the powder *C*, eight hours before the fit, only one time, and drink every three hours of the day, a ſpoonful of the liquor *D*, by which method continued two weeks. I foreſee you will remove the fits *(a)*.

H. B.

(a) The caſe here deſcribed is moſt frequent amongſt us, as the *Bark* is often given imprudently, and in immoderate quantities. *Boerhaave* (it is true) was no great admirer of it, and never gave it but in extreme neceſſity, and then in very ſmall doſes. He was often conſulted from this country in the diſorders ſo naturally deſcribed in this letter, and conſtantly preſcribed the medicines here recommended, which as they had ſurprizing ſucceſs, might be the occaſion of his writing more confidently about them than his uſual manner was.

A. R.

A.

℞. *Myrrh. elect.* unc. iij.
Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.
Terebinth. drach. j.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Cochlear.* unc. ij.
Melissæ unc. iv.
Salviæ unc. iij.
Spir. vitæ Matthiol. unc. ſs.
Tinct. Succin. drach. ij.
M.

C.

℞. *Lapid. Cancr.* drach. ſs.
Rhei gr. xv.
Scammon. gr. viij.
Stib. diaphoret. gr. xxv.
F. pulvis.

D.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Salviæ* lb. j.
Sal. Polychreſt. drach. ij.
Spir. Cochlear. drach. iij.
Tinct. Contrajerv. drach. vj.
M.

LETTER XV.

I HAVE for a great while been in an unhappy way of miſcarrying, and have tried all the ways to prevent it, that I have been adviſed to by the phyſicians here, and therefore beg leave to ſtate my caſe to you.

I HAVE miſcarried twelve times within eight years, not always about the ſame time: for the firſt three times, I believe I went nearer ſeven months; than ſix. The children were born alive and ſtrong; one of them lived twelve hours; and I have ſince gone four or five months, and ſometimes not above twelve weeks, I have taken a great many medicines by order of Dr. *D*—and by his orders likewiſe confined to my Houſe for four or five months, and a great part of that Time to my room. I have ſome reaſon to ſuſpect the cauſe of my misfortune was by being ill uſed by my midwife, therefore ſubjected my ſelf wholly to his directions, who ſent me to the *Bath* to drink the waters and bathe; which method proving unſucceſsful, I applyed to Dr. *H.*—— by whoſe orders I uſed the cold bath, and the next time I miſcarried went to *Tunbridge*, there drank the waters and uſed the cold bath. I was with child ſoon

after

after I came home, whereupon I consulted Dr. *D*——what to do, who advised me to take no medicines at all, only keep my self quiet, and continue the cold bath; which I did till the day I was taken ill to miscarry. In the whole I used the cold bath a year and a half; the two last times I have been with child I have done nothing at all, not so much as bleed, which I used to do twice at least in the space of four or five months.

DR. *D*——tells me the cause of my disorder is a weakness, and may proceed from my constitution. I am between thirty one and thirty two, have very good spirits and stomach; and have never as I remember been confined a day to my bed, but for this complaint.

IT is but a little time since my last miscarriage, and am willing to follow any advice you shall direct me to now; or if I should be with child again.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

Madam,

HAVING considered your case, I am thinking there is a weakness in the vessels of the womb, whereby nature is not able long enough to retain the child.

If you are not at * child at present; it may please you to take five days successively every morning the purging *A*, at six of the clock; and the same evening at six of the clock the cordial *B*, during the course of five days you shall eat vegetables, broth, milk, remain at home and take care not to get cold.

The sixth day you shall begin the use of the pills *C*, and the medicinal wine *D*, thrice a day three pills at a time one hour before breakfast, dinner and supper; drinking immediately after these pills one ounce of the medicinal wine.

Those shall be continued during the whole course of your being with child, in which time you may eat and drink what shall be most pleasing to you, and moderate motion is necessary.

These is the best methods I know, I hope the effects may be blessed, and am your most humble servant,

H. B.

A.

℞. *Myrobalan. Citrin. fine nucl.* drach. ss.
Rhei electi gr. xxxvj.

Make these into a powder which must be infused in water all night, and the vessel closed. Let it be well stirred in the morning, and to two ounces of the colature add of the best Manna drach. iij. Syrup. Cichor. cum Rheo drach. jv. *Mix altogether for a purging potion.*

B.

* with

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. cortic. Citri* unc. ij.
Spir. Vitæ Matthioli drach. j.
Tinctur. Opii gutt. x.
Succini gutt. xv.
M. F. Hauſtulus.

C.

℞. *Catechu* drach. ij.
Cort. Granator. drach. j.
Maſtich. dra. jſs.
Oliban. drach. j.
Sarcocoll. drach. jſs.
Rhei drach. ſs.
Succini ppti. drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. vj.
Ol. Stillat. Cinnam. gutt. viij.
M. F. S. A. Pilulae ſing. gr. iij.

D.

℞. *Cort. Capparid.* unc. ij.
Cinnam. unc. jſs.
Tamariſc. unc. j.
Ligni Agalloch. drach. ij.
Santal. Citrin. drach. iij.
Lapid. Haematit. drach. j.
Limat Martis drach. vj.
Maceris
Nucis Moſchatae ana drach. iij.
Rad. Lapath. acut. drach. j.
Semin. 4 calid. min. ana drach. jſs.

Mix all theſe together and beat them into a fine powder, whence with vj *pints of rheniſh wine let there be made a medicinal wine.*

LETTER XVI.

THIS gentleman is aged ſixty eight years, of a corpulent habit, at the beginning of laſt ſummer was ſeized with the yellow jaundice, tryed many phyſicians and medicines. Six weeks ſince he put himſelf in my care, upon inquiry I found the medicines he made uſe of by the advice of his former phyſicians, were the aperients commonly preſcribed in that diſorder, but without any effect towards a cure.

HIS countenance was then of a very dark colour, he had a perpetual laxity (though not a *Diarrhoea)* his ſtools wanted the yellow tincture, his water was highly ſaturated with *bile*, his body and head very yellow, his ſtomach much diminiſhed.

I ordered him to let blood firſt of all, to the quantity of ℥xij. the craſſement of which was covered with a coat of *bile* and *phlegm* exceeding tough, I ordered to vomit with *Ipecacuan* once a week; and gave him a purge or two of *Rhubarb*, and lenitives for his laxative diſpoſition, then I purged him about twice a week with a bolus of gr. xii. of *Calomel* to be taken going to bed, and a potion next morning made of a decoction of *Rad. Curcum.*

Curcum. Tinct. Rub. Sal. Tartar. in cinnamon water, to which was added *Senna*, *Rhubarb*, *Cremor Tartar*, *Crocus*. Laſtly to the colature of the whole was added ſyrup *de Rhabarb.* ℥j. In the intermediate days I gave him an electuary compoſed of chalybeates, aromaticks, attenuants, deterſives, and ſtomachicks drinking after it infus. *chalybeat. amar. Loweri*, afterwards I added to the electuary *Æthiops mineral*, his appetite is indifferently good, and is not made ſick by any thing he eats, his ſtools are come almoſt to a natural colour, and his urine abundantly leſs tinctured with *bile*, his ſtrength increaſes and he does much buſineſs.

P. S. THE gentleman has for many years laboured under a ſcorbutic habit of body, and ſince the fourteenth of *October*, we perceive his legs to ſwell much more about the ancles, and appear dropſical, his belly tight and ſeemingly ſtuffed up; beſides, now he is much afflicted with cough, and ſpits a tough viſcous phlegm at ſeveral times, he has alſo voided blood in his looſe ſtools.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully conſidered the deſcription ſent me of this grievous and dangerous diſeaſe. It appears to be a *bilious* diſorder, proceeding from

an

an obſtruction in the paſſages of the *bile* now tending to a compleat dropſy. The winter ſeaſon, the advanced age of the patient and long continuance of the diſeaſe, are very bad omens; to theſe we muſt add the little ſucceſs the many and excellent remedies hitherto tried have had, and the conſideration of his original diſtemper, being an obſtinate ſcurvy.

THE beſt advice I can give in theſe preſent circumſtances, is to recommend to the worthy gentleman the pills *A*, of which he ought to take five every two hours of the day, drinking each time after them one ounce of the liquor *B*. This he may try for a month, that we may then judge if theſe remedies are able to give any relief in this dangerous caſe. He muſt in the mean time every morning and evening have its belly well rubbed with dry, rough, warm cloths, and this as long and ſmartly as he can indure it: This will be of the greateſt help in opening and clearing the obſtructed veſſels, and he muſt all along uſe continual exerciſe of body, walking, ridings in a machine, *&c.* as his ſtrength will permit. His diet muſt be moſtly on greens and pot herbs, *Sorrel*, *Beet*, red *Cabbage*, *Succhory*, *Endive*, *Lettice*, *Spinage*, and now and then a glaſs of ſome ſtrong bodied wine or *Brunſwic Mum:* all this the nature

nature of the diſorder itſelf points out to us. I heartily pray and hope for his recovery from the careful obſervance of this regimen.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Bulbi. Ari rec.* drach. j.
Aſæ fœtid. gr. xv.
Balſam Copayb. ſcrup. j.
Croci gr. xv.
Rhei drach. j.
Sapon. Vent. unc. ſs.
Terebinth. gr. x.
M. F. Pil. gr. iv.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Baccar. Juniper. Cochlear.* ana unc. vj.
Sal. Polychreſt. drach. ij.
Tartar. Vitriolat. drach. j.
Rob Baccar. Juniper. unc. iv.
Spir. rectificat. Baccar. Junip. unc. jſs.
Tincturae Myrrhae unc. j.
M.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

A YOUNG gentleman in *North Britain* aged twenty three years, of a ſwarthy complexion, has been theſe ſeveral years troubled with pains in his ſtomach and hypochondres, attended with the ordinary ſymptoms of conſtipation, faintneſs, and flatuoſities; he has ſcorbutic blotches on his legs, and frequently a cough, which is not violent; and altogether without any pus, or appearance of ulceration; what afflicts him moſt is a ſmall, ſharp headed, white worm, which he paſſes ſometimes in great plenty; he has often taken of the *æthiops mineral*, and doſes of the *Pil. coch. min. & tinctura ſacra.* When he was blooded lately his blood was good. He has juſt now a ſwelling under his ear, which appeared after uſing too violent exerciſe, and over heating himſelf.

*** BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING conſidered the deſcription of this caſe, I am thinking there is an obſtruction in the glands over all the body, and tenia in the bowels. It may pleaſe the gentleman to take three times in a day, at * an empty ſtomach, one hour

* with

hour before breakfast, dinner, and supper, at every time three pills *A*, with an ounce of the liquor *B*, and to continue this so six weeks successively; I believe it will be very healthsome in the sickness.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Aloes optim.* drach. ss.
Asae foetid. drach. j.
Camphor. gr. v.
Castor. gr. vj.
Myrrhae drach. j.
Sagapen. drach. jss.
Succin. ppti drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. vj.
Vitriol. Mart. drach. jss.
M. f. pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Cochlear.*
Rutae ana ℔. j.
Elixir. pp. cum sp. Tartar. ppt. drach. jv.
Sal. volatil. Oleos. drach. iv.
Spir. Cochlear.
Tinct. succini ana drach. ij.
M.

LET-

*** LETTER XVIII.

A YOUNG lady now in the ſeventh year of her age, was firſt towards the end of *December* 1731, taken with a pain and heavineſs in her head, and diſpoſition to vomit, and next day and the day after continued to be a little feveriſh, the fifth day ſhe complained more of pain in her head, and was taken with a vomiting of large quantities of *bile* and *choler*, her eyes and ſkin appeared yellow the next day, and her urine tinged a piece of linnen of a ſaffron colour, ſhe then took xij gr. of *Ipecacuana* which vomited her well, and brought up large quantities of *bile*. To ſettle her ſtomach ſhe took this draught.

℞. *Succ. Limon* drach. ij.
Sal. Abſynth. ſcrup. ſs.
Aq. Meliſs.
Cinnamom. Hord. ana drach. vi.
Spirit. Menth. gtt. xxx.
Syr. dialth. drach. ij.
M. F. Hauſtus.

THIS draught ſettled her ſtomach, ſhe reſted well, and after it was twice repeated, the vomiting and fever went quite off.

BUT

BUT the yellowneſs continuing on her ſkin and eyes, ſhe the next day began to take the following,

℞. *Croc. Anglic.*
Sal. Abſynth. ana drach. j.
Limon. toſt. No. j.
Vin. Rhenan. lb. j.
infunde per 24 hor.

She took a ſpoonful twice a day, and a day or two after at night ſhe took ℈j of *Rhubarb*, which gave her two ſtools of a clay colour, ſhe continued the uſe of the infuſion for three days more, then took ℥ſs more of *Rhubarb*, which purged her alſo twice; upon this the yellowneſs went off gradually, and her ladyſhip grew perfectly well.

TOWARDS the end of *January* ſhe was again taken with a ſickneſs and vomiting, and brought up but little *bile*, her pulſe was quick, ſhe complained of a pain in her head, there appeared a heavineſs in her eyes, and a blueneſs under them, and her urine a little higher coloured than uſual, for it is generally paliſh with ſometimes a pink colour, ſometimes a whitiſh ſediment, with ſalts ſwimming on the ſurface, next day ſhe was pretty well, though not ſo briſk and lively as uſual.

ON the firſt of *February* Dr.——— and ——— viſited her and preſcribed her ℈j of *Rhubarb* with gr. v. of *Sal. Abſynth.* twice a week, and on the inter-

intermediate days, a dose of *Sal. Absynth.* twice a day, and viii drops of *Spir.* of *Nitr. dulc.* now and then in *Bristol* water, and in a little time she seemed perfectly well. *March* the eleventh following they prescribed the scorbutic juices ℥j. twice a day, having first purged her with *Rhubarb* and *Sal. Absynth* as before, which agreed well with her ladyship till the twentieth of *March*, when she was again seized with a very great sickness and disorder as before, which brought away an abundance of blood, and corrupt matter in the excrements, she was observed to be often picking her nose, and look blackish under her eyes. *March* the twenty third they prescribed as follows.

℞. *Calomelan.* gr. v.
Rhei pulv. gr. xv.
Syr. violar.
Q. S. F. Bolus.

This purged her well, and brought up by vomit a great deal of choler, and she grew well and brisk again, soon after this they ordered her to take of *Æthiops mineral* and pulv. e *Chel. Cancr. Simpl.* ℈ss. every night with three spoonfuls of the following Julep.

℞. *Aq.*

℞. *Aq. Ceras. Nigror.* unc. vj.
Poeon. compoſit. unc. jſs.
Margarit. pp. ſcrup ij.
Sacchar. Alb drach. ij.
M. F. Julap.

ABOUT the twenty ninth of *March* the bolus with calomel was repeated, which purged and vomited her very well.

April the eighth following, ſhe was taken with a conſiderable fever attended with pains in the back and head, vomiting and many ſymptoms of the ſmall pox, for twenty four hours; when the fever abated, ſhe drank the *Sal. Abſynth.* draught, *cum Syr. Dialth.* as before. In her urine appeared a great deal of red gravel adhering to films, or ſmall hair floating in her urine, ſince then there have been ſeveral returns of theſe diſorders ſometimes at two months, ſometimes at ſix or ſeven weeks diſtance ſometimes with, ſometimes without a fever, and a yellowneſs appears upon her countenance, when the diſorder goes off; generally ſhe has been kept to a regular dyet, generally ſleeps well, is briſk and lively, is of a ſanguine habit, and florid countenance.

YOUR opinion, ſir, upon her caſe, and the method you would propoſe to proceed in, both as

to medicine and diet, as particular as may be, is ardently desired by her parents as soon as possible.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I RECEIVED and read with the closest attention your letter, wherein you give so accurate a description of the young ladies disorder: you shall have my opinion on it in the most open and candid manner, as I intirely submit my own sentiments to the opinion of better judges.

IN the *Liver* or *Gall-bladder* there is (I believe) a thick gritty matter lodged, and small stones, which intercept the *Bile* in its passage to the *Duodenum*; this *(Bile)* being detained and collected proves painful to the full vessels, and at last forces *Nature* to throw it back by means of a fever and vomiting into the *Vena Cava*, which produces a species of *jaundice*. Thus the lovely patient seems relieved for some time; but how soon a new quantity of *Bile* arrives at the vessels, the same series of mischiefs begins again, and must repeat the old route, coming and returning, till the original cause be removed.

THERE is great danger of the *Viscera* being broken by such repeated and violent strokes, unless wise counsel timely prevents it; the young

lady

lady likewiſe runs the riſk of a fatal dropſy, from too great a reſolution of the blood by the affuſion of the *Bile*.

WHAT will prove the beſt remedy in this caſe, is frequently to eat of the *aperient* herbs and roots boiled along with fleſh: ſuch is parſly, *and that all the kinds of it*, *red Cabbage*, *Chervil*, *Succory*, *Endive*, *Scorzonera*, *Parſnips*, *Goats-beard*: likewiſe all ripe ſummer fruits, *Raſpberries*, *Strawberries*, *Cherries*, *Gooſeberries*, *Mulberries* and ſuch like. What will likewiſe be of great ſervice is freſh whey, made of milk taken from the cows in the ſpring ſeaſon, and ſweetened with honey: I know no one remedy that is a ſtronger diluent, or that more effectually temperates the *Bile*, opens the ſeveral paſſages, looſens the belly and reduces the *Gall* to its proper canals, than this does.

IT will likewiſe be proper to have the patients belly and breaſt well rubbed every morning and evening for half an hour, with rough, dry, warm cloths; this muſt be done gently and in different directions: I pray this article may be carefully performed, and that when her ſtomach is moſt empty.

SHE ought likewiſe to ride in a machine on the ſtreets, about an hour before dinner, and as much before ſupper every day: the rougher this

exercise is, it is so much the better, as it will shake her body.

I WOULD recommend by way of *Physic*, though it will be difficult to cause so young a patient take it, one ounce of the decoction *A*, to be drunk warm, and this every morning an hour before breakfast, and dinner, and in the evening an hour before she sups, and again at ten o'clock of night, in case she should then awake or be stirring. This is the safest and most effectual remedy I know. But if she cant be prevailed on to use this, then we must betake ourselves to the *Succedaneum B*, though I cannot so much commend it. Let her drink of it a spoonful, or one ounce every three hours. These medicines must be used at least for two months, for the disorder has by this time taken deep root, and would require pretty vehement remedies, when in this case the tender age and constitution of the patient admit only of those which are mild and easy; we must then compensate this by long use.

I PRAY God, these helps or such as are better may perfectly cure the disease.

H. B.

A.

A.

℞. *Radic. Recent. Apii*
Bardanæ
Graminis
Foeniculi
Petroſelini ana unc. j.

Sciſſae & contuſae digerantur in aq. Pluviat. vaſe clauſo non ebulliendo p. horam; tum adde.

Aceti Acori ex Vino nrach. vj.
Sal. Tartar. opt. drach. ſs.

Ebulliant ſimul ſpatio ſem. horae tum.

Decocti uncijs XIV. admiſce
Syrup. 5. *rad. aperient.* unc. jſs.

B.

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Rutae* unc. xj.
Sal. Polychreſt. drach. j.
Tartar, Vitriol. drach. ſs.
Vitriol. Martis gr. xij.
Syr. 5 *rad. aperient.* unc. ſs.

M.

*** LETTER XIX.

THE lady who begs your advice is very often vexed with an hyſterick cholick, which firſt attacks her with a coldneſs of the extreams, a languor, a trembling pulſe (which is hard) then her ſtomach begins to be troubled with *Flatus:* then her pain, which is exceſſive ſharp attacks her,

which ſometimes will continue a day or more, during which time no medicines or whatever ſhe takes afford any warmth to her ſtomach. The medicines ſhe takes are of the nervous tribe, none of which afford more relief than caſtor with volatiles, and ſome warm aromaticks; her appetite is ſometimes rather too ſharp, which is ſucceeded by a diſtention of the hypochondriac regions, a gnawing pain of the ſtomach, her appetite gone, lowneſs of ſpirits, a fluſtering pulſe and ends in a looſeneſs, after which her appetite returns and is generally ſucceeded, after each day ſhe has an appetite, with the ſymptoms above: her pulſe is always quick and hard, and on any ſurpriſes of joy or fear, or any little hurry of buſineſs, is fluſtering and irregular.

The ſaid ladies little ones have been all of them affected with the ſame diſorders, they being firſt when about four or five months old ſeized with an hectical fever, which generally attends them during the time of dentition; they have had ſometimes a ſharp appetite, which often occaſions them to eat ſo freely as to be obliged to throw it up again; ſometimes have been much troubled with a looſeneſs, at other times continual reachings, they ſweat every night, are often troubled with a cough and difficulty of breathing; the two eldeſt are got through this ſtage, but the leaſt is now troubled

with

with the ſymptoms above, with the addition of an eruption, which has been all over her, ſometimes red, reſembling an *Eryſipelas*, ſometimes will be very pale with eruptions, with a white matter, ſometimes the eruption will reſemble the cryſtal pack (after her being bad of which her eruptions began) they have all been pretty much afflicted with a ſhrieking, or a wailing cry during their illneſs; their pulſe is generally quick and their temperament warm; their medicines have been *Rhubarb*; wine purges with teſtaceous powders, and the bark either in the ſyrup, or externally applyed to their ſtomachs, and now and then *Diacodium* at night for her eruptions, has taken calomel purges, and dreſſed them with *Unguentum Pipirinum*, *Bateam*, and has had *Argentum* viv. boiled in water, and her jellys and meat made of it.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE well conſidered the ſubject of the letter, and am afraid the *Bile* is ſome how obſtructed in its paſſage to the inteſtines, whence being collected and becoming acrid it produces theſe acute pains.

THIS

THIS matter muſt then be reſolved, and the veſſels opened that ſo it may be gently protruded; this is what we muſt principally aim at towards a cure, with proper regard to the *Nervous* ſyſtem which is much weakned.

IF the patient would take every three hours of the day, at each time three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them two ounces of the Apozem *B*, and continue this courſe for four weeks, I am confident it would do her great ſervice, particularly, if ſhe joined to this proper exerciſe of body. With regard to her children, gentle corroborating remedies will be proper to ſtrengthen the *Viſcera*, and deſtroy the hot acrimony of the juices: I approve of what has been already tryed to this purpoſe, which ought to be continued. Such a medicine is that deſcribed at the letter *C*, of which half an ounce may be given them thrice a day, when their ſtomach is moſt empty, that is about an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammoniac.* drach. ij.
Borac. gr. x.
Sapon. Venet. drach. ij.
Terebinth. gr. v.
M. F. Pil. ſing. gr. iij.

A.

B.

℞. 5 *Rad. aperient.* ana unc. ij.
Sal. Polychrest. drach. jss.
Tartar. Vitriolat. drac. j.
Cum aq. decoctis spatio sem. horae adde
Ras. Lign. Santal. Citrin drach iij.
Semin. 4 *calid. min.* ana drach. j.

Then shut the vessel and keep them in a hot infusion *without boiling for the space of an hour. There must be of the* Decoction *about four pints.*

C.

℞. *Cortic. Cappari id* unc. j.
Cinnamon. unc. ss.
Tamarisc. drach. v.
Rhei drach. ss.
Semin. Anisi drach jv.
M. f. pulvis tenuis qui cum
Aq. stillat. Melissae.
Hydromellit. ana unc. vj.
infundatur.

*** LETTER XX.

THIS gentleman is about thirty two years of age, he was eighteen years ago, in that cold winter betwixt the years 1715 and 1716, seized with the falling down of the *Uvula*, yet at first he neglected it; but afterwards from the great

great uneaſineſs it gave him hindring his ſleep, and otherwiſe, he was moved to uſe gargariſms, vomits, purges, *&c.* but with little advantage.

In the year 1721, the ſame complaint was ſtill remaining, and there being alſo ſome appearance of an ulceration of the throat, and the neighbouring parts, he was perſuaded to undergo a courſe of *Mercury*; which was adminiſtred to him both outwardly and inwardly to a pretty large quantity, but without any other effect, than violent purging the firſt five weeks; except when it was reſtrained by the uſe of aſtringent medicines; at laſt by altering the method of taking his mercury, by the advice of his phyſicians, he was brought to ſalivate three or four weeks, which carried off any appearance of ulceration; but the *Uvula* ſtill kept down: however by the uſing of aſtringent gargariſms, bliſters, perpetual iſſue, and after recovering from the meazles (which with a fever that accompanyed them had kept him three or four weeks) it was at laſt brought to a natural ſtate. In the beginning of the year 1722, he found his throat pretty eaſy; but had contracted in that ſpace ſuch a habit of watching, from a bad practice he had accuſtomed himſelf to of reading or writing the greateſt part of the night,

that

that his ſleep ever ſince has been little and broken ſometimes for ſeveral nights.

IN *March* 1726, he began to have a groſs ſpitting, which came away eaſily, and without any cough; but by the continuance of it his colour began to fade, and his fleſh to waſte: about that time he gave up at once a long habit he had brought himſelf to, of ſnuffing tobacco, and abſtained from it all the Year. In the beginning of *Auguſt* he went into the Country, and lived according to the Rules preſcribed him by his Phyſicians, ſave that he could not uſe exerciſe on horſeback for the pain of the piles, that troubled him frequently for the ſix preceeding years, but were at that time much more uneaſy. The ſpitting ſtill increaſed, and was now accompanied with ſome boundneſs in his breaſt, ſome cough and difficulty of expectorating and ſweating in the morning. About the middle of *September* he was adviſed to go to the North of *Scotland*, his native air, and as he was entering upon his Journey, he was attacked with a violent pain in the anus, with ſome pains in his belly, which laſted five or ſix days, during which ſpace he had no paſſage by ſtool, and very little by urine, but a conſtant deſire to both. He returned to *Edinburgh* about the end of *October*, with ſome more freſhneſs in his looks, but all his former complaints

hang-

hanging about him, among theſe the pain of his anus in going to ſtool was none of the leaſt, and it being found there was a fiſtula there, he had it cut about the middle of *November* : the bottom of it lay deep, and diſcharged a large quantity of ſanious matter, ſuch as had been coming from it for about two months before. During this ſpace the cough, ſpitting, and ſweating, ſtill increaſed, with ſome flying pains over his body.

About the end of *December*, toward midnight, after he had been a ſhort time in bed, without any previous uneaſineſs more than uſual, he was waked from his ſleep by a ſtrong reaching to vomit, and did vomit up ſuch large quantities of blood, part coagulated, part fluid and florid, as probably would have choaked him, had not thoſe who were in the next room heard and come to his Aſſiſtance.

He was blooded plentifully that night, the next and following days: the blood-ſpitting went off gradually, firſt with a mixture of yellowiſh matter, and after the yellowiſh matter came off for ſome days by itſelf, and in the ſame manner it has generally gone off ſince. In 1727, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, he had returns of blood-ſpitting oftneſt in the ſummer, and the cough worſe in the winter; the complaint of the cough, groſs ſpitting, ſweating, want of ſleep, and a

great

great discharge from the fistula, still remaining.

IN 1733, he had several returns of blood-spitting, more violent than any before, except the first: he had sweatings and loosenesses all the winter, from the beginning of *November*, till the spring thirty-four was well advanced.

THE cough still more violent, especially in the morning; at which time the fits continued long, and did defeat him much, and the fistula discharged, as he reckoned, to the quantity of a gill in twenty-four hours: about the middle of *May* last, he had a pretty violent return of blood-spitting, which continued with very little intermission, till the middle of *July*. And now while I write this, the tenth of *August*, he has another return of it, but hitherto not so violent as the former. It is generally preceeded by a sense of boundness and pressure in his breast, and comes up often, without much coughing, of a pretty bright and florid colour.

THE cough is troublesome at all times, but chiefly in the night and in the morning, when he has always a most violent paroxysm of it, which lasts commonly an hour, and defeats him much. He expectorates with difficulty, has a thick, white, smooth spittle, sweats for the most part in the night or morning; by these, and the great discharge

charge of thin water from the fiſtula, his ſtrength is much impaired, his fleſh waſted, and his colour decayed and ſickly; by the continual flow of that groſs ſpitting, his throat and tongue are much fouled, his thirſt is not great, and his appetite tollerably good, his pulſe is quicker than naturally it ſhould be, otherwiſe regular, ſoft, and equal; his urine is generally of a citron colour, and has a light ſuſpenſion or ground, but ſometimes, eſpecially when he has the blood-ſpitting, after ſtanding a ſhort time, it turns thick and muddy, and does not ſeparate; his ſpittle does not ſink in water, and he lies on every ſide without being ſenſible of much difference as to his cough or breathing: he ſtill walks abroad, and ſometimes rides; he is fatigued with either, but no fatigue, or any of the opiates he has uſed, have been able to procure him ſleep; he rather ſleeps worſe the night he uſes them; his breathing is generally pretty eaſy, but he complains ſometimes of pain in his breaſt, upon a very full inſpiration. The remedies that have been uſed, as I can learn from his apothecary's bills, and otherwiſe, are blood-letting upon the returns of blood-ſpitting, gentle vomits and purgatives, pectoral and balſamick pills of gum ammon, balſ. of tolu. *Barbadoes* tar. & ſperm. cæti, pilul. mathæi, e ſtyrace liquidi laudani, ſyr. diacod. a decoction of peru-

vian

vian bark, with other ſtomachicks and pectorals; Dr. *Eaton*'s ſtyptick, ſyrrup of nettles, ground ivy and lintſeed teas, womens milk, mares milk, and goats whey; a diet of cows milk, exercise on horſeback, country and highland air; what he is now uſing is (after blood-letting when the returns of blood-ſpitting are violent) the following decoction till it is over, *viz.*

℞. *Rad. alth.* ℥iſs. *Symphit.* ℥. *fruct Tamarind.* ℥iij. coq. in aq. fontan. lb. vi. ad lb. iv. ſub finem coctionis adde *Flor. tuſſilagin.* ℥ſs. *rad glycyrrhiz.* ℥i. coq. parum & immoto operculo refrigeſcat. colaturæ adde *Nitr.* ſcrup. ij. capiat ℥iv. omni bihorio.

HE uſed the tabells of pulv. *diatrag. S. R. Edinburgh*; and when he has no ſpittings of blood, he uſes every day lb. 1. of the following decoction.

℞. *Rad. alth. Glycyrrhiz* ana drach. ij. coq. leni calore in aq. fontan. lb. i ſs ad lb. 1. adde ſub finem *Fol. heder. terreſtr. Flor. tuſſilagin.* ana ℥i. colatura detur uſui.

WHEN his ſtomach is out of order, he takes a little rhubarb in ſubſtance or infuſion; his diet has been generally for breakfaſt bohea tea, coffee, and ſometimes, but ſeldom, chocolate, with a bit of bread, with marmalade of oranges, or jelly of currants; for dinner, a chicken, peaſe, artichoaks,

or

or young beans, with a ſingle glaſs of cherry or tent; for ſupper, a veal foot with vinegar, or the broth of a fowl, veals feet and ſhavings of harts-horn, or a poached egg, or the yolk of an egg, or two in a glaſs of tent.

He is now ſtill deſired to bring his diet near a milk diet; to abſtain from all kinds of wine, or ſtrong liquors, and to ride as frequently as he can.

Boerhaave's ANSWER.

THE diſeaſe ſeems to proceed from a long, conſtant, ſevere cough, which ſhakes and breaks the ſmall tender veſſels of the lungs. The frequent returns of this occaſions the eaſy breaking of the new formed *eſchar*, and by this means the diſorder is become almoſt natural. It is much to be feared, that the vital ſtrength may give way under this oppreſſion, whence all Pains muſt be uſed to correct the diſorder, and prevent its return.

The Patient muſt let blood four times a year, in the months of *April*, *July*, *October*, and *January*, three days before full moon, about nine ounces each time: let his ordinary drink be one fourth milk, and three fourths of water, ſweetned with

with a little honey. Let his diet consist mostly of vegetable and farinous roots, dressed any how; ripe summer fruits, bread, milk, cream, *&c.*

HE ought to indulge in sleeping, and lie in one of the high floors, in a good dry room. Let him take every three hours of the day, three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them three ounces of the decoction *B*, warm, and every night at going to bed he must take the draught *C*.

THIS Course must be continued for a whole year; if the spitting of blood can be so long prevented, it will give great hopes of his recovery, which I heartily wish God may grant.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Balsam. Peruv.* drach. ss.
Catechu puriss. drach. j. ss.
Gummi Arabic. drach. j.
Mastiches drach. j. ss.
Olibani
Sarcocollae ana drach. ss.
Mannae Calabrin. unc. ss.

Mix all these together into a mass fit for forming of pills of three grains each.

B.

℞. *Flor. rec. Alth.*
Symphit. ana unc. ſs.
Fol. rec. Alth.
Verbaſci ana m. j.
Rad. rec. ſymphit. drach. iij.
Liquirit. unc. ij.
Sem. rec. Papav. alb. unc. ſs.
Plantag. drach. vi.

Theſe muſt be boiled in freſh water for the ſpace of an hour, ſo that there may be about four pints remaining.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Flor. Rhoead.* unc. j.
Syrup. Alth. drach. ij.
Diacod. drach. j.
M. F. Hauſtulus.

LETTER XXI.

DOCTOR *Boerhaave* having taken no notice of the *fiſtula* in this letter, the phyſicians who were concerned thought proper to conſult him a ſecond time, and begged particularly that he might take this circumſtance into conſideration.

BOERHAAVE'S

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE again carefully conſidered the melancholy hiſtory of this grievous diſorder, which I find to be very complicate. The remedies hitherto uſed and the method of cure that has been purſued, are every way ſo proper, that it is hardly poſſible to preſcribe a better, or add any thing to what I formerly recommended. The patients body is by this time ſo accuſtomed to the blood ſpitting and ſo weakned by it, that it eaſily gives way on every new increaſe of the blood. In the mean time the evacuation that is made from the *Fiſtula* ſeems to relieve the *Lungs*, ſo that there is great danger of the breaſts being oppreſſed in caſe it *(the Fiſtula)* was cured.

THESE circumſtances make it very difficult to preſcribe remedies which ſhould be proper for thoſe ſeveral ſymptoms: for the cough, blood-ſpitting, fiſtula, hip-pain, tumours, all require different things. With regard to the cough, I think it beſt that the patient take every two hours of the day an half ounce of the balſam *A*, drinking after it one ounce of the decoction *B*. This will be of great uſe to ſoften the roughneſs that is in the wind pipe and lungs, where the ſcar of the burſten

arteries irritates and excites the cough, which is increaſed by the ſwelling of the part from the new blood; this will likewiſe be mitigated by the ſame remedy: it will alſo promote the ſpitting by gently diſſolving the thick and viſcid matter, and diſpoſe the body for ſleep, which could not be obtained from *Opium*. As to the *Tumour* thoſe applications muſt be uſed which are proper to ripen it, that the matter here formed may be drawn off from the *Inwards* which having once found this rout may purge themſelves thereby, whence we may expect conſiderable relief.

THE breakfaſts which were preſcribed ſeem every way proper, and I ſhould think one ounce of canary taken a day would do no harm. For eating I would recommend freſh fleſhes, as veal, rabbits, chickens, lamb and ſhell fiſh; all taken in moderation, and in proportion to his ſtrength. The other directions I leave to the ſkill of the phyſicians who attend him, who have treated this dangerous diſeaſe with prudence and ſucceſs: The diſtance I am at, and the time betwixt writing and receiving the anſwer, may often render my advice improper.

H. B.

A.

A.

℞. *Balſam. Perv.* gutt. v.
Ol. Amygdal. dulc. rec. unc. ſs.
Syrup. Diacod. drach. v.
Vitelli ovi rec. drach. ſs.

B.

℞. *Rec. Flor. Althaeæ*
Rhoeados
Verbaſci
Hyperici ana unc. ſs.
Fol. Alth.
Scabios. ana m. ij.
Sem. contus. Papav. alb.
Plantag. ana unc. j.

Boil all theſe in a ſufficient quantity of water for an hour ſo as there may remain three pints of the decoction.

*** LETTER XXII.

SIR,

I BEG leave to lay before you the ſtate of my health and conſtitution in the beſt manner, and with as many particular circumſtances and ſymptoms as I am able to recollect, which are as follows.

I AM now in the thirty eighth year of my age; in my infancy I was afflicted with frequent and violent fevers, till I was about three years old,

at laſt the fever going off, a ſmall eruption covered with a thin white ſcurf appeared on the bend of my knees, which continued as long as I was free from a fever; upon the return of the fever that diſappeared, but ſhewed itſelf upon my recovery from the fever; as I grew in years I became leſs ſubject to the fever, and being healthy and well, the eruption was diſregarded by my parents; this diſorder of the ſkin increaſed by ſlow degrees, ſhewing itſelf likewiſe on my elbows, and farther in my legs and arms, without being at all regarded, untill I arrived towards manhood; and when at ſchool, I was frequently troubled with little eruptions, in ſeveral parts of my body, like what we call Cat-boyls, which came to a little white head, the matter ſqueezed out they ſoon grew well, without leaving any ſcurf or ſign behind; in order to keep down theſe heats, (as they were called) I did annually at the proper ſeaſons of the year, take mercurial purges, for about the ſpace of ten years, but without any great effect: for the complaint ſtill continued, and the ſcurfy eruption crept almoſt imperceivably farther over my legs and arms, and then ſhewed itſelf on my thighs, and at length attacked my face and head, and the tops of my fingers and toes. The diſorder which had been before was wholly out of ſight,

ſight, but now appearing under the nails of my fingers and in my face, occaſioned me to ſeek for relief more diligent then I had done before; for being naturally of a chearful temper, and finding no pain or ſickneſs, I had in great meaſure neglected it till I was about thirty years old; ſince which time I have taken many and different medicines, and the methods that have been preſcribed have proved ineffectual; and my diſorder has ſo far increaſed under the uſe of them, that I find ſome eruptions on my back, and other parts of my body, and my legs almoſt wholly covered with ſcaly ſcurf.

THE ſymptoms that formerly appeared, I can give no other account of than the appearance on the ſurface of the ſkin; upon rubbing, thoſe white ſcabs would fall off, and the part be inclinable to itch: and if any time by rubbing, the under ſkin was broke ſo as to bleed, it ſoon healed over and grew well again, and the ſame part would ſoon form a new ſcurf. For about twelve years paſt, I have obſerved my urine to be thick at the bottom, of a red and ſometimes of a lighter coloured ſediment, with a greaſy film on the ſurface of it, and at other times of a clear good colour, but then I obſerve I am ſubject to a feveriſh inclination in my blood; till within two years I have obſerved my thighs have been in

winter, and indeed almoſt always (except in very warm weather) very cold, ſo as to render me uneaſy, but this I hope is now totally removed.

The ſcurfy ſcales have never occaſioned any ſoreneſs of the parts affected, nor any other uneaſineſs, than a little itching. I generally ſleep well, though I have (but very ſeldom) been troubled with the night mare, and troubleſome dreams, and have ſometimes a liſtleſs inactivity for ſeveral days together. I muſt not forget to ſay that my hair both on my head and breaſt, has been gray for ſome years: with this conſtitution, ſoon after I came of age, I applyed my ſelf to the ſtudy of the law, but have never lived altogether an inactive life, though I never uſed great exerciſe; as I have a conſtant good appetite, I have eat freely, and formerly at ſupper as well as dinner, and without refraining from any thing that was ſet before me. I have for a long time left off the uſe of our malt liquor, and hogs fleſh, and by advice for four or five years paſt all ſalt and ſeaſoned meats, and all ſorts of pickles, and eating meats at ſupper; I have obſerved that thoſe antiſcorbuticks, often preſcribed, ſuch as ſcurvy graſs, horſe radiſh roots, water creſſes, and the tribe of hot ſtimulating herbs and volatile ſalts (all which have been preſcribed to me) have not only, not done me any ſervice,

but

but excited the blood to throw out more ſcurf than appeared before the uſe of them.

THESE complaints I have the misfortune to labour under. How to account for their beginning otherwiſe, than from thoſe fevers which I have been afflicted with in my childhood, I am at a loſs. My father had a very clear ſkin (only as he told me) when he was about thirty years of age, about the time that I was born, had a deep red ſettled in his face, which continued during his whole life, nor was it ever regarded by him. I have many brothers and ſiſters, I dont know that any of them has any diſorder that affects the ſkin or ſcorbutick as it is called, other than a little roughneſs of ſkin; nor does it come from my mother: You will pleaſe to conſider my caſe, and order ſuch a courſe as you think proper. I would only beg leave to obſerve to you that I fear my affairs will not admit of a confinement for any long time this ſummer. I hope from your ſkill to receive relief from this diſorder, which has occaſioned in me great uneaſineſs of mind.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE conſidered the diſorder, and after reflection adviſe the tryal of the following courſe, for ſix weeks.

1*ſt*,

1*ſt*, You muſt every morning and evening cauſe your ſkin to be well rubbed with rough, dry, warm flannel, in all the places where the ſcurf is: the flannel muſt firſt be kept over the ſmoak of burning brimſtone and impregnated with it.

2*dly*, You are to avoid all fat meats, or what is dried in the air, ſmoak, or ſalt, eat vegetables, farinous roots, kitchen herbs, ripe ſummer fruit, freſh fleſhes and river fiſh. For drink I recommend ſmall beer, and a moderate glaſs of white *French* wine.

An hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, you are to take five of the pills *A*, at one time, always drinking after them five ounces of the medicated liquor *B*.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Flor. Sulphur.* drach. iij.
Myrrh. drach. jſs.
Rhei drach. j.
Terebinthin. drach. j.
M. f. pil. ſing. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Recentiſſ. Acetos. Pratens. cum toto* M. j.
Gramin. cum toto M. ij.
Toraxac. cum toto M. jſs.
Rad. Oxylapathi drach. ſs.

Boil all theſe in a ſufficient quantity of freſh whey for the ſpace of half an hour. Then let there be ſtrained off xv *ounces for daily uſe.*

LETTER.

*** LETTER XXIII.

SIR,

I AM twenty ſeven years old, and for about four years laſt paſt, any violent action brings on me a difficulty of breathing, which is attended with a cough and ſpitting, which ſeldom holds me above half an hour or not ſo long, if I can ſpit freely; if I drink any ſtrong ſpirituous liquor late in the evening, I am awakened frequently in the night with a ſhortneſs of breathing, but moſtly after malt liquors, and likewiſe tobacco, any ſlight cold always aggravates it, and likewiſe cold weather; when action brings it on me, it is often attended with pain in my head, it has been eaſier this winter, than it was foregoing ones, and I have been leſs ſubject to take cold, which advantage I fancy to have received by taking twelve or fifteen drops of *oil of ſulphur per Campan* in a glaſs of cold water at night. In my youth I had convulſion fits, and am more ſubject to this ſhortneſs of breath in the winter, than in the ſummer. I have my health otherwiſe very well, and a good appetite.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE dose of the *Oil of Sulphur per Campan.* was I think sufficiently large *(a)*

THE disorder is a *Convulsive Asthma*; I hope for relief to the patient from the careful observance of what follows, which must be continued for six weeks successive.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon*, drach. ij.
Balsam. Peruv. drach. j.
Croci drach. ss.
Trochisc. de Myrrh. drach. iij.
M. F. Pilulæ gr. iv.

Let him take three of these pills thrice a day, when his stomach is empty; and drink at each time after them two ounces of the following liquor.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Foenic.* lib. j.
Oxymell. Scillitic. unc. ij.
Syrup. 5 *Rad. aperient.* unc. ij.
M.

(a) THE doctor here condemns it in a modest manner, as being by much too large. He has left us several cautions against this manner of using it, and in too great quantities; describing the *Asthma* as one of the bad consequences. Though it was a favourite medicine, he used only to add some drops to *Decoctions* and *Infusions* to bring them to an agreeable acidity. The best manner of preparing this *Spirit of Sulphur* is described in Vol. V. of the medical essays, page 183.

LETTER

*** LETTER XXIV.

A LADY thirty ſix years of age, had the meaſles when ſhe was about ſixteen years old, and was afterwards ſeized with an hectick fever, which being almoſt cured was ſucceeded by dry cough, and pain in the breaſt, though now and then throwing up a little pus; this continued till this time; in the interim the lady was married, upon which the cough grew worſe, and as yet having found no relief, begs the favour of your aſſiſtance.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

FROM what I can collect by the ſhort deſcription of the ladies diſorder and the anſwers the gentleman gave me, I am apt to think.

1*ſt*, THAT the diſeaſe was originally contracted from the ſudden cooling of the body which was over-heated; this created a ſtiffneſs attended with pain in the ligaments, membranes and tendons of the muſcles: the muſcular fibres of the lungs likewiſe have ſuffered too great a contraction, whence they are more difficultly expanded, particularly in a ſharp air.

2. THIS

2*dly*, THIS produced then a ſpecies of *Rheumatiſm* in the muſcles, and a dry *Aſtma* with a cough, in the lungs,

3*dly*, THERE is (I think) a general weakneſs over all the body.

4*thly*, IT is to be feared that the diſeaſe may increaſe with age, particularly at the time the *Menſes* ſtop, whence all endeavous muſt now be uſed towards a cure.

5*thly*, LET therefore a bliſter of *Cantharides* be applied betwixt the patients ſhoulders once a month, three days before full moon; let it remain for twelve hours, then it may be removed, and the part healed. This muſt be continued for three months ſucceſſive.

6*thly*, IN the mean time the part where ſhe feels the pain, muſt conſtantly every morning and evening be well rubbed, with rough, dry, warm cloths.

7*thly*, HER ladyſhip muſt uſe a good deal of exerciſe, walking and riding in a coach: the more of this ſhe takes, the better.

8*thly*, FOR two months ſucceſſive ſhe muſt every morning take thrice, five of the pills *A*, and that at ſeven, eight and nine a clock, drinking after each doſe five ounces warm of the decoction *B*.

H. B.

A.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammoniac.* drach. j.
Bulb. Ari. recent. drach. ij.
Castorei gr. vj.
Galbani drach. jss.
Opopanac. drach. ij.
Terebinth. drach. ss.
M. f. pilul. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Rad. rec. Bardan.*
℥ *Radic. aperient.* ana unc. ij.
Sal Prunell. drach. ij.
Mellis Narbon. unc. iij.

Boil these in water for the space of half an hour, and to the IV *pints of the decoction add three ounces of Narbon Honey.*

*** LETTER XXV.

A LADY of a fine and delicate texture of body, was prodigiously afrighted by a terrible shock of thunder and lightning, which she looking upon as a judgment, did not recover her fright for some weeks, but was always dull and melancholy, and fell into hysterick fits; which by degrees grew more violent, and commonly three times a month seized her in a terrible manner, neither in the intervals was she quite free, but always troubled with slighter hystericks.

BOERHAAVE'S

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully considered the description of the disorder, and am of opinion that it is an *Epilepsy* of the *Sympathetic* kind, which proceeds from the great *Plexus Nervosus Epigastricus*: for the order and action of these nerves being confounded, the brain appears to be affected, and the *common Sensorium* intirely oppressed for several hours.

THIS kind of disorder is very difficult of cure, because it often without any preceeding matter suddenly attacks and affects the actions of the brain, as it were by stealth; and confounds them, as some high passions terrify those affected by them, who often do not know whither they are hurried away.

IN hopes of a cure, I advise.

1*st*, That the *Epispastic* plasters *A*, be applied to the soles of the feet, and kept on constantly night and day, the time of bathing only excepted.

2*dly*, Four days before new and as many before Full-moon in the evening, an hour before she goes to bed, her feet, must be bathed in warm water and afterwards well rubbed with rough, dry, warm cloths;

cloths; this then is to be done eight times every month.

3dly, THE first of these four days at six a clock in the morning she must take the powder *B*, when her stomach is empty, and that day take no acids; the same day at five a clock in the afternoon let her drink off at once the draught *C*. This article then the lady will observe twice a month.

4thly, THE other days, thrice a day when the stomach is empty, that is an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper, she may take three of the pills *D*, and drink after them one ounce of the medicated wine *E*.

5thly, HER ladyship must take all kinds of exercise such as friction, walking, riding; and the more the better. She must go to bed betimes, and rise early.

6thly, WITH regard to eating and drinking, her taste and former way of life must be consulted, and rather allowances are to be made this way than a strict regimen injoyned, providing only she does not eat those things that are hard of digestion.

Leyden, 17$\frac{1}{4}$32. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Camphor.* drach. ſs. ſolut. in
Terebinth. drach. j.
Emplaſt. de Melilot. unc. ij.
Galban. opt. pur. unc. jſs.
M. S. A. pro Emplaſtris ad Alut.

B.

℞. *Cinnabar nativ.* gr. iij.
Sacchar. perlat. gr. vj.
Scammon. gr. vij.
Stib. diaphoret. gr. xvj.
M. f. Pulvis tenuiſſimus.

C.

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Flor. Tiliæ*
Lavendul.
Majoran. ana unc. j.
Spirit. Matricalis drach. j.
Tinct. Opij. gutt. xiv.
Succini gut. x.
M.

D.

℞. *Aſæ foetidæ* drach. ij.
Bals. Peruvian. drach. ſs.
Camphoræ drach. ij.
Myrrhae. drach. ij.
Terebinthin. drach. ſs.
M. f. pilul. gr. iij.

E.

E.

℞. *Cortic. Magellan.*
Saſſafras
Tamariſc.
Capparid.
Cinnamom.
Citrei ana unc. ſs.
Lign. Agalloch. drach. ij.
Santal. citrin. drach. iv.
Lapid. Hæmatit. drach. j.
Limatur. Mart. drach. vj.
Rad. Angelic.
Caryophyllat.
Contrayerv.
Serpentar. virgin. ana drach. j.
Semin. Angelic. Siler. Dauc. cretic. Foenicul.
ana drach. jſs.

Mix all theſe together, and make them into a groſs powder, whence with IV *pints of rheniſh wine let there be* S. A. *prepared a medicinal wine.*

*** LETTER XXVI.

SIR,

THE gentleman who deſires your advice is near fifty years old, tall in ſtature, naturally rather thin and ſpare than otherwiſe. He lived in the *Weſt-Indies* many years, but for ten years laſt paſt has conſtantly reſided in *England*, except for a few months, which I ſhall mention hereafter.

He has always lived very temperate, and in the proper uſe of the non-naturals. He injoyed a good ſtate of health before the illneſs he now labours under, but was ſubject to a cattarrous cough upon getting cold, and for many years has oftentimes in a day with eaſe hemed up from his throat and ſpit out *Phlegm*, which (by the way) has left him ſince his illneſs.

This gentleman about a year and a half ago went over to the *Weſt-Indies*, and continued there a few months in his uſual ſtate of health; and returning to *England* took a violent cold in his paſſage, which not being well treated, I ſuppoſe altered the craſis of his blood to a viſcid ſtate.

Upon his landing he rode poſt for three days which much ſtrained him, and diſſipated his ſpirits, but ſeemed after a day or two's reſt not at all affected by his late illneſs, or the fatigue of his journey.

About a month afterwards which was in *Auguſt* laſt, an hiccup by degrees came upon him, without any immediate ſenſible cauſe; which with other troubleſome ſymptoms has continued ever ſince.

But to be more particular; upon his ſwallowing though but a ſmall quantity either of liquid or ſolid food, he feels ſuch a ſtraitneſs at the mouth of his ſtomach, that gives him pain and prevents

prevents deglutition, which is followed with hiccups, that pump up from his ſtomach by mouth fulls a thick viſcid *Phlegm*; and when that is diſcharged, he is eaſy and ſeems very well except the fit continues long, which then leaves a ſoreneſs at his breaſt, attended with a ſinking of his ſpirits and imbecillity.

THIS complaint does not always affect him when he eats, for ſometimes he can ſwallow ſo well with caution, as to make a tolerable good meal. He is never ſick at his ſtomach, nor inclined to vomit; regular in all the natural evacuations, except ſweat; having not ſenſibly perſpired ſince this illneſs. His pulſe is generally languid; much waſted in his body, and feels a great decay of ſtrength; yet is no way hypochondriac or dejected; uſes daily exerciſe as riding and walking, and is as eaſy and chearful in company as he uſed to be when in health; except interrupted by a fit, which ſeldom or never comes upon him but upon attempts to eat or drink.

UPON the firſt attacks of his diſtemper he was vomited, which was repeated ſeveral times once in a week or ten days: between whiles he took gummous pills and other ſtomachicks, with tinctura *Helvetii*, ſometimes with red *Rhabarb*; *Quinquina* and *Elixir Vitriol*, with a regular regimen obſerved. But this method not ſucceeding

after

after many weeks trial, he went to *Bath*, where he drank the water for three months, under the direction and care of the moſt noted phyſicians there, who preſcribed for him alternately, *Safron. Venet. Cinnab. Mercur. Alcaliſat*; *Spec. Diamb*; with other ſtomachicks, but to no effect. Since his return from *Bath* for three weeks laſt by a phyſicians order of the firſt rank, he has continued taking of the following medicines.

℞. *Tinctur. Sacr.* ℥j. *Sp. Lavandula* ℥ſs. m. f. hauſtus ſumend. omni nocte hora ſomni

℞. *Conſerv. Abſynth. Roman.* ℈j. *Pulv. Ari*, gr. xij. *Limat. Chalyb. opt.* gr. viij. *Spec. Diamb.* gr iv. *Syr. Cort. aurant.* q. ſ. f. bolus ſumend. mane & quintâ pomeridiana, ſuperbibendo Aq. ſpadanæ hauſtum, quam bibat etiam pro potu ordinario.

He finds little or no benefit by the medicines he now takes, therefore being encouraged by many inſtances of your ſuperior ſkill and judgment, is determined to ſubmit wholly thereto. If you will be ſo good as to favour him with your advice and directions: or if you think it neceſſary for him to go to the *Spaw*, or any where elſe, he will comply therewith, upon your giving him any reaſonable hopes of ſucceſs.

13 *July*, 1736.

*** BOERHAVVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING examined with attention the propoſed caſe, I am of opinion that that there is a very great relaxation in all the ſmall glands of the ſtomach and the guts; whereby ſo vaſt a quantity is gathered up ſo ſoon to *Phlegm* and loſt.

THE method and remedies given hitherto againſt the illneſs are the beſt to cure it; ſo that it is ſcarce poſſible to find out any others more able to theſe purpoſes.

I SHALL only recommend the following remedies.—Let be kept † of the pills *A*, five at a time, every morning at 6. $6\frac{1}{2}$. 7. $7\frac{1}{2}$. 8. $8\frac{1}{2}$. ſo that thirty pills ſhall be taken every day morning at an empty ſtomach, and at every time immediately after the five pills muſt be drunken ℥ij of juice *B*, to theſe purpoſe freſhly preſſed every day. All theſe muſt be continued ſo ſix weeks ſucceſſively during the ſummer time.

Leyden $17\frac{3}{8}36$. *H. B.*

† *taken*

A.

℞. *Aloes lotæ puriſs.* drach. ſs.
Bilis recent. Lucii piſcis gr. xv.
Croci gr. xij.
Myrrh. drach. j.
Sapon. Venet. drach. iv.
Terebinth. gr. ix.
M. f. a. f. pil. ſing. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Herb. recentiſs. Anonid.* m. j.
Boragin. m. ij.
Cochlear. m. j.
Diapens.
Eryng.
Foenic. ana m. ſs.
Gramin. m. iv.

Let all theſe be cut and well waſhed. Then keep them in rain water for ſome time, and after ſqueeze them in a preſs, ſo as to extract xij ounces of the freſh juices.

LETTER XXVII.

THE patient is about thirty ſix years of age, of a ſanguine conſtitution, born twelve children, and generally and naturally healthy. About eight years ago ſuffered a very ſharp quotidian ague for about four months, whoſe chief ſymptom was a violent pain in the head: this was removed

moved by the bark with aromaticks, but left behind it rheumatick pains and ſcorbutic eruptions; the latter of which remain at preſent yet manifeſt, though by the uſe of antiſcorbutick juices formerly preſcribed by Dr. *B.*—— and repeated ſpring and fall they were in a great meaſure abated. The ague hath had ſome irregular returns upon accidents of cold or large diſcharges; particularly about three years ago after lying in, but always was conquered by the *Bark*, mixed with *Theriac*, *Snakeroot*, *Salt of Amber*.

UPON the ſecond of *July* 1735, after a very hard labour and with the birth acroſs, ſhe was delivered of a male child, and believes that every circumſtance relating thereto was ſafe and well. The after pains came naturally as uſual; theſe continued about three or four days, but upon their ceaſing ſhe was ſeized with the ague attended with the former ſymptoms. It was not thought adviſeable immediately to adminiſter the *Bark*.

UPON the eighth of *Auguſt* ſhe was ſeized with a ſharp pluritic pain upon the right ſide, juſt under the breaſt, with the uſual Symptoms of an hard pulſe and pain in breathing: theſe yielded in a ſhort time to plentiful bleeding, bliſtering and pectoral medicines.

DURING the eight or ten days that the pleuritic pains raged, the ague diſappeared, but then returned

returned again with the ſame force as before, and upon inſpiration a ſenſe of pain remained upon the part for a long time after; and even to this day upon any oppreſſion or feveriſhneſs (as ſhe expreſſes it) it is felt with pain, and deſcribes it, as if ſomething was drawing from, or appendant to the part, which gives ſtrong ſuſpicion of ſome adheſion.

Upon the twentieth of *Auguſt*, after purging and vomiting, ſhe began the uſe of the following medicines. *Kince Nince Theriac* equal parts, *Snake-root* half, ſalt of *Amber* an eighth, made into an electuary, with ſyrup of Cloves, to the quantity of a nutmeg every four hours, waſhing it down with an infuſion of *Kince nince, cort. aurant. gentian. ſnake root, leſſer Cardamoms, Camomile Flowers and Saffron.* Upon theſe applications the ague yielded towards the end of *September*, but ſhe apprehended herſelf much bloated eſpecially her upper parts, which was then thought a conſequence of the ague decreaſing, but upon the twenty ninth of *September*, when ſhe firſt put on a pair of ſtays, ſhe was ſenſibly ſwelled to that degree, that any perſon would have ſuppoſed her ſix or ſeven months gone with child.

The monthly diſcharges were hitherto regular, and the ſwelling too great to give any ſuſpicion of a conception; but about the middle of *October*, which

which was the regular time of their return, they disappeared for about ten days beyond the stated time; she was then seized with sickness at her stomach and dizziness in her head, with heaving after the manner of breeding women; which symptoms appeared daily, till the ninth of *January*; however the *Menses* returning and the patient continuing much swelled, it was thought adviseable to attempt by proper evacuations to lessen the swelling. For this purpose between the twenty fourth of *October*, and the first of *January*, she took eleven dozes of *Calomel* in bolus's over night, which were purged off next day with the purging infusion and cornachim, taking upon the intermediate days ℥j of a mass made of *Gum Ammoniac*, *Galban*, *Sal Tartar* in soap—upon this purging and aperient course the swelling subsided and abated, but upon the ninteenth of *December*, there was felt just under the navel an hard lump, then deep in appearance, but afterwards gradually tending more superficially and increasing in bulk.

THIS appearance notwithstanding the monthly discharges continued their regular returns, occasioned in her physicians a suspicion of a conception. The discharges indeed were preceeded for two days every time since *October*, (and continue so still) with a plentiful flow of brownish water; but the true red discharge which always followed, would

would ſometimes ſtop a day and then return, but ſtill kept regular as to the exactneſs of the monthly periods.

Upon the ninth of *January* the ſickneſs and heaving ceaſed, and there was imagined a perception of a motion juſt like that of a feather in the middle of the lump, which was felt more than twice: the lump continued increaſing till the twelfth of *April*, when a water broke after the manner of child bearing women, and was coming away in ſmall quantities for two days together.

Upon the ceaſing of that flow of water, ſhe fell into ſtrong labouring pains, but inſtead of bearing down they concentered towards the lump, and were deſcribed as if the lump was ſqueezed and grinded. Theſe pains continued at firſt for twelve hours, and returned every day for a fortnight with very little intermiſſion, and without any ſenſible decreaſe of the bulk. The labour pains happened about a fortnight after the regular monthly diſcharges, and continued till the time of the next return; juſt before which they increaſed with violence, and ſeemed to bear down, this brought away a large quantity of water, upon which the violence of the pain abated. The pains however continued irregular, or without any farther benefit of diſcharge, till about the fourth of *June*, which was the regular return of the *Men-*

ſes

ſes and were preceeded as uſual, with a brown diſcharge before mentioned. Upon the twenty ſixth there came away a lump of the bigneſs of an hens egg without pain, but attended with a ſhed which laſted about five minutes. This lump upon maceration in water, appeared to be a membranous ſubſtance incloſing of grumous blood, and viſibly to be torn off from ſomewhat it muſt have adhered to in the womb: this was ſucceeded by a plentiful evacuation of white milky liquor, which continued forty eight hours, and was attended with throbbing pains in the breaſts like the coming of the milk. I muſt obſerve that the feveriſhneſs, heat and uneaſineſs that attends the coming of the milk, in child bearing women returned in this patient two or three times between two periodical diſcharges; the riſing thereof into the breaſt is attended with pains in the loyns, back and blade bones. When the breaſts are full the load in the belly ſeems lighter, though not leſſened in bulk: when the milk is emptied from the breaſts, it ſeems to fall down in the womb, and conſtantly preceeds a diſcharge thence either of milk or water, or of ſome other liquor of the ſame ſubſtance or conſiſtance though differently coloured. Pain like labour as before deſcribed, about the twenty firſt of *July*, which was the next periodical return; three lumps came away in the

ſame

ſame manner, and attended with the ſame circumſtances as theſe juſt now deſcribed, only theſe laſt were filled with milk.

THE next return *Auguſt* the eighteenth produced nothing particular, only it was thought that the previous diſcharge of the brownifh liquor was in a greater quantity than uſual. The eleventh of *September* this laſt diſcharge returned plentifully, and continued to the fourteenth when it changed to the natural. However ſhe ſuffered ſtrong labour pains daily from the twelfth to the ſixteenth, the fourteenth was the only day of the natural colour; in the diſcharge of the fifteenth it was all milk, and very plentiful; the ſixteenth when it was thought all was over, there came away without, pain, but with a ſharp inſtant ſhed, a lump compos'd of three parts, two ſmall white lumps of the bigneſs of a hazel nut, and in ſhape like a kidney affixed to each ſide of a grumous lump ſomewhat larger. It is obſervable that all that day upon every diſcharge of urine there came away large quantities of white, red and black ſkins or membranes. Beſides theſe diſcharges, the patient hath, for about ſix months paſt, at the diſtance of five or ſix weeks been conſtantly attended with a *Diarrhea*, to thirteen or fourteen times a day for two or three days, when it diſappears as it came on, without any viſible cauſe or uſe

of

of medicaments at all. At all other times coſtive, which is her natural temperament, ſo as to be under a neceſſity of rendring the bowels ſoluble, by *Manna*, *Cremor Tartar*, and ſuch like. The ſwelling notwithſtanding all the diſcharges is not any ways leſſened, but the lump which at firſt was hard is now much ſofter, and is perceived to be much more diffuſed, and more ſuperficial than it was. Her appetite during the whole hath been indifferent, however what food was taken ſeemed to be well enough digeſted. She has drunk cyder for her ordinary drink theſe three months paſt, and hath drunk a flaſk of *German Spaw* water every day from the end of *October* to this time. I ſhall only further obſerve, that the ſcorbutick Eruptions which uſe to yield to the juices ſpring and fall, have notwithſtanding the ſame uſe of them as formerly appeared with equal force, ſince the commencement of this diſorder.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER carefully conſidering the deſcription ſent me, I am of opinion that there is a twofold diſeaſe; the firſt is the *Tumour* proceeding from an obſtruction of the *Abdominal Viſcera*, which has ſo long appeared; and all the other

other ſymptoms ſhow that there is that diſorder in the *Uterus*, which produces membranous *Veſicles*, * that adhere to the ſurface of the womb, are filled with its juices, fall away at different times, and are often caſt off with violent efforts. This diſeaſe is what the ſex is frequently ſubject to, and what makes it worſe is, that the *Uterus* when once diſpoſed to form theſe veſicles commonly creates new ones, and converts all the juices into their nouriſhment and increaſe. It muſt then be a very difficult caſe, as it is ſcarcely poſſible by art to amend what is here amiſs in the ſtructure of the part. I ſhall never forget the many labours I have gone through, and the pains I have been at to remove thoſe complaints, though often to little purpoſe: and in the mean time if art does not give ſome relief, the conſequences are much to be feared. We muſt then uſe our utmoſt endeavours to help the preſent evil, and prevent future ones.

THE beſt advice I am capable to give in this caſe, I ſhall offer in the following articles.

1ſt, THE lady ſhould live in a dry warm air, in one of the high rooms expoſed to the ſouth.

2dly, SHE ſhould indulge in ſleeping, going always to bed before nine, and waking by ſix. The bed and ſheets muſt always be well dried.

* *Hydatides.*

3dly,

3dly, EVERY morning when ſhe wakes, all the belly muſt be gently rubbed for a good time with rough, dry warm flannel.

THIS ought to be done, conſtantly changing the direction. When it has been continued for a quarter of an hour, and all the pores are well opened, then muſt the belly be covered with a cloth on which the ointment *A*, is ſpred, and by a new *friction*, it (the ointment) muſt be forced into the ſkin, till it be all thus conſumed. This article muſt carefully be performed likewiſe before ſhe goes to bed, and indeed it is on this *friction* I depend moſt for the cure of the diſeaſe.

4thly, EVERY day an hour before dinner the lady muſt uſe exerciſe and that pretty vehement, either in a coach or on horſe-back: the ſame muſt be repeated in the evening, after having digeſted what was eaten at dinner. This will greatly ſtrengthen the natural force, and help much in caſting off thoſe burdens; ſhe ought likewiſe the reſt of the day to ſtir about and imploy herſelf in ſuch work, as may rather exerciſe the body, than require great application of mind.

5thly, FOR common drink freſh *Mead* is the beſt, mixing with it a little white *French* wine; this is a moſt noble aperient and deobſtruent, and is improved by boiling in it a little nutmeg. For her eating, all farinous roots, vegetables, pot-

herbs, freſh fleſh and river fiſh are proper. She ought to eat very ſparingly at a time and make the more meals.

6thly, When all this is carefully attended to, it will at the ſame time be proper to uſe ſuch internal medicines, as may gently reſolve that thick and viſcid matter, which is lodged in theſe *Veſicles*, taking great care however not to burſt the ſmall veſſels; this will require long time, elſe we ſhould harm theſe fine parts. As a ſpecimen of thoſe, I ſhall propoſe the pills *B*, of which the lady may take at ſix a clock of the morning three, drinking after them three ounces of the decoction *C*. This muſt be repeated at 7, 8, and 9 a clock. Thus ſhe will take every day 12 pills and drink as many ounces. This courſe muſt be continued till the ſpring affords the juices of the new grown herbs, which will be of great ſervice to the further cure of this diſorder.

The *Spa* waters will be of uſe in the ſummer time. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Unguent. Alth. comp.* unc. ſs.
Martialis unc. jſs.
Nervin. unc. j.
Olei Stillat. Lign. Rhod. gutt. vj.
M.

B.

℞. *Aloes puriſs.* drach. ſs.
Bulb. Ari recent. drach. j.
Croci optim. gr. ix.
Galbani drach. jſs.
Myrrhæ drach. j.
Sap. Venet. drach. iij.
Terebinth. gr. vj.
M. f. pil. ſing. gr. iij.

C.

℞. *Rad. rec. conſc. & contus. Anonid.*
Cichorei
Eryngii
Foeniculi
Petroſelini ana unc. ij.
Sal. Polychreſt. drach. ij.
Tartar. Vitriolat. drach. jſs.
Decoctis cum aqua ſpatio $\frac{1}{2}$ horæ adde
Semin. recent. contus. Angelic.
Aniſi
Carui
Fœniculi ana drach. ij.

Let them boil again for a little, and then to IV *Pints of the decoction, add two ounces of the Syrup of* V *aper. roots.*

*** LETTER XXVIII.

SIR,

MY diſorder is as follows,—when I am out of order I have ſuch an abundance of them * that I am not able to ſtand; and they are ſo thin that they ſcarce colour my linnen, and very often a vaſt deal of blackiſh clods comes off. They have brought me ſo low, that I am obliged to keep my bed. If I have not ſpeedy relief, 'tis impoſſible for me to hold out. I have no more colour than a piece of paper, and find my ſelf waſting. Dr. *A—t*, ſays it is a cold in my Womb, and ordered me nouriſhing broths, and to drink tent and claret.

I AM about fifty years old, of a thin lax habit of body, have had many children and all the births very difficult and laborious.

*** BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE cauſe of the ſickneſs is conſiſting chiefly in a weakneſs of the veſſels of the womb, whereby all the humours are running out, which makes a diſpoſition to the dropſy.

IT

* *menſes.*

IT will be neceſſary to have all the body well rubbed with a fleſh bruſh, or with a dry flannel.

A dry diet muſt be obſerved; no tea, or coffee, no great quantity of ſmall beer, but roaſted fleſh and a glaſs of wine or tent; then for the common drink it is beſt to take milk boiled with a little cinnamon in it.

EVERY three hours of the day there muſt be taken three of the pills *A*, drinking after them a ſpoonful of the wine *B*, all the day from morning to evening; this all being continued ſo ſix weeks ſucceſſively, ſhall give great benefit.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammoniac.*
Aſae fœtid. ana drach. ſs.
Balſam. Peruvian. gutt. vj.
Bol. Armen. drach. j.
Camphor. gr. vj.
Catechu drach. ij.
Lap. Haematit.
Maſtiches ana drach. ſs.
Sarcocoll. drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. xv.
M. f. Pil. ſing. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Cortic. Capparid.* unc. ij.
Cinnamom. unc. iij.
Citrei flavi unc. ij.
Lign. Santal. Citrin. drach. iv.
Limat. Mart. recent. unc. ij.
Nucis Myristic. drach. iv.

Beat all these into a powder, and with six pints of rhenish wine, let there be made a medicinal wine.

*** LETTER XXIX.

THE lady is now forty years of age, of a gross full body, and being frightned more than ordinary about twelve years ago, had the next day a violent colick attended with a flatulent distention of her stomach and intestines, which by the usual method was removed, and for some years was attacked with such another colick duly in the month of *July* or *August*; but about two years ago she was for some months, seldom free of these *Borborigmi* with lowness of spirits, faintness and violent pains in the back and left *Hypochondre*, which confined her much to her bed though she got no manner of sleep; being ordered riding, by so doing she passed urine of a dark mossy colour; with thick sediment but without sand. Last winter when the trouble returned, she made little

little or no quantity of urine for ſome months, but had great pain and a conſtant inclination to make urine and to go to ſtool, but could do neither; after this violent fit ſhe paſſed ſome ſmall ſtones, the ſize of big pins heads and a quantity of red ſand, and ſome weeks after, by uſing the warm bath and drinking *Piedmont* water, ſhe made urine white, mixed with ſome red matter; the warm bath was but twice uſed as it proved too ſevere. She was ordered to apply round the loyns and ſtomach, flannel cloths wrung out of boiled camomel as hot as could be endured, which gave her great relief; but theſe two months laſt paſt, every evening the trouble returns with exceſſive pains in the back and left ſide as formerly, and works always like a heart colick; while the ſore fit continues, ſhe is cold all over the body, and lying on a couch before a big fire, only ſo has eaſe by rubbing with warm cloths, and by taking a little warm cherry, ſleeps and ſweats and awakening makes plenty of urine without pain but ſome heat; this ſeaſon her head and ſight are affected; ſhe is ordinarily conſtipate, her menſtrual flux is regular though exceedingly painful, and when the fit is ſevere, and the ſtomach ſwelled, ſhe obliges her ſelf to throw up any nouriſhment ſhe takes; ſhe has born ſeveral children, but none theſe ſeven years; the phyciſians

here have ordered vomits of *Ipecacuana*, frequent clyſters, gummous pills, volatile Salts, chalybeats and opiates, in various forms; her belly is always rolled by advice.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully read over and conſidered the hiſtory of the diſorder, and am of opinion, that it conſiſts chiefly in theſe three; firſt there are obſtructions in the *Coeliac* and *Meſeraic* veſſels, whence their free action is ſtopped: there is likewiſe too great a mobility in the nervous ſyſtem, and laſtly, there ſeems to be gravel lodged in the kidneys. The cure muſt be difficult conſidered by itſelf, and this is much increaſed from the neceſſity and repugnancy of oppoſite medicines: we muſt then ſo adapt thoſe, as each indication will admit of, and they muſt at the ſame time anſwer to them all.

I ADVISE therefore in the firſt place, that the lady uſe as much exerciſe as ſhe can well bear: nothing is more requiſite for all the different intentions, than this is; it will be proper likewiſe, morning and evening to have all the belly well rubbed with rough dry warm cloths: there is no better

better remedy than this is, against wind and pains in the bowels.

I RECOMMEND likewise the use of the *Mass A*, of which she may take one drachm four times a day; this may be done an hour before breakfast and dinner, at five a clock in the afternoon, and then an hour before supper for the last time. She must every time drink two ounces of the decoction *B*. As the lady will be so well directed, I need not mention any thing with regard to her diet; I earnestly recommend her going to bed at nine a clock and rising early, and she must sit but little all the day. This is the best course I can propose for this winter season, but when the spring gives us the fresh herbs, we may then entertain better hopes. In the mean time what I have recommended must be continued for six weeks at least, before we can expect that change to the better, which I heartily wish for. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Croci* gr. xv.
Curcumæ drach. ss.
Lap Cancror. drach. j.
Mannae Calabrin. unc. j.
Mastiches drach. ss.
Rhei drach. j.
Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat. unc. jss.
Terebinth. drach. j.

Mix all these together, S. A. into a Mass, *which cover with powdered liquorice.*

B.

B.

℞. *Rad. Bardan.* unc. iv.
Eryngii unc. j.
Foeniculi unc. iij.
Parietar.
Scabios ana m. jss.

Boil all these in fountain water for an hour, then put in of Agrimony, Betony, Balm *of each an half handful, and let them all boil a little again, then strain off four pints of the decoction.*

LETTER XXX.

SIR,

I AM about thirty six years of age, by constitution fat, but not strong; having had two children, since which I have miscarried six or seven times, for which I have taken a great many restringent medicines, and am of opinion that has been somewhat the cause of obstruction. It is five years since I was with child, and about three years that I have wanted the course of nature except in some intermediate times. I was as I should be for about eleven months, when I had a fever with violent vomitings and purgings, and afterwards drank the *Bath* waters and bathed for three months, and that was this time two years. I had before been in a very ill state of health with frequent

quent fits of the colic, and I had a pleurisy which obliged the Doctors to order me to have sixty ounces of blood taken from me in four days, the loss of so much blood I did not recover in a great while, and the obstruction succeeded that disorder, which continued till the time I mentioned above. When I came from the *Bath* I mended very much, but *Christmas* was a twelve month I met with a great deal of trouble by a fright, which flung me into the yellow jaundice, and was so bad with that distemper, that my life was despaired of: I took a great many vomits, and other medicines that the physicians thought proper, and then again I wanted the course of nature, and was swelled to a great degree; I was ordered to the *Bath*, and there I swelled more when I drank the waters. The physician there Dr. *O*—— said the waters were not proper as I was in a dropsy; so I drank but a small quantity of water, I tryed bathing once, but that took away the use of my limbs, for two days, and the doctor said he did not approve of bathing: I took several strong purges which reduced my swelling pretty much, I continued taking physic for some months twice a week. I found that weakened my nerves, so I left it off, and by degrees gathered strength, and has had my health pretty well for eight months. I am plump, and look well and sleep tolerably. I have

but

but an indifferent appetite, and am much troubled with wind; I had the benefit of nature the beginning of *February* and not ſince; my ſwelling is now returned, it is between my belly and ſtomach, not to a great ſize, but vaſtly hard like as if I was with child: the lower part of my belly is ſoft. When I am moſt ſwelled, I have often ſick fits and am ſhort breathed, my legs dont ſwell, nor have I a drought, I make a ſufficient quantity of water, and go to ſtool two or three times a day, my ancles of a night ſwell a little.

I BEG, ſir, you will be ſo good as give me your ſincere opinion of my caſe very particularly, what food is moſt proper and what liquor. Cyder agrees with me.

IF you think you cannot judge ſo well of it as by ſeeing of me, and if you think it neceſſary, I will come over to you. I am ſir your humble ſervant, *&c.*

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

Madam,

HAVING conſidered your caſe with the greateſt attention, I am apt to think it ſhall be good to eat only dry meats, and to drink a glaſs of good cyder, and a little ſtrong ale, to do ſo much

much exercise, as can be bear'd; at nine a clock it shall be necessary to go to sleep, all the place of the belly where the swelling is must be rubbed every morning and evening half an hour, with a dry flannel, the longer the better, and so strong as can be easily bear'd.

IF you please to take three pills *A*, every three hours of the day from morning to evening, altime * with two spoonfuls of the liquor *B*. All these being observed so three months successively, shall do great benefit to cure the sickness.

Leyden, 17$\frac{0}{6}$36. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Aloes optim.* drach. j.
Bulb. Ari Recent. drach. ij.
Ol. Stillat. Junip. gutt. x.
Sapon. Venet. drach. iij.
Terebinth. drach. ss.
Trochisch. de Myrrh. drach. ij.
M. f. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Rectificat. Junip.* lb. ij.
Rob. Baccar. Junip. drach. jv.
Sal. Polychrest. drach. ij.
Spir. Junip. drach. iij.
Tinct. Contrajerv. drach. vj.
M.

*** LET-

* *always.*

*** LETTER XXXI.

SIR,

MY daughter eleven years old of a very big growth, tall and broad though not fat, has had the ſmall pox and meazells, and was always healthy till three years ago ſhe had an ague in the ſpring, which brought her very low. She got the *Bark*, and thrice the fever returned, but the *Bark* in powder always put it away. This was from *April* to *Auguſt*, when an infuſion of the *Bark* in cherry continued for a month, ſix ſpoonfulls a day carryed it quite off. She continued well till next ſpring, and then ſhe had ill formed fits of the ague every other day, but by an infuſion of camomile flowers in water and vomits, it was carried off intirely. The third ſpring ſhe was again attacked with an aguiſh illneſs, it came only every other day, but theſe days though ſhe trembled not, ſhe was ſlow, ſick, could not eat, cold firſt, then feveriſh. She was tryed with vomits and bitters but it ſtill continued, then ſhe got ſix ſpoonfuls of juice of parſley, and two of brandy every day for a week;— this freed her from the cold and hot fits and thirſt, but her whole face ſwelled ſo, that a tea ſpoon could not

be

be put in her mouth, nor could ſhe open her jaw. By gentle phyſic that went off, but on the outſide of her cheek there continued about the bigneſs of a nut for a month, and then it went off by keeping it warm with a ſcarlet cloth. It was thought proper ſhe ſhould go to the goat whey for it had brought her low; ſhe was ſent in *May* 1735, but by cold on the road in the night ſhe went, ſhe was ſeized with a violent tooth-ach on the left ſide. Things were applied to bring it to a ſuppuration, and in eight days it broke outwardly juſt under the jaw bone. She was in exceſſive pain all the while, and neither ſlept nor eat, it was ſoon healed up and ſhe drank goat whey till *Auguſt*. Then I ſent for her, and in the journey through cold, ſhe got the tooth-ach again, and in eight days it broke again. It was ſoon healed up, and ſhe got four or five doſes of mercury and the hardneſs went off, and ever ſince ſhe has had gentle phyſic: but this month there is grown what we call a wax-kernell juſt under her jaw, but it is looſe not faſt, and the eye on that ſide is very much inflamed, ſwelled and painful in the morning, but better at night. Nothing has been uſed but purging and bleeding, but her eye ſtill continues ſore and the wax kernell too; the cheek is very little ſwelled, the two teeth ſhe complained of are hollow and pain her ſometimes.

times. She has an iſſue in her arm; ſhe has been in perfect health and heart, ever ſince the cheek broke laſt, the wax kernel is only ſore to the touch.

Your advice, ſir, *&c.*

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

FROM the careful conſideration of the young lady's diſorder, I am induced to believe, that the frequent tertian agues which returned with the ſpring, have brought on the blood a *Cacochymie* * which the *Bark* has ſurpreſſed, but not cured. This original cauſe remaining was what occaſioned the yearly return of the fever, now for the third time. To this likewiſe is owing the collection and inſpiſſation of the *ſerous humours*, and ſuch as are ſecreted by the ſeveral *glands*, and that principally about the parts where thoſe *glands* are placed, as about the eyes, cheeks and jaw-bone. Hence alſo the whole body is affected with wandring and different pains.

IN theſe circumſtances the beſt method I can think of, is to uſe all endeavours to attenuate this *lentor*, and viſcidity of the juices; to open the obſtructed veſſels, and thus to correct the diſorder which

* *A depraved ſtate of the juices.*

which has now got deep root and conſtantly returns. For this purpoſe, I recommend the rubbing of the belly every morning when the ſtomach is moſt empty, with dry warm flannel, for the ſpace of half an hour; *that we may remove the obſtructions of the Viſcera.* Then the temples, face, neck, all about the chin and ears, muſt in the ſame manner be well rubbed, and that for ſome time. The lady muſt uſe all manner of exerciſe, walking, dancing and ſuch like; and the more ſhe takes of this the better, that ſo the blood and humours may act with vigour from the muſcular motion. As it has always been found that in thoſe caſes the *Liver* and its veſſels were affected, it will be extremely neceſſary to reſolve the matter which is there collected and concreted and to draw it off. This is obtained from the juice of *aperient* plants, which muſt be drunk for the ſpace of ſix weeks. Therefore every morning after the rubbing, ſhe muſt drink at ſeven a clock, eight and nine, each time one third of the juice *A*, freſh every day, and to make it more effectual, at going to bed, ſhe muſt take three of the pills *B*. While ſhe is drinking the juice, ſhe muſt gently walk about, as is uſually done in taking *Spa* waters. She muſt go to bed betimes and take great care not to expoſe herſelf to the night air and rather indulge in ſleeping.

For eating, I would recommend what is ſolid, and at the ſame time eaſy of digeſtion, and to make three meals, a day. She may breakfaſt on biſcuit, after ſhe has taken the laſt doſe of the juices. Dinner and ſupper of ſuch things as I have juſt now mentioned, only avoiding dryed and ſmoaked fleſhes, or ſuch as are ſalted. All ripe ſummer fruits, potherbs, plants, milk, whey, will now and then be of ſervice. After dinner and ſupper, it will not be amiſs to drink a glaſs of wine to ſtrengthen the ſtomach *and promote digeſtion.*

H. B.

A.

℞. *Recentiſs. Agrimon.*
Bellid. Pratens.
Chaerophyll.
Endiviæ
Fumariæ
Graminis ana M. j.

Theſe muſt be beaten and cut ſmall, then put into a preſs, their juice extracted, which muſt be freſh given to the patient every morning.

B.

℞. *Aloes puriſs.* gr. xv.
Borac. gr. vj.
Cremor. Tartar. gr. ſs.
Sal. Polychreſt.
Tartar. Vitriolat. ana gr. vj.
Terebinth. gr. iij.
M. f. s. a Pil. gr. iij.

LET-

. LETTER XXXII.

THE lady who begs your advice is aged forty one years the mother of ſeven children, of a delicate conſtitution but good ſtrong ſpirits; has for ſeveral years been ſore afflicted with a cough and a plentiful expectoration, but more or leſs was able to mind the affairs of her houſe and not at all hectic.

ABOUT five years ago, ſhe was delivered of a child in the ſeventh month which weakened her very much, and her health has been very fleeting ever ſince. The next year ſhe was attacked with a *fluxus menſium enormis*, which continued for ſome time and brought her very low; after this ſhe recruited pretty well, but the cough continued though in a leſs degree. About eighteen months ago, ſhe was ſeized with a looſeneſs, ſweatings, loſs of appetite, and her cough became very ſevere; after ſome time ſhe again recovered a tolerable meaſure of health, and her cough has been leſs than before, but is much emaciated.

LAST ſpring upon being too much expoſed to the cold, ſhe became ſick and much pained in her right arm, neck and head. She was bliſtered, uſed emollient and attenuating fomentations. Dry rub-

rubbing, anodyne embrocations and vomits, by all which ſhe was again brought to her ordinary ſtate of health, but only the pains remain yet in a ſmall meaſure in that arm.

WITHIN theſe few weeks her digeſtion has become worſe with ſomewhat of ſickneſs in the night and heat, feels a hardneſs and ſwelling ſometimes in one part of the *Abdomen*, ſometimes in another, like as when a child moved in it; ſhe is very coſtive, has tranſient pains in her neck and breaſt, but her cough is not very conſiderable except in the morning.

HER *Catamenia* are almoſt quite worn off, and what remains not of the natural colour, but blackiſh; ſhe has no drought, but when the ſickneſs in the night afflicts her. Of late her gums ſeparate from ſome of her teeth, ſo that they are become looſe.

SHE takes vomits frequently and throws up a conſiderable quantity of viſcid phlegm, and is much relieved; ſhe rides now and then in good weather, and uſeth commonly pretty much exerciſe at home.

THE advice ſhe wants is to carry off the remaining pain in her arm and neck, and ſickneſs in the night; to help her weak digeſtion and coſtiveneſs, and to rectify and ſtrengthen her conſtitution as much as poſſible.

BOERHAAVE'S

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I A M much afraid that the lady's diſorder proceeds from a weakneſs in the *Viſcera*, whence the digeſtion is ſpoiled, and there is collected by degrees a *Phlegm*, and the vital forces are impaired. What I think will prove the beſt remedy in this caſe, is for the patient to take every morning when the ſtomach is empty, at ſeven, eight and nine a clock in bed each time five of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them four ounces of warm milk, mixed with an equal quantity of *Spa* water, from the well *Pouhon*. Then all the belly muſt be gently rubbed for the ſpace of a quarter of an hour, with rough, dry, warm cloths. Riding is extremely proper; the more frequent the better. The arm likewiſe where ſhe complains of the pain, and neck muſt be rubbed in the ſame manner: It will alſo be of ſervice to apply a bliſter to that arm once a week, which may be kept on for twelve hours, and then the part healed up: this may be done four times. Theſe are all the directions I have to offer in this caſe, and pray God they may be of uſe.

Leyden 17$\frac{5}{1}$36. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Balſam. Perv.* drach. ſs.
Bulb. Ari drach. j.
Curcumae drach. ſs.
Myrrhae drach. j.
Opopanac. drach. jſs.
Sap. Venet. drach. iij.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. f. pilul. gr. iij.

*** LETTER XXXIII.

A YOUNG gentleman about fourteen years of age, of a florid hail conſtitution has had a bad cough, hoarſneſs and ſhortneſs of breath ever ſince the beginning of laſt *Auguſt*; that we think might be occaſioned by over much bathing, and ſtaying too long in the water this laſt ſeaſon. For a conſiderable time paſt he has been obliged to ſit up by the fire moſt part of the night, the cough and aſthma being ſo bad. I was called about thirteen days ago and preſcribed a purging potion, that worked him too briſkly, but was rather relieved; the following was a common *Linctus*, and a few pectoral lozenges. On the thirteenth inſtant Dr. *K*—— was ſent for and preſcribed as follows.

DETRAHATUR

DETRAHATUR ſanguis ex brachio ad uncias vij, vel viij. craſtino mane applicetur empl. epiſpaſtic. magnum inter ſcapulas; & bibat ex aqua & lacte p. æ. miſtis balſam. ſulph. Terebith ℥ſs. optime terantur in mortario donec penitus diſpareant globuli mercurii.—℞. *Pilul. rufi* ℥ſs. *Pulv. Milleped.* ʒj. *Rad. Scyll. rec. contus* ℥ſs. *Ol. Anis. Chem.* gutt. vi. *Sal. volat. ſuccin.* ℈ſs, *Oxymell. Scyll.* q. s. f. pil. magnitud. commun; quarum capiat iij. omni nocte hora ſomni ſuperbibendo ℥j. vel unciam unam & ſemiſſem decoct. pectoral.

ONE doſe of the foregoing gave him three large ſtools, ſo that the Dr. thought fit to omit them; and the bliſter was not applied by reaſon of the boys averſion to it. *Fullers* common *lohoch* with the addition of *ſperm. cet.* was ordered, and bleeding was repeated laſt *Monday*. Dr. *K*——— judged his caſe to be a *Peripneumonia*; his phlegm is not ſo much in quantity and pretty digeſted, his fits not ſo violent at preſent. The fever whether ſymptomatic or hectic, I cannot determine; but am afraid of the worſt.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

IT is to be feared that by the gentleman's ſtaying ſo long in the cold water (which circumſtance ſhould have been firſt mentioned in the deſcription) the *Nerves* belonging to the *Diaphragm* have been hurt, and hence ſo bad an *Aſthma*. This diſorder is difficult of cure, which is very plain from this conſideration, that ſo ſtrong remedies as thoſe already tryed, have done little or no ſervice.

I THINK the gentleman ſhould try, what the exerciſe of riding might do; but then it muſt be pretty violent, daily and long continued.—I am confident it would be of ſervice, and muſt recommend it as the principal remedy in this caſe: in the mean time we muſt join to it what is proper for the *Nerves*. Let him then every three hours, ſwallow three of the pills *A*, drinking immediately after them two ounces of the mixture *B*. I expect great benefit from this courſe, if continued in for three months, and pray God may bleſs it.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Asae foetid.*
Bdellii
Castor
Galban.
Myrrh.
Opopanac.
Ol. Stillat. Succin.
Sal. Volatil. Succin. ppti ana dr. jss.
Terebinth. gr. xv.
M. f. pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Melissae*
Rutæ
Rosmar. ana unc. vj.
Tinct. Succin. unc. ij.
Myrrh. drach. iij.
M.

*** LETTER XXXIV.

A GENTLEMAN of about sixty years of age, has been for about six or seven years afflicted with *Convulsions* on one side of his face; which are attended with a very acute pain in his jaw, and a great flux of *Rheum* at the same time. He has these fits frequently many in an hour: and they often continue several days together, and at

at all other times he is pretty free from them for ſeveral weeks together, he has two iſſues in his back, and has taken ſeveral *Cephalic* and *anticonvulſive* medicines, from which he has hitherto got no relief. He has a good appetite, and is never ſick after eating; but eating very often brings the pain upon him: he has had all his teeth drawn on the ſide affected.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER carefully conſidering the deſcription given of the diſorder, I would adviſe the gentleman to try the following courſe; as being in my opinion the propereſt.

1*ſt*, HE muſt every evening half an hour before going to bed, bathe his feet in freſh water, then dry them well and rub them with *flannel*.

2*dly*, HE muſt every morning waſh his head in cold water, and then have it well rubbed.

3*dly*, THREE days before new and full moon (ſo twice a month) let him take at ſix a clock o' the morning the powder *A*, that ſo he may be ſufficiently purged in order to eradicate the diſeaſe: The day he takes this *Phyſic*, he muſt keep at home and live very ſparingly.

4*thly*,

4thly, HE muſt the other days of the month take thrice a day, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, at each time three of the *pills B*, drinking after each doſe two ounces of the mixture *C*. All this muſt be continued for three months, in hopes of relief from the diſorder.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Agaric.* gr. viij.
Reſin. Jalapp. gr. v.
Scammon. gr. vij.
Turbith. Mineral. bene ppti gr. j.
Sacchar. puriſs. gr. vj.

Mix all theſe together in a glaſs mortar into a thin powder.

B.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.*
Aſae Foetid.
Bulb. Ari. recent.
Sap. Venet.
Myrrh.
Succin ppti
Terebinthin. ana drach. j.

M. F. Pillulae ſing. gr. iij.

C.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Sambuc.*
Majoran:
Rosmarin.
Rutae
Salviae
Spir Melissae ana unc. ij.
Tinct. Castor.
Succini ana drach. ij.
M.

*** LETTER XXXV.

THE lady is aged about forty, naturally of a good constitution, but has been very much harrassed by a great number of fevers, which have rendered her liable to slight nervous disorders. Her appetite is generally good or rather voracious; but the complaint for which we now apply to you, and which has baffled all our physicians here, is an inability of going to stool without taking a purging medicine. She has been in this way these nine or ten years, and was always subject to an hereditary costiveness, but different from her present complaint, which I forbear to call a costiveness, because her stools are never of an hard consistance nor excluded with pain; though she has gone frequently twelve or thirteen days without unloading, and eats heartily all

all the time. She feels no uneaſineſs for want of a ſtool, but a little fullneſs and ſleepineſs; has no motions bearing down, or piles. She is ſubject to a nervous head ach, which is likewiſe hereditary, and returns upon any irregularity of living or catching cold. It is ſometimes uſhered in with an eaſy natural ſtool; which is the only time ſhe ever has any. She is likewiſe ſubject on theſe occaſions to fall into a purging. She does not obſerve that ſhe is more ſubject to thoſe head achs, when ſhe has gone a great while without a ſtool than at any other time. She ſuppoſes to have received the hereditary diſpoſition to the head ach from her grandfather, who was ſubject to it all his time; but not coſtive. Her grandmother from whom ſhe ſuppoſes to have derived the coſtive habit (which ſhe was always ſubject to till this new complaint) was never liable to the head ach.

P. S. Quaeritur if the deficiency lies in the expulſive faculty; or the want of the periſtaltick motion in the inteſtines? whether it may properly be called a coſtiveneſs, being not of a lean habit nor being uſed to rough wines, nor ſubaſtringent dyet, nor has been ſubject to any of theſe diſeaſes, in which coſtiveneſs is generally an attendant, as the *paſſio Iliaca*, *Colica Pictonum* &c. whether or no the muſcular fibres of the inteſ-

tines

tines may not be weakned by being over ſtretched, as conſequently they muſt be when diſtended with twelve or thirten days hearty eating? whether the *Sphincter ani* is any way in the fault? ſhe requires no large doſe of a purging medicine, nor retains clyſters any immoderate time excepting the laſt, which was compoſed of nothing but a decoction of camomile flowers and oyl, without any thing ſtimulating.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

UPON conſidering the caſe, I am of opinion that there is no harm to be feared from the patient's going ſo ſeldom to ſtool: this ſtate of the body proceeds from the force of the *Inteſtine*, the quick action of the *Lacteals*, and a large *perſpiration*; nor ought we to diſturb it by medicines. This I think is pretty plain, when we conſider that notwithſtanding her hearty living and want of ſtools, there has not appeared any hard ſwelling of the belly, weight or tumour. * Beſides a more advanced age will certainly remove this complaint.

* BOERHAAVE explained this caſe by a parallel one of thoſe that go to places under the *Æquator*, who eat commonly there three times as much as in other climates, and very ſeldom go to ſtool. This alſo often happens to us *Engliſh*, in *Italy*.

The

The only one remedy I can ſafely recommend, is that the lady would take in the morning at ſeven a clock, half an hour before eight, at eight a clock and half an hour before nine, each time one ounce of this mixture, and continue ſo for the ſpace of ſix weeks.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Cichor.*
Fumar. ana unc. vij.
Manae optim. unc. j.
Sal. Prunell. drach. j.
Syrup. Cichor. drach. j.
Pulp. Tamarind, drach. x.
M.

*** LETTER. XXXVI.

SIR,

MY ill ſtate of health and other occurrences prevent my coming to you perſonally, which otherwiſe I would have gladly done; but I hope I ſhall give you a genuine deſcription of my caſe, which together with the gentlemans aſſiſtance, the bearer hereof will inable you to form a true judgment of it, and to order ſomething for my ſpeedy relief. I enjoyed a tolerable ſtate of health till I was twenty years old, when I was ſeized

ſeized with a violent fever which continued five weeks; and for which I took large quantities of the bark, which am afraid cauſed a total obſtruction of the *menſes*: for ſince that time I have had no farther appearance of them at all.

HENCE inſued a long train of hyſterick ſymptoms; which immoderate grief likewiſe hath very much contributed to. You will readily ſuppoſe that ſo long an illneſs, with a total ſuppreſſion of all natural * evacuations muſt have emaciated me to the laſt degree; yet I find an increaſe of appetite, and a continual craving for the moſt heavy and viſcid food, † which I immediately

* *WHEN the Doctor read this part of the letter, he was much ſurpriſed and asked ſeveral queſtions, about the frequency of the patients making water, going to ſtool, the colour and conſiſtence of the* fœces, *&c. To which anſwer was made, that ſhe uſed to go to ſtool, and make water once a week; that her urine was of a ſtraw colour, and ſmelt high; that the* fœces *were black and foetid; that about half a year ago; the excrements had been whitiſh, but never ſince that time unleſs during a* fever, *which was pretty vehement and returned after ſix months; that the black* fœces *were hard, but thoſe that were white, ſoft and fluid. Sweat never ſupplies the place of theſe evacuations, for the lady's conſtitution was dry and hectic.*

† *THERE was no food ſo hard or viſcid which ſhe did not eat of, and that in a good quantity, but could ſcarce retain it for an half hour without throwing it up, and ſo was preſently hungry. Drink ſometimes remained longer, but then it was in*

mediately bring up again, as I do indeed meats of a light and eaſy digeſtion. I have a continual pain in my breaſt and bowels, and can feel ſomething at the pit of my ſtomach outwardly hard and knotted. My caſe for theſe twelve months paſt hath been judged by the phyſicians here to be a *nervous Atrophy*, owing to a thorough obſtructed ſtate of the glands. I ſuſpect my preternatural appetite to be canine; but am told it is only depraved from a degenerate ſtate of the juices of the ſtomach, which I my ſelf perceive to be extreamly acid. I fear my condition is quite deplorable, and ſhall quite deſpair without a proſpect of relief from you,

from your unknown
humble ſervant

*** BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING conſidered with all poſſible attention the caſe, I was ſurprized at the ſingularity of it.

in a very ſmall quantity, and free of all wine or ſpirits, elſe ſhe preſently vomited. There is no external tumour, her body appears tight, and ſhe complains of ſomething hard at her ſtomach. She has taken a vaſt many medicines, and all to no purpoſe; bleeding often, and in very ſmall quantities, was the only thing gave her relief; but this has been long diſcontinued by reaſon of her great weakneſs.

It is very probable that there is so strong a power of digestion in the stomach and bowels, that the nourishment is made so subtile, that it is driven all into the internal vessels of the body and dissipated by *Diaphoresis*. By these is a great quantity of sharp humour in these same *Viscers*; giving speedy digestion and a corrosion of the nervous parts, so soon there is no matter to be digested.

1*st*, I recommend a vomiting *A*, to be taken every morning at an empty stomach, three days successively with good direction.

2*dly*, After these, at the fourth and the following days, it will be good to take every three hours of the day at every time three pills *B*, to drink immediately thereupon two ounces of the apozem *C*, warm.

3*dly*, Every morning after sleeping, it shall be very necessary to rub the belly half an hour with a dry hot flannel.

4*thly*, Every evening shall the lady sit before a fire, so that the place of her back where the kidneys are placed naturally, may be exposed to the warmth; then these places must be well rubbed but softly with a flannel, and then the rubbed place must be ointed with a little from the ointment *D*.

5*thly*,

5thly, IT is very commendable to the lady to eat a great deal of biſcuit, inſtead of bread with her other meals.

6thly, FOR common drink in this caſe, the beſt of all ſhall be water boiled with honey, hereby the hardneſs of the excrement will be reduced to ſoftneſs.

I HOPE the execution of theſe preſcriptions may be healthful for the lady; but before the good effect it muſt be uſed at leaſt ſix weeks ſucceſſively.

Leydæ 17$\frac{1}{4}$ 37. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Take powder of* Ipecacuana *root, two ſcruples, infuſe it all night in two ounces of white* French *wine, and cloſe the glaſs. Strain it next morning and add to it* Oxymel *of* Squills, *four drachms.*

B.

℞. *Aloes Succotrin.* drach. ℈ j.
Gumm. Ammon. drach. ij.
Myrrhae drach. jſs.
Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.
Sperm Ceti. drach. j.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. f. pil. gr. iij.

C.

℞. *Flor. Alth.* p. iij.
Fol. Alth. m. iij.
Rad. Alth. unc. ij.
Cum aq. Decoct. per horam. adde
Semin. Contus. Anethi
Angelic.
Anisi ana unc. j.
Mellis optimi unc. ij.

Keep them again for two hours in the close vessel hot, but not boiling; then give for use four Pints.

D.

℞. *Unguent. Martial.*
Nervin. ana unc. j.
Ol. Scorpion. drach. jv.
Vitelli Ovi. drach. j.
M. S. A. F. Linimentum.

⁂ LETTER XXXVII.

THE gentleman is about fifty six years old, naturally of a pretty good constitution, but has perhaps always made too free with it, living for the most part on a flesh and animal dyet, drinking wines and other spirituous liquors frequently to great excess. About seven years since being very much out of order, vomited a great quantity of collected blood, and voided some likewise by stool; after which he was tolerably well

and

and continued ſo for the greateſt part of the year, when he was taken with a violent pain and diſtention of the hypochondriacal regions, which continues ſometimes for a day or two, and generally goes off upon parting with wind either upwards or downwards; he has ever ſince been afflicted after this manner, ſometimes twice or three times a week. His urine is pretty natural, both as to quantity and quality; he is very coſtive having not a ſtool more than once in three or four days, and often not more than once a week, and then but in a very ſmall quantity: this coſtiveneſs with the windy diſtentions of his ſtomach, he believes it to be the chief cauſe of his diſorder, to prevent which he chewed *Rhubarb* for a conſiderable time, and drank a purging elixir: he has likewiſe uſed many other medicines of the like nature, but to little purpoſe, they eaſe him for the preſent, but as ſoon as their action ceaſes, ſo does their effect; his ſtomach is ſometimes pretty good, at other times but indifferent; if he chances to eat a little more than ordinary, he is immediately affected with the windy diſtention of the ſtomach, and he is not eaſy till he vomits; he obſerves his *Penis* to be drawn ſometimes to one ſide, ſometimes to the other, but without any uneaſineſs. Any violent motion either of body or mind, commonly brings the diſorder on him,

he is now very thin by the long continuance of his diſorder, and is ſometimes from his great coſtiveneſs, troubled with the piles.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully conſidered the hiſtory of the diſorder, and would adviſe the gentleman to make tryal of the following medicines, as being in my opinion the beſt to be uſed in this caſe. He muſt four times a day at each time, take five of the pills *A*, an hour before breakfaſt and dinner, at five in the afternoon, and an hour before he ſups: he muſt every time drink after them three ounces of the decoction *B*. Moderate exerciſe will be of great ſervice. All this muſt be continued at leaſt for ſix weeks, in hopes of a change to the better:

H. B.

A.

℞. *Balſam. Peruvian.* drach. ſs.
Maſtich. drach. j.
Myrrh. drach. ij.
Sap. Venet. drach. iij.
Succi Glycyrrh. inſpiſſat. drach. ij.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

B.

℞. *Flor. Altheae*
Consolid. maj. ana. p. ij.
Fol. Altheae
Parietar.
Scabios.
Virg. Aur. ana. m. ij.
Rad. Glycyrrh. unc. j.

Boil all these in fresh Water for the space of half an hour; then strain through a cloth four pints of the decoction.

*** LETTER XXXVIII.

THIS lady when about six or seven years old, had a fever which was attended with a very bad cough, so as to threaten her with danger of falling into a consumption, but in half a years time she grew better of that disorder, and was affected with something of the green sickness, eat paper, and in so private a manner as not to be discovered, till she was reduced to great Weakness by it. By proper medicines she was relieved though not quite freed from all her complaints; at twelve or thirteen years old, in the morning as she was getting up, she fell down in a fit and lay sometime without motion before she came to herself again.

About a fortnight after ſhe had another fit, but that after ſhe was up. When ſhe is firſt ſeized, her ſight is quite gone, ſhe falls immediately; towards the end ſhe ſtruggles very much, foames at the mouth, and it is for ſome time after ſhe has recovered her ſpeech that her ſenſe and memory returns; ſhe complains of a diſorder in her head, and for a day or two afterwards of a ſoreneſs in her limbs, as if ſhe had been beaten; ſhe feels unuſual motion in her bowels, and her ſtools come ſometimes involuntary away from her: She has no warning before the fits come, nor do they keep any periodical Time, none ſometimes in two months, other times three in a fortnight, but never yet two fits in the ſame day.

She has very often ſuch twitchings in her hands, that ſhe can hold nothing, and for that moment her ſenſe is perfectly gone, but no fit follows. Hiſterical choakings, faintings and other nervous diſorders, in the intervals at a great diſtance from her fits; the *menſes* come one time or other in the month, but generally in too great a quantity.

The following medicines were preſcribed. *Sal. jovis, viſc. quercin. extract. & tinctura Hellebor. nigr. & Tinct. valerian. Sylveſtr. Caſtor. Sal. ſuccin. Limatur. ſtanni, Gum. Ammoniac. Galban. Crocus,*

but

but not at all relieved by them, ſhe has had Iſſues ſeveral years, cold bathing likewiſe has had no effect.

*** BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

HAVING conſidered with all poſſible attention the propoſed caſe, I am of the following opinion.

THAT the cauſe of the fits is a ſort of defect of the ſpirits after the ceaſing of the fever, — ſeeing that the beſt ſorts of general and ſpecific medicines, and methods have no good effect hitherto, I am afraid it will not be very eaſy to find out any better, but I ſeriouſly recommend the uſe of the following preſcription.

LET the lady take every three hours of the day a ſpoonful at a time of the medicinal wine *A* with theſe directions, that it may be immediátely before eating, theſe muſt be continued for two months by this Courſe: exercise is extreamly required.

H. B.

A.

A.

℞ *Cortic. Tamarisc.* unc. iij.
Cinnamom. unc. ij.
Limat. Mart. rec. unc. ijss.
Radic. Contrajerv. drach. ss.
Serpentar. Virginian. drach. j.
Paeon, Mar. drach. iij.
Valerian. Sylvestr. drach. jv.
Semin. Dauc. Cretic. drach. vj.

Mix all these together into a gross powder, whence with a pint and an half of old Hock, *let there be prepared* S. A. *a medicinal Wine.*

LETTER XXXIX.

A GENTLEMAN, sixty two years old who has been subject to *Hypocondriac disorders*, labours at present under an obstruction of the liver, spleen, stomach, mesentery, and in short of all the *Viscera:* There has also been such a large collection of sharp and acid humours in the stomach, for these thirty four years last past, that his breathing is much disturbed and become difficult. He has so great an itching over all his skin, that he cannot help scratching himself so as frequently to bleed. He is likewise subject to *Rheumatic* pains, though not very sharp, which wander over all the body, and is costive. He has had these complaints

complaints for thirty four years. The diſorder was not ſo well treated as it ought, for the moſt eminent phyſicians here diſcovered only four months ago, that the original cauſe of the diſeaſe, was the vaſt collection of acid matter in his ſtomach; they formerly chiefly minded the *Aſthma*, not then perceiving it to be only *Symptomatic*. He is very ſubject to colds, and when ſeized with them has a running at the noſe, which continues commonly for three or four days; the *Aſthma* commonly attacks him the fourth day, which proceeds from the viſcidity of the juices. I ſhall not mention the many other ſymptoms which attend *Hypocondriac diſorders*, and which are in this patient ſo violent, that the phyſicians at *Lovain* are all of opinion he muſt have been dead long ago, had he not been of a very robuſt conſtitution.

Paris, Oct. 12, 1735.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully conſidered the caſe and am of opinion, that an *Atrabilarious* ſcorbutic and gritty matter abounds every where, and that hence the *Chylopoetic Organs* are obſtructed. Had this matter however been very acrimonious, the patient could not have ſupported it for ſo many years.

years. We muſt then endeavour to diſſolve this viſcid matter, to open the veſſels and draw the humours downwards, gently and with proper caution. In the mean time the *Acid* which now prevails muſt be temperated

For theſe ends, I adviſe the patient to take four times a day, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner, at five a clock in the afternoon, and an hour before he goes to bed, each time three of the pills deſcribed at the letter *A*, drinking warm after them three ounces of the liquor *B*.

Every morning he muſt have his ſides and belly well rubbed with warm, dry flannel, for the ſpace of half an hour.

He muſt take a good deal of exerciſe, walking and riding as much as his ſtrength and the weather will permit, and chiefly when his ſtomach is empty.

This is the beſt method I can recommend at this time of the year, which is not ſo proper to take phyſic in, — if however it be carefully obſerved, it may do great ſervice, which I pray God grant.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Corall. Rubr.* drach. ſs.
Lap. Haemat. drach. j.
Limat. Mart. drach. jſs.
Opopanac. drach. ſs.
Sapon Venet. drach. iij.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. jv. circiter.

B.

℞. *Rad. Bardan.* unc. jv.
Eryngii unc. iij.
Foenic.
Gramin. ana unc. ij.

Cut all theſe ſmall and beat them,— then let them ſteep in water all night, and boil them next morning for the ſpace of half an hour. Then add of the ſhavings of Santal Citrin wood *two Drachms,* Saſſafras *one ounce.— Let them boil a little again and in four pints of the decoction diſſolve four ounces of* Marſeilles honey.

LETTER. XL.

IN the month of *April* 1732, a lady aged forty ſix, playing at cards was ſuddenly ſeized with a paralytic diſorder in her tongue and right arm; ſhe loſt in a moment the uſe and motion of theſe parts, and complained likewiſe of a weight and uneaſineſs in her neck; theſe were her ſole complaints; for ſhe otherwiſe was able to do the affairs

fairs of the family with her usual chearfulness. She was first let blood and afterwards took a vomit; the *French* physicians here, and an *English* physician of great character advised the *Bourbon waters and Bath*, and till the proper season for using them should come, they ordered the following remedies; the *paralytic drops*; mustard prepared with milk and white-wine; decoction of the woods and a *Tincture* prepared with spirit of wine; *Pills* of *Asa fœtida* and such like, by means of which she in some measure recovered the use of her speech.

She afterwards went to *Bourbon* and received great benefit from the waters, and hot bath, but would not allow the spring to run on the affected parts. As she was not thoroughly cured, she went again in the month of *September*, and then kept the parts affected under the spring, drinking likewise the waters, and using the bath: She then recovered and had no complaint but of an heaviness in her head for three years after, for which she thrice applied a blister to her head, and had relief. Last *June* after some unexpected troubles, she had a new return of the disorder, but did not intirely lose the use of her tongue, for she pronounced her words tho' indistinctly; she likewise had a *numbness* which attacked one side: however after being blooded in the ankle, and taking a vomit she grew better, but did not perfectly recover,

cover, and ſo went for the third time to *Bourbon* in the month of *September*, and received there great benefit from the waters, though the heavineſs of her head, and a kind of thickneſs in the tongue do ſtill remain. The *French* phyſicians ſuſpected the pain in the foot which ſhe ſometimes complained of to proceed from a flying gout; but that pain is now gone.

SHE now takes the *Muſtard*, *Paralytic Drops*, *Tincture of Lillies*, and *Tincture* of *Aſa Fœtida*; but the *Stupor* in the head and tongue remains, though ſhe has recovered the uſe of her right hand.

EVERY ſmall accident diſcompoſes her; her circumſtances do not permit her to make more journies to *Bourbon*. She has been blooded in the foot four times a year, contrary to the opinion of the *Engliſh* phyſician already mentioned. She bears vomits very eaſily, and one ounce and an half of *Manna* proves a ſufficient purge: ſhe is naturally of a very delicate make and has very tender nerves. She was ſubject from her infancy to a *Colic* without a looſeneſs, ſhe earneſtly begs your advice both with regard to medicines and diet.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I ADVISE the lady to take twice in the month the purge *A*, three days before the new moon, and as many before the full moon. Let her the other days of the month, an hour before breakfaſt dinner and ſupper, take at each time three of the pills *B*, and drink after them one ounce of the mixture *C*. She muſt waſh her head in cold water every morning, and in the evening bath her legs in warm water for the ſpace of half an hour.

ALL manner of exerciſe is proper, and the more ſhe takes, it is the better. Let her go to bed at nine a clock, and riſe early: ſhe may imploy herſelf in the houſhold affairs till noon, and afterwards divert herſelf as ſhe likes beſt, without minding any buſineſs. This courſe ought to be followed for ſix weeks.

Leyden, H. B.

A.

A.

℞. *Cinnab. Nativ. Hungar.* gr. vj.
Maſſae Pil. Foetid. gr. ix.
Pil. Rufi gr. x.
Sal. Polychreſt. gr. iij.
M. F. Pil. No. ix.
Sumantur una vice.

B.

℞. *Aſae Foetid.* drach. ſs.
Caſtor. Siberic. gr. ix.
Galban. drach. jſs.
Myrrh. gr. xv.
Olei Stillat. Roſmar. gutt. x.
Sal. Volat. Succin. gr. vj.
Terebinth. gr. iij.
M. F. Pil. ſing. gr. iij.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Lavandul.*
Majoran.
Roſmarin.
Rutae
Salviae ana unc. iij.
Spir. Roſmarin drach. v.
Tinctur. Succin. drach. iij.
M.

LETTER XLI.

SIR,

I SEND you the hiſtory of a very obſtinate diſorder of a young lady here, whoſe parents ordered me to conſult you as they expect ſome relief from your advice. I ſhall not then longer detain you, but proceed to the hiſtory itſelf, which is as follows.

THE young lady is now three years and nine months old, of a very tender and delicate conſtitution: Her parents are healthy, but ſhe had the miſfortune to have a nurſe the three laſt months ſhe ſucked, who as was generally believed had ſome indiſpoſition. In her fourth month, ſhe had a very violent fever, after which ſhe was ſeized with a moiſt ſcurvy and itching, with ſome tumors, one of which ſuppurated near the arm-pit, and kept running a purulent matter; this *Scurvy* continued almoſt four months, but in *December* 1733, being then in her ſeventh month ſhe was weaned, and by a proper diet and regimen perfectly recovered her health. In *October* 1734, when ſhe was able to walk alone, ſhe one day had a fall on her left leg and bruiſed her knee againſt the floor. In about twenty four hours after, there

there was a ſwelling perceived on the knee, attended with inflammation and pain; but theſe and the other ſymptoms were removed by waſhing the part with warm camphorated ſpirit of wine, and the like, and the patient in ſome meaſure recovered the uſe of the joint, though ſhe was obſerved all next winter to walk infirm. She had likewiſe tumors on the inſide of the thigh above the *Gracilis* and *Sartorius* muſcles, and about the knee among the *Flexor-tendons*. Many different applications were made, though to little purpoſe, to diſcuſs the ſwellings and ſtrengthen the joints, as *Sp. Vin. Camph.* Camphorated hungary water. *viz.*

℞. *Vitriol: Roman:*
Boli veri ana drach. j.
Camphor. drach. ſs. *f. Pulvis ſubtiliſſimus & injiciatur in aquæ fontanæ bullientis lib* 1. *fiat aq. Camphor. turbida.*

VINEGAR mixed with cold water was likewiſe applied and ſhe uſed the cold bath. In the month of may 1735, after the knee had been wrapt round with the *Emplaſtr. de minio cum Sapone* for about twelve days, a tumor aroſe about the ſize of an hens egg full of an ichorous matter, on the inſide of the thigh hardly two inches above the

bending of the knee on the upper part of the *Sartorius:* This tumor was opened with a lancet in the lower part, and a thin ſanious *Ichor* flowed from it in a large quantity.

THE wound was cicatriſed in about two weeks by means of a digeſtive and plaſter; but an inflammation coming on the part, the ulcer was again opened with a ſponge-tent, and waſhed every day with a deterſive liquor thrown into it through a ſyphon. The cavity of it extended upwards by the *Muſculus Sartorius* about an inch and an half. Small tents of ſponge done over with a digeſtive, and the red *Precipitate* were alſo frequently put into the orifice, eſpecially in the day time, and in the night pledgits made of lint, and covered with a digeſtive ſupplied their place. At the ſame time to prevent the inflammation (which from the firſt beginning) the part had been ſubject to, the thigh was wrapped round with a defenſive plaſter the breadth of three inches above the orifice of the ſore. This method was continued for four weeks or more, and then the matter being better digeſted, and likewiſe much diminiſhed in quantity, the tents were taken out, and the ulcer was cicatriſed, and cured about the end of *July* by the means of a proper bandage. The patient took no internal remedy ſave *Æthiops Mineral*, and that in very ſmall doſes twice a day, which

which ſhe continued to take all the following autumn. She then likewiſe uſed to dip her legs and thighs frequently in cold water to ſtrengthen them, and by the month of *July* all the former bad appearances wore off, ſave only that the left knee at the joint was larger than the right: ſhe continued thus well to the end of *December*, only had the accident of a fall on the floor in *November* which ſtrain'd her left leg and brought on an inflammation, ſwelling, and pain in the outſide of the left knee by the joint. However by waſhing it frequently with warm brandy, the inflammation and other ſymptoms went off in about ſix days, and the young lady was able to walk without help as formerly to the twenty third of *December*, when without any fall or other apparent cauſe (as I juſt now mentioned) the left leg was ſuddenly retracted and a ſmall tumor was perceived on the knee which was no ways painful, and yielded to the preſſure of the finger being of the ſame colour of the ſkin; it lay on the inſide betwixt the knee and the lower part of the knee-pan. There was likewiſe a retraction of the flexor muſcles of the leg; ſhe could bend it, but not ſtretch it out, nor could hardly ſet her foot to the ground or walk without help.

The firſt applications that were made to the tumor, were warm ſpirit of wine, and camphorated ſpirit of Wine. The tendons alſo of the flexor muſcles below the joint were ſoaked with the ſteam of hot water to prevent them from growing rigid, and afterwards rubbed over with *Oleum Lumbricorum.* In the beginning of *January* 1736, ſeveral phyſicians were conſulted who attempted to diſcuſs the *Tumor* in the following manner.

Firſt, The joint affected was wrapt in linnen *(four folded)* which was dipt in warm *Spiritus Minderi*, and this was renewed three times a day.

Secondly, She was forbid to move her leg in the leaſt and ſtrictly enjoined to keep it ſtill.

Thirdly, *Æthiops mineral* was given twice a day in ſmall doſes, and once a week ten grains of the beſt *Rhubarb* and two grains of *Aquila Alba.* This method was carefully purſued for two months, at which time there appeared a great many inflammatory *puſtules* attended with pain and ſwelling in the fore-part of the affected knee. The pain and puſtules ſoon diſappeared, but the ſwelling which was of the ſame kind with that deſcribed below the *Patella* ſtill remained, and the joint itſelf grew bigger. In the month of *March* the young patient was allowed the motion of her leg, and the joint

joint was waſhed with cold water in place of *Spiritus Minderi*, but we could obſerve no change for the better: In *April* we left off the cold water, and the knee was now waſhed with vj ounces of *Camphorated* ſpirit of wine, and half an ounce of the ſpirit of *Sal. Ammoniac.* In *May* the tendons were anointed with palm oil inſtead of the *Oleum Lumbricorum.* At that time ſhe drunk wine infuſed with *Millepedes*, but without any obſervable change. In *June* ſhe began to move the joint ſomewhat better, and ſtretch her leg out though with difficulty, and was obſerved to walk without help; yet ſtill the ſwelling on the knee remained.

AT this time the young lady drank whey made from goats milk, but took no internal remedy nor uſed any external application except *Palm Oil*, which was rubbed on the tendons on the inſide of the knee. In the beginning of the month of *July* ſhe went in a coach to *Moffat* a town in the ſouth of *Scotland*, and there drank the medicinal waters which abound with a native *Sal Polychreſt* for the ſpace of three months: ſhe likewiſe bathed all over in thoſe waters moderately warm twice a week, and the affected knee was waſhed in them once a day. She recovered a little the uſe of the joint in the months of *July* and *Auguſt*, but in *September*, after waſhing the knee with a kind

of *Posset* made with *Alum*, in order to take away the swelling which was not then lessened, the joint became again stiff and immoveable, and she soon lost the power of walking and extending her leg, she was obliged to return home in the month of *October*, by reason of the coldness of that climate, since which there has hardly been any change in the disorder, which is at present as follows.

First, A fungous tumor appears without pain, which yields to the touch, not much broader than the fourth part of an inch, on the outside of the left knee, betwixt the bottom of the *Rotula* and the external *Epiphysis* of the *Tibia*; the *Rotula* is moveable but is covered with a swelling of the same nature.

Secondly, A swelling on the internal *Epiphysis* of the *Tibia*.

Thirdly, A swelling on the sides and anterior part of the knee.

Fourthly, A visible retraction of the *Flexor* muscles of the *Tibia*. There is likewise a swelling amongst the *Tendons* in the ham, but no appearance of a suppuration there or on the knee.

Fifthly, The *Tibia* is much emaciated, but neither there nor on the knee doth the patient feel pain, or can we perceive any discoloration:

She

She can bend the leg, but cannot extend it or ſet her foot to the floor. There is not at preſent any application made to the anterior part of the knee, but the Flexor-Tendons in the ham are daily anointed with *Oleum Lumbricorum*. She takes no internal remedy ſave a daily infuſion of *Sarſaparil* and *Saſſafras Wood*. Sometimes ſhe drinks of an infuſion of *Rhubarb* in *French* white wine, which they uſed to give her when ſhe was no more than a year old. We deſign to ſend her this ſpring to *Moffat* for the benefit of the waters. Her diet has always been good and of an eaſy digeſtion, ſuch as barley broths, ſoups, wheat-bread and the like, but ſhe is forbid fiſh, milk, all ſort of heavy and high ſeaſon'd meats. Her common drink is good fermented ſmall beer. The young lady has no other diſorder but the one I have now *at large* deſcribed; ſhe is briſk, ſleeps well, has a good appetite and digeſtion, and goes regularly to ſtool. We beg leave to learn of you from this deſcription. 1*ſt*, the *Diagnoſis*, *Prognoſis*, and method of cure. 2*dly*, If from the inability to extend the leg the † *Linimentum Haverſianum* is

† ALL the cavities of the body, and eſpecially thoſe parts where motion is performed, are lubricated with an oily *mucus*, which prevents inflammation and facilitates their motion. The liquor ſeparated for this purpoſe by the mucilaginous glands placed

is turning thick and viſcid, whence an *Anchyloſis* is to be apprehended? *3dly*, If from the ſwelling of the *Epiphyſis*, the external parts, *viz.* the muſcles or cellular membrane, or the bone itſelf is affected?

4thly, CAN we from a chymical analyſis of the *Moffat* waters judge if they are proper to be uſed in this diſorder? or though there is reaſon to fear a ſuppuration of the tumour on the knee, may not the waſhing of it with thoſe waters warm prevent it?

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I red over with the greateſt attention the letter which gives ſo particular a deſcription of the young lady's diſorder, which I perfectly underſtood, and am ſorry to ſay, it is a very dangerous diſeaſe and extremely difficult to cure. The articulation of the knee has been hurt in that place where the ligaments, the *Perioſteum*, tendons and *Cryptae Haverſianæ* are moſt expoſed; where they are greatly liable to injuries, which can ſcarce afterwards be re-

placed about the joints, is termed by the anatomiſts *Linimentum Haverſianum*, in honour to Dr. *Havers* who wrote the beſt and moſt copiouſly on theſe glands.

paired

paired. For as all these parts are separated from one another by means of the *Membrana Cellulosa*, which likewise preserves them in an easy motion; if once this membrane should suppurate, it must create several sinuses, in which the matter being pent up, will always give rise to new disorders; and also when it is destroyed, the tendons, ligaments and the other membranes adhere together most closely and lose their motion: in which case the flexor muscles always are stronger than the extensors. The evil is still farther increased from the fungous Tumours which the sinuses bring on, which oppress and vitiate the parts about them. The joints being now become fixt, a farther condensation of the *Linimentum Haversianum*, is to be apprehended which can terminate in nothing but an incurable *Anchylosis*. Now therefore is the time to attempt the Cure, as it has not been of very long continuance, and the tender age of the patient gives hopes of recovering the flexibility of the limb: What I principally recommend is, liga

First, every morning and evening to rub the parts affected a good time but softly, with rough, warm dry cloths about the space of a quarter of an hour, taking care not to bring on an inflammation by too rough a friction; immediately after this, the thigh and leg being stretched as much

as

as they can bear, muſt be ſo placed above the ſteam of warm water as the vapour may circulate about the articulation of the knee, which muſt be kept in and directed towards it by waxed cloths wrap't round it. This muſt be continued for an half hour, taking care to keep the water ſo warm as the vapour may aſcend. When this is over, the parts being dryed are to have the extenſion and flexion performed as often and as much as they can ſafely admit of. Laſtly they muſt be wrapt round with the plaſter *A*, ſpred on leather, which muſt always remain on unleſs during this bathing of the leg morning and evening.

Secondly, Conſiderable advantage may be gained by applying the *Moffat-waters* in this manner.

Thirdly, It will be proper to make an inſtrument for gradually bringing the thigh and leg ſtreight, and keeping them in that direction, which may eaſily be contrived; for otherwiſe if the leg is kept continually bended, the contraction will increaſe every day, and at laſt it will become quite rigid.

While all this is a doing, it may likewiſe be proper to drink the juice of the plants *B*, which are the mildeſt in the claſs of antiſcorbutics, if we can but prevail on the tender patient to uſe them.

These are the chief remedies I have to propoſe in this difficult caſe, which I recommend the more heartily

heartily as they are pretty much the ſame with what has been prudently and ſucceſsfully uſed by the phyſicians imployed. I pray god may bleſs them.

H. B.

A.

℞, *Emplaſt. de Melilot.*
Mucilagin. ana unc. j.
Galban. lectiſs. drach. v.
Ol. Infus. Caſtor. drach. j.

Mix all theſe well together to make a Plaſter to be ſpred on leather.

B.

℞. *Recentiſs. Agrimon.*
Beton.
Chaerophyll.
Meliſſae
Veronic.
Virg. Aur.
Urticae ana q. ſ.

Let all theſe be cut very ſmall, and infuſed, in the ſame manner as The ; *the patient ought to drink upon an empty ſtomach two ounces thrice a day.*

*** LETTER XLII.

SIR,

I NOW conſult you on the account of a very worthy widow lady, who is in her fortieth eighth year, and has hitherto injoyed a tolerable good

good ſtate of health, ſave that for ſome years paſt ſhe has now and then been ſubject to an *Hyſteric Colic.* The *menſes* have ſtopt for almoſt a Year paſt, and ſhe has ever ſince been troubled with a *Fluor Albus*, attended with great weakneſs: A few months ago the lady was ſeized with a ſharp periodical pain about the *os ſacrum* and the right thigh, which continues as yet, and is attended with racking tortures in the hypogaſtric region like thoſe of hard labour; ſhe has likewiſe a bearing down of the *Uterus.* There is no external ſwelling, either on the thigh or belly, but ſhe complains of a burning heat from the *Os Sacrum* to the *Os Pubis.* The *Uterus* upon examination was found hard and ſwelled, and during the paroxyſm falls down into the *Pudendum* with a relaxation of the *Vulva*; when the pain ceaſes, the *Uterus* returns to its natural ſituation. The *Labia Pudendi* and the *nymphae* are excoriated, and there conſtantly dripps a ſanious matter tinged with blood, but it has no bad ſmell. From the recited ſymptoms it will be hard to determine, whether it flows from the *Uterus* or *Vagina.* The lady is attacked twice a day, the pain coming about nine a clock in the morning, and at the ſame hour in the evening, and continuing about an hour; ſhe takes *Opium*

going

going to bed to aſſwage the pain; which when it comes in the morning, continues till noon.

I HAVE ſent you, Sir, this caſe that I might have your opinion of it, and heartily wiſh it were my happineſs to conſult you perſonally, who had the honour of being formerly a Diſciple of yours, and am at all times with the greateſt eſteem, ſir, your moſt devoted, *&c. &c.*

Decemb. 29th 1735.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

YOUR letter gave me a good deal of pleaſure as I had thereby an opportunity of being informed of your health, your ſucceſsful practice in medicine, and that I am ſometimes in your thoughts.

I RED over the caſe with great attention, and am ſorry to ſay that the worthy lady labours under a *Schirrus*, or perhaps *Cancer* of the *Uterus*. The original of the diſorder, the place affected, ſymptoms, age, and the matter which comes off, do all but too much confirm my opinion. Hence the painful ſenſation ſo like a conſtant *teneſmus* and labour-pains, which detrudes the uterus and produces the other ſymptoms.

I would

I would advise the use of the *Balneum-Sémicupium* †, to cleanse and soften the parts and open the *lacunae* which are full of slimy mucus, and so expell it by means of emollients: and when the *Uterus* comes by this means to a better condition, then I think it will be proper to strengthen it by the vapour of the fumigation *A*, thrown on live coals, which will presently mount up in smoke: The lady may receive it in a proper manner by covering it with her petticoats. She must likewise once a week, in the morning fasting drink the Purgative draught *B*, and at five a clock in the afternoon take the gentle opiate *C*. The other days of the week, she may swallow thrice a day on an empty stomach, three of the pills *D*, drinking each time an ounce of the mixture *E*, cold.

A.

℞. *Mastich.*
Oliban.
Styrac.
Calamit.
Succini ana drach. v.

Mix all these together, and beat them into a Powder for a Fumigation.

† *i. e.* That she sit up to the waste in warm water, in which proper plants have been boiled.

B.

℞. *Lap. Cancr.* drach. ſs.
Haematit. gr. iij.
Rhei gr. x.
Scammonei gr. viij.
Stib. Diaphoret. gr. xvj.
M. F. Pulv. tenuis.

C.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Cinnamom.* drach. j.
Aq. Meliſs. unc. j.
Tinct. Opij gutt. x.
Spir. Nitri Dulc. gutt. x.
Syr. Violar. drach. ij.
M.

D.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ij.
Balſam. Peruv. drach. ſs.
Croci optimi gr. xv.
Galban. drach. ij.
Rhei drach. j ſs.
Succi Catechu dicti drach. ij.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

E.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Majoran.*
Meliſs. ana unc. iv.
Spir. Matricalis,
Tinct. Succini ana drach. jſs.
M.

LETTER XLIII.

THE gentleman who begs your advice, after riding two or three miles, was ſuddenly taken with a pain attended with a troubleſome itching about the *Os ſacrum*, and eſpecially at the *glans penis*, which was ſucceeded with indeavours to make water : He then made water in great plenty, but ſome few minutes after had ſuch another fit and could make none, being in extreme torture, which did not go off ſo long as he continued in motion. He has likewiſe often piſſed clots of blood with his water, which made full two thirds of it, and of this bloody urine I ſaw him once make nigh a pint. His water was formerly filled with a red gritty ſand.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I Suſpect a ſtone in the kidneys rather than in the bladder, although he feels pain in the *glans penis:* for the ſame ſymptoms are often produced from coagulated blood lodged in the bladder, when there is no ſtone there. The beſt remedy will be to take every two hours of the day half a drachm

drachm of the mafs *A*, always drinking two ounces of the decoction *B*, after it, and this muft be continued for the fpace of fix weeks. The gentleman muft at the fame time abftain from every thing that is fowr, heating, or that is apt to irritate and difturb; therefore he muft indeavour to compofe his mind as much as may be. If he carefully obferves this courfe, there are great hopes of his receiving confiderable benefit from it, which I pray god may grant.

A.

℞. *Balfam. Peruvian.* drach. fs.
Catechu drach. j.
Mannae Purae unc. j.
Maftich.
Oliban. ana drach. ij.
Pulp. Caffiae Recent. unc. fs.
Succi Glycyrrh. infpiffat. drach. vj.
M. F. Maffa bene permifta.

B.

℞. *Flor. Altheae* p. iij.
Fol. Altheae. m. fs.
Parietar. m. ijfs.
Rad. Glycyrrh. unc. jfs.
Hyperici cum toto m. ij.

Boil them in fountain water for half an hour; then ftrain off three pints, to which add one drachm of Sal. Prunell.

LETTER. XLIV.

SIR,

I AM now paſt fifty, and have not had the benefit of Nature for theſe two laſt Years, which was always regular when I formerly injoyed good Health, but on its ſtopping I felt a burning pain in the *Uterus*, which was ſucceeded by ſtrangury and the piles. My limbs which are very much ſwelled are extremely hot and dry: I am always ill when a bed, and can ſeldom ſleep above half an hour at a time. The pain I now complain of is not always the ſame, but I cannot ſay that I am ever one whole hour free from it. I have often taken advice, and had purges given me by order of the phyſician, and was likewiſe blooded (I am afraid) in too great a quantity, whence I am now threatened with a dropſy in my belly and limbs. As I have heard an extraordinary character of you, and of your uncommon ſkill in Phyſic, I was reſolved to conſult you myſelf by letter, and beg your advice in my unhappy condition.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt humble, though unknown Servant.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully conſidered the diſorder deſcribed in your letter, and am of opinion that an acrid and malignant blood infeſts the veſſels which lye about the *Hypogaſtrium* and *Pelvis*, particularly thoſe about the *Uterus*, bladder and Inteſtines: There is great danger of inveterate *Schirrous* tumors being thence produced, which bring on many other Evils. To prevent this, I would adviſe the lady as ſoon as ſhe riſes in the morning, to go into a bathing tub of warm water, where when ſhe ſits, the water muſt be as high as her belly; ſhe muſt ſtay in half an hour, and then have all the parts ſhe bathed well rubbed with warm dry flannel; this muſt be done in a good warm room before a fire or ſtove. In the mean time it will be extremely neceſſary to take thoſe internal medicines which ſerve to blunt the acrimony of the humours, to reſolve ſuch as are viſcid and thick, and remove obſtructions.

THE Pills *A*, are very proper for this purpoſe, of which there are three to be taken every three hours of the day, beginning in the morning at ſeven a clock, and continuing to the ſame hour at night. She muſt always drink after each

dose three ounces of the decoction *B*. Your diet must be chiefly dry, or roast meats, biscuit and now and then a glass of Port-wine. I much recommend exercise.

THIS course must be continued six weeks at least, before we can expect to see it's good effects, which I heartily pray for.

A.

℞. *Lap. Haemat.* drach. j.
Mastich. drach. jss.
Opopanac. drach. j.
Rhei drach. jss.
Succi Glycyrrh. inspissat. drach. iij.
Terebinth. drach. ss.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Rad. elect. Bardan.*
Chinae
Eryng.
Sarsaparill.
Scorzonerae ana unc. jss.

These must be beat and cut small, aud boiled in fresh water for the Space of an hour, then add root of fennel, liquorice, of each an ounce and an half. Boil them again for seven minutes and to four pints of the decoction add two drachms of Sal. Polychrest.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

THE worthy lady who begs your advice, is now thirty years old; her mother and grandfather by the mothers ſide were of a ſcorbutic habit, but otherwiſe very healthy: ſhe has very quick parts, and her nerves are extremely delicate and eaſily affected, whence ſhe has the livelieſt ſenſations of pain. She has ſuffered extremely from the ſcurvy, and the bad ſtate of the liver. At the age of twelve ſhe had the ſmall pox of the confluent kind, which were ſo malignant that with the greateſt difficuly ſhe ſurvived them, and after this was ſeized with a vomiting of bile, pains in the ſtomach, loſs of appetite and indigeſtion, all which continued for ſome years. When ſhe had in ſome meaſure got the better of theſe complaints, ſhe was taken with a moſt inveterate ſcurvy, attended with a looſeneſs of the teeth, rottenneſs and eroſion of the gums, and very bad ulcers in the limbs: this could not be got thoroughly cured by the *Moffat* waters, nor the many antiſcorbutics ſhe tryed. As the caſe appeared deſperate, a ſalivation with mercury was propoſed and tryed, which ſucceeded; but a ſhort time

time after, the *Scorbutic* and *Hepatic* ſymptoms appeared again.

In the year 1726. ſhe was married, and ſome months after ſuffered abortion which very much weakened her; being again with child, ſhe was obliged to keep her bed by reaſon of ſharp pains in the *Uterus* and its ligaments, and with great difficulty retained her burthen: After delivery the diſeaſe appeared to have left the liver it's former ſeat, and was now placed in the *Uterus*. She could not quit her bed for ſeveral months after child-bearing, on account of the piercing pains in the *Uterus*, and a feeling of a diſlocation (as ſhe expreſſed herſelf) from weakneſs: ſhe was now become extremely lean. There was by this time a tumor, in the left ſide of the *Uterus*, which could be felt in the *Vagina*; this at laſt diſappeared after long uſing a decoction and pills. The weakneſs, pain and ſenſe of diſlocation remained a long time. She then uſed the hot baths, but had no benefit from them, however the long journey gradually diſpelled thoſe ſymptoms. In the year 1729, in the end of autumn the old diſorder returned, and ſhe had moſt racking pains in the ſtomach eſpecially if ſhe went ſeldom to ſtool. In the beginning of the winter, there appeared a tumor about the bigneſs of a gooſe-egg, on the right *Hypocondrium*, juſt where the liver covers the *Pylorus*, and

and could be diſtinctly felt. She ſometime complained of a pain here, at other times of an heavineſs and weight: She was likewiſe troubled with foul, *rancid belchings*, which ſhe uſed to compare to the taſte and ſmell of rotten ſubſtances. The pain continued for the moſt part fixed about the *Pylorus*, though it ſometimes affected the ſhoulders, and all around the ſtomach: She always ſuffered on coughing or breathing hard. When ſhe indeavoured to expand her cheſt and diaphragm downwards, her reſpiration was quite taken away: ſhe had at this time very little fever, pain in the ſtomach or *nauſea*. She then uſed decoctions, pills, *&c.* by the means of which not only the ſymptoms, but the tumor itſelf was conſiderably diminiſhed. She bore up tolerably well next ſummer and autumn, which was in a great meaſure owing to the goodneſs of the ſeaſon, the country air and exerciſe, and her drinking of goat-milk. She returned to town upon the approach of winter, when ſhe was again threatned with all her old complaints, which however were prevented by the timely uſe of *Prophylactics*. In the month of *February* of this preſent year, ſhe was attacked with the *Rheumatiſm*, which was then *epidemical* in this place, and the remains of it joined to the *Scurvy* (which I am afraid is the ſource of all her diſorders) gave her the moſt racking pains in the limbs

limbs and hands, particularly about the knees and elbows. There then likewiſe appeared purple ſpots on her legs, which were attended with obſtinate ſwellings raiſed like large knots, and that yielded to no other applications, ſave antiſcorbutic fomentations. As ſhe has not yet perfectly recovered her health, ſhe thought proper to leave her own country for ſome time, and try the *Spa* waters and other proper means, and was indeed chiefly encouraged to this in hopes of relief from your advice. The *menſes* have all along been pretty regular. She has taken numberleſs medicines during the courſe of ſo many diſorders, and they were generally ſuch as have been recommended from your authority; *Attenuants*, *Reſolvents*, *Evacuants*, *Corroborants*, *Antiſcorbutics*, *Anti-icterics*, * *Pills*, *Decoctions*, *Infuſions*, *Julaps*, *Poultices*, *fomentations*, *Plaiſters*, *Seuta*; the juices of different plants, goats-milk, our *Moffat* waters which are impregnated with a native *Sal Polychreſt*, the *Bath*, *Pyrmont* and *Spa* waters which were ſent for here, and an infinite number of different preſcriptions which it is needleſs to mention particularly. I muſt however, *Sir*, beg you'll allow me to point out a few of thoſe which often recovered her when ſhe was reduced quite low. She uſed to take twice or thrice a day ſome large

* Such as are good againſt the jaundice.

Pills

Pills made up of *Venice Soap*, *Myrrh*, *Opoponax*, *Balſam of Peru*, powder of *Rhubarb* and *Amber*, to which were added ſome drops of the chemical oils of *Mint* and *Cinnamon*, and likewiſe *Aloes* when our intentions were to cleanſe and deterge thoroughly. She drank a *Decoction* of the *Woods*, in which were infuſed, wild *Carrot ſeed*, *Mint*, the beſt *Saffron*, and to all were added *Spaniſh* wine, and the juice of *Millepedes*. The Tincture of *Ipecacuana* agrees extremely well with her by way of vomit. *Elixir proprietatis* prepared with vinegar with double the quantity of ſyrup of *Buckthorn*, makes her common purging draught.

OUR intentions were, gently to diſſolve and attenuate what might be obſtructed,— to draw it off when reſolved—to open the urinary veſſels, and pores of the ſkin—and laſtly to ſuſtain and ſupport the *vital* forces.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE diſeaſe chiefly proceeds from a thin, ſcorbutic acrimony of the blood, which occaſions ſo ſharp pains in the bones and *Viſcera*; to this we muſt add the tender and delicate conſtitution of a body ſo eaſily moved, the prevalency of the *Bile* and ſomething of the nature of

Arthritic

Arthritic complaints which are mixed with the former: Hence the diſorder muſt be very complex, dangerous and ſuch as requires the greateſt prudence in the phyſician, who has the care of the lady.

1*ſt*, A free, open country air is what will agree with her—but too hot is to be avoided.

2*dly*, The propereſt food is, all kind of kitchen herbs, ripe ſummer fruits, freſh fleſh, bread and milk; for drink I recommend *Spa-water* mixed with equal quantity of milk.

3*dly*, She ought to take pretty conſtant exerciſe, but then it muſt be moderate and gentle.

4*thly*, She ought to indulge in ſleeping.

5*thly*, Bath her limbs in water every day.

6*thly*, Let her drink every three hours of the day one ounce of the juices *A*, and ſometimes five times a day.

7*thly*, When ſhe goes to bed, ſhe may drink one ounce of the mixture *B*.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Acetos.* m. j.
Becabung. m. iij.
Chaerophyll. m. j.
Cochlear. m. ſs.

Waſh all theſe clean, and after beating them ſmall, extract their juice, of which there muſt be ſix ounces ready every morning, to be mixed at drinking, in a convenient quantity of whey.

B.

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Cortic. Aurant.*
Cinnamom.
Citreor.
Meliſſae ana unc. j.
Mivae Cydoneorum unc. jſs.
Spir. Embryonis drach. jv.
Syrup. Violar. drach. vj.
Tinct. Succini gutt. x.
M.

LETTER XLVI.

A LADY paſt ſixty, who formerly injoyed good health, and never had any graveliſh complaints, has been ſubject for theſe ten years paſt to a *Dyſury* *, which has gradually increaſed, with a moſt ſharp pain at the end of making water. This diſorder often returns, and after pretty long periods, ſo that the patient has frequently been free from it, for ſome months together; but at laſt beſides the *Dyſury*, there came on bloody urine, eſpecially after walking or uſing exerciſe. All the other ſymptoms then increaſed, of which a *teneſmus*, or an ineffectual inclination to go to ſtool immediately on making water,

* A *Dyſury* is a difficulty, attended with pain, in making water.

gives

gives her a great deal of uneaſineſs. The intervals of health ſhe now injoys are but ſhort, and her complaint returns on every ſlight occaſion. The lady beg's, that you'll write particularly what medicines may be proper to alleviate at leaſt her pain, and what diet ſhe ought to obſerve.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

FROM the careful conſideration of the caſe, I think it is plain, that there is lodged a ſharp ſtone in the kidneys, which by motion or preſſure makes the veſſels bleed and irritates the nerves at the head of the ureters, and thus by the extenſion of theſe to the bladder, affects and torments thoſe parts.

THE patient muſt avoid all acrid things, and whatever is apt to overload the body or ſtimulate the juices; ſhe muſt eat ſoft and cooling food, and that in very ſmall quantities at a time; for her common drink, freſh whey with a little honey in it, is by much the beſt: all farinous ſubſtances, vegetables, ſoft pot herbs, ripe ſummer fruits, broth, freſh fleſh, eggs and milk are proper in this caſe.

FOR medicines, I recommend the *maſs A*, of which ſhe is to take every morning at 7, 8, 9 and

and 10 a clock half a drachm on an empty ſtomach, and always drink after it three ounces of the decoction *B*, warm.—— This courſe muſt be exactly kept to for the ſpace of ſix weeks, to make a trial, if the ſtone (which I ſuſpect is the cauſe of all the diſorders) can by this method be diminiſhed, or poſſibly brought away in the eaſieſt manner for the patient; this I heartily pray god may grant.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Croci Optim.* gr. xv.
Curcum. drach. ſs.
Mannae drach. x.
Pulp. Caſſ. drach. vj.
Rhei drach. j.
Succi Glycyrrh. inſpiſſat. drach. vj.
Terebinth. drach. j.
M. F. Maſſa.

B.

℞. *Flor. Rec. Altheæ*
Sambuc. ana unc. ſs.
Fol. rec. Alth. Pariet. Scabios. ana m. j.
Rad. Rec. Gramin. ana unc. ij.

Boil theſe in water for half an hour—Then add freſh liquorice root an ounce, aniſeed beaten ſix drachms.—Let them all boil again a ſhort while,—Draw off four pints of the Decoction.

LET-

LETTER XLVII.

A Young lady of nine years, whoſe father in his youth was troubled with ſcrophulous tumors, has been much ſubject to an itching and cutaneous eruptions from the ſixth to the eight year of her age. She obtained ſome ſmall relief from the medicines ſhe then took; but as theſe eruptions went off, there appeared ſoft, pale tumors on her neck, face, and about thoſe places where the glands lye: They brought on a weakneſs and ſort of inactivity over all the body. She now very ſeldom ſtirs from home; lives moſtly on *Thè* and farinous ſubſtances; is troubled in the morning and evening with a great heat, equall to 96 deg. and ſometimes an 100. She has very little ſtomach, and her urine is pale, watry and in very ſmall quantity.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully conſidered the accurate deſcription of the young lady's diſorder, and am of opinion that it is chiefly owing to that bad ſtate of the juices which inclines to a *viſcidity* and *coagulation*, particularly in the ſmall veſſels

and

and glands; this is pretty plain from the eruptions that firſt appeared on the ſkin, which were ſucceeded by thoſe ſoft tumors, and now probably the internal parts are attacked with the ſame.

WHAT will be of greateſt ſervice in this caſe, is to have the whole body well rubbed over every day, and that for a good time, and as roughly as ſhe can well endure. She muſt likewiſe take daily exerciſe before meals, when her ſtomach is empty, and continue it till ſhe finds a gentle ſweat coming on. She muſt go to bed at nine, and rather indulge in ſleeping. The bed muſt be very dry, and her room look towards the ſouth. Her food muſt conſiſt of ſuch things as gently attenuate, and are of an eaſy digeſtion; all ſorts of grain, farinous ſubſtances well fermented; biſcuit, ſoft pot-herbs, ſuccory, red cabbage, beat, ſpinache, freſh fleſh, either roaſted or boiled with proper kitchen-ſtuff. For drinking I recommend *Mead* mixed with water, and one fourth of ſweet white-wine. She muſt take every three hours of the day, three of the pills *A*, always drinking after them three ounces of the decoction *B*.

IF the young lady can be prevailed with to follow this courſe exactly, I doubt not of her receiv-

ing great benefit from it, under the care of ſo ſkilful a phyſician as now attends her. This I heartily pray god may grant.

Leyden, 17$\frac{29}{5}$37 *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. j.
Bulb. Ari recent. drach. jſs.
Croci · gr. xij.
Galban.
Myrrhae ana drach. jſs.
Sap. Venet. drach. iij.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

Take of the v *aperient roots, of each two ounces, and after cutting and beating them ſmall boil them in water for an half hour. Then add ſalt of wormwood one drachm.* IV *leſſer hot ſeeds, of each two drachms. Let them all boil again for a ſhort ſpace and draw off four pints of the Decoction.*

LETTER XLVIII.

THE lady who begs your advice is aged forty three, of a thin habit of body, has had a great deal of exerciſe in her own houſe, and always injoyed a good ſtate of health, till about five years ago when ſhe was ſeized with a violent *continual fever*; ſhe was then big with child and the fever

fever was treated according to the hot regimen, of which however after ſometime ſhe recovered. She had a very difficult labour, during which ſhe was ſeized with a moſt racking pain on the right ſide of the belly, near the *Os Ilium*, which immediately ceaſed after the birth. Two days after ſhe had a total ſuppreſſion of urine, after which ſhe was again attacked with a *continual fever*, though not ſo ſevere as the former. From this time ſhe felt her belly to ſwell, and that ſo like to pregnancy, that the moſt ſkilful men-midwiſes declared her to be with child: But as length of time proved this falſe, ſhe went to the country by the advice of her phyſicians, and lived on a milk diet. The ſwelling however increaſed every day, and the diſorder grew worſe. The whole *Abdomen* is now ſwelled to a ſurprizing degree, and that equally on all ſides, and we can feel an hardneſs under the lower ribs. She begs, Sir, your beſt advice in the moſt earneſt manner.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER carefully conſidering all the circumſtances of the caſe, I am of opinion that the lady labours under a two-fold diſorder; in the *Abdomen*, *omentum*, or lower margin of the liver, there is a *ſchirrous* hardneſs: and beſides there ap-

pears to be a collection of water in the bladder. Both these are very dangerous and difficult of cure, particularly in one of her age, and who has bore so many children *.

WITH regard to the cure, we must indeavour to support her natural strength, to resolve the matter, and then draw it off, principally by stool. This is to be attempted, by a long continued *friction* of the belly before the fire, and that as strong as she can well indure; this *friction* must be assisted with anointing it; and she must continue the daily use of the medicines hereafter prescribed, with this caution, that the time be carefully observed when the resolved matter begins to be in motion; this may be learned from the sickness in the stomach, vomiting, gripes, flux, and the general disorder she'll feel in her body; then it will be proper to desist from giving medicines, till these symptoms are alleviated, when the same method must be again pursued.

I heartily pray, that god may grant a perfect recovery of her health through these means.

Leyden 17$\frac{5}{6}$36. *H. B.*

* This circumstance is not mentioned in the letter, but was told to the doctor on reading it.

A.

℞. *Ol. Stillat. Juniper.* gutt. vj.
Pil. Rufi drach. ij.
Sal. Polychreft.
Tartar. Vitriolat. ana drach. ſs.
Terebinthinae g. vj.
M. F. Pil. gr. v.

Let the lady take three of theſe pills, at 7, 8 a clock, and half an hour before 9, drinking after each doſe a Thé *cup full of the following mixture.*

B.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Junip.* lb. j.
Rob. Junip. unc. iij.
Spir. Junip. unc. ij.
Tinct. Myrrhae unc. jſs.
M.

C.

℞. *Vnguent. Arthanit.*
Martial.
Nervin. ana unc. ſs.

Mix all theſe together into a liniment, with which the belly is to be anointed twice a day before the fire, and after covered with a ſoft ſkin.

LETTER XLIX.

A YOUNG gentleman of 23 years, in the month of *August* laſt year, being very much heated, drank off at once a pot of ſmall beer, and two or three days after was ſeized with a general diſorder over all his body, a great lowneſs of ſpirits, and a conſtant ſwimming in his head; he complained likewiſe of a ſickneſs in his ſtomach, attended with a belching of wind, which continues generally for 12 hours: there is alſo a viſible ſwelling in his ſtomach. The gentleman conſulted a phyſician, who taking the caſe to be *Hyſteric*, ordered him a vomit and *Hyſteric* drops. The ſickneſs he thought was rather diminiſhed, but the belchings, and lowneſs of ſpirits ſtill remain. He is very coſtive, naturally of a fair florid complexion, but at preſent ſomewhat emaciated. He formerly enjoyed very good health, but his preſent diſorder quite unfits him for buſineſs, or company. We earneſtly beg, ſir, you'll ſend your preſcriptions, and let us know what regimen you would adviſe the gentleman to follow.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

THE gentleman's taking ſo large a draught of cold liquor when overheated, cauſed a ſudden cold, and hence a coagulation of the blood in the large veſſels nigh the heart; the *Viſcera* have from the ſame cauſe been diſturbed in their functions and obſtructed, whence proceed all the other diſorders, which are not to be cured without great difficulty.

HE muſt betake himſelf to a very ſoft diet, broths, mild pot-herbs, ripe ſummer fruits, mealy farinous ſubſtances, ſmall beer. He ſhould likewiſe have his belly well rubbed every morning with rough, dry, warm cloths. Exerciſe, particularly walking and riding, is extremely proper; the more of it he takes, the better.

He ought to indulge in ſleeping. In the mean time he muſt take ſuch medicines as gently *reſolve* and *attenuate*, but do not too much move the blood and juices. For this purpoſe I recommend the pills *A*, three of which are to be taken on an empty ſtomach every day, an hour before breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, always drinking after

them four ounces of the decoction *B*. This course must be continued for six weeks, in hopes of relief, which I heartily wish.

Leyden 17$\frac{3}{8}$36. *H. B.*

A.

℞. *Borac.* drach. j.
Croci gr. vj.
Curcumae drac. j.
Rhei drach. jss.
Sap. Ven. drach. v.
Terebinth. gr. xij.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

B.

℞. *Rad. Anonid.*
Bardan.
Eryngii.
Foenic.
Gramin. ana. unc. ij.
Sal. Absinth. drach. j.

Boil all these half an hour in water, and to four pints of the decoction add of the syrup of the v *aperient roots, of each two ounces.*

LETTER L.

SIR,

YOUR opinion with regard to the following case is earnestly desired.—I shall give you as full a description of it as possible, from the circumstances related to me.

A tender

A tender young lady of twenty, fell from her horſe, on the left temporal bone, which cauſed a conſiderable contuſion, attended with a ſharp and conſtant pain, but there was no wound. Some days after a phyſician was ſent for, who cauſed a vein to be opened, ordered a vomit and purge, with a bliſter for the crown of her head, and cupping-glaſſes to be applied to her ſhoulders. The pain however did not in the leaſt remit. Three months after another phyſician ordered the part to be fomented and anointed, but without any relief to the lady. Cupping was again tryed, which removed the pain for three or four months. She afterwards got a cold attended with a cough, which brought back the pain to its former place.

SHE drank the *Bath* waters and took gummous pills, which gave relief for a time, and the pain which conſtantly returned on catching cold, was removed for a few weeks by cupping.

IN *May* laſt the hot bath was pumped on the part, after covering it with ſponge, which very much increaſed the pain; but bleeding in the *jugular* and *Saphaena* veins with the uſe of the pills, gave her eaſe for five months. The pain returned with the winter, and has been ſo ſevere ever ſince, that the poor lady ſeldom ſleeps, ſave when *Opiates* procure it. She likewiſe tried a ſneezing powder in which

there

there was *Mercury*, and had from thence a plentiful discharge of *Saliva*, but without any relief. If she lyes on the temple affected, the pain always increases; there is no sign of an inflammation, nor does the pain vary any how from the touch or pressure. It is confined to the part where the *coronal suture* ends and extends quite to the ear, whence I should imagine the cause to be somewhere in the nervous membranes which cover the *Sutures*; but submit this to your better judgment.

I ever am, sir, with the greatest regard, your most *&c. &c.*

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

AFTER considering the case, I am afraid, that the fall has pushed the *Vitreous Table* of the skull inwards, in that part where the violence of the shock was received. Hence this acute fixed inward pain will not be worse from an outward pressure, but must very much increase from every cause that forces the contents of the skull on this sharp eminence. If this is so, it is no wonder that the best Remedies have hitherto proved ineffectual in this case, which is only to be relieved by making revulsions from the brain. I can hardly then find any other method of cure, than that of making evacuations from the head

downwards

downwards, and preventing all violent motions there. The bringing of the *Piles* might probably anſwer this purpoſe. The lady muſt bath her legs every night, and afterwards have them well dryed and rubbed. Let her put to her ſoles the plaiſters *A*, which ſhe muſt always keep on ſave during the time ſhe is bathing. Let her likewiſe take every morning faſting three of the pills *B*, and once a day uſe the ſuppoſitory *C*, dipt in oil. All theſe muſt be continued for a month at leaſt, in hopes of relief, which I pray god may grant.

I obſerve with pleaſure that I am ſometimes in your thoughts.

Farewell.

H. B.

A.

℞. *Emplaſt. Oxycroc.*
Galban. ana q. ſ.

Spread theſe on, leather for plaſters to the ſoles of the feet.

B.

℞. *Boracis* drach. j.
Aloes puriſſ. drach. jſs.
Myriſcae drach. j.
Terebinth. gr. xv.
M. F. pil. gr. iij.

C.

C.

℞. *Aloes* drach. j.
Mell. ad craſſitiem cocti drach. iij.
Sap. Venet. drach. ij.
M. F. f. a Suppoſitoria gr. vj.

LETTER LI.

SIR,

YOUR advice is begged in the caſe of a worthy lady, of a good habit of body, tall of ſtature, and of an excellent temperament, who has been remarkable for ſobriety and every other virtue, all her life. She has had children and once twins, but always injoyed very good health, unleſs ſhe was coſtive, when the *Foeces* were hard and round. Tho' this is no uncommon complaint, yet ſhe had thence almoſt fallen into the *Iliac Paſſion* * once or twice, if proper purgatives had not been adminiſtred.

IN the beginning of the preſent year, this moſt worthy lady who was then in her 63d year, began to feel a diſtention and fulneſs in the lower belly, and firſt obſerved at this time that her wa-

* *Iliac Paſſion* is, when the excrements are obſtructed in their paſſage downwards and afterwards ejected through the mouth.

ter

ter was considerably diminished; but that she might not give uneasiness to her friends she concealed it, and in the end of *March* went on horseback a journey of forty miles in two days, and five days after made another though shorter one: the disorder had now so much increased, that her husband discovered it in the night from her heavy groans. She then complained of a most violent pain on the right side of her belly, from the short ribs to the *Os Innominatum* of that side: This grew worse after she was a bed, and was so severe about the *Os Ilium*, that she could not indure the gentlest touch. The *Abdomen* was now swelled, and she made water in a very small quantity, which was likewise thick, and had a sediment in it like brickdust. Her pulse was low and unequal, and she was seized with great lowness of spirits. All these symptoms continued for three or four days, when in the month of *April* she returned to her own house, and a few days after was again attacked with them, now much increased; she likewise was troubled with squeamishness and inclination to vomit, heart-burn, and loss of appetite.

ON the 26th of *April* she had such another, but much severer attack; at this time her spirits were sunk to the last degree, and seemed quite extinguished; the pain and *nausea* likewise increased, and

and what is very remarkable, the pain for ſometime quitted her left ſide and fell into the right thigh, but ſoon after returned to its former place.

The medicines ſhe took in this laſt ſtage of the diſeaſe, were as follows; firſt a gentle emetic, and then two doſes alternately of the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, in a ſolution of venice ſoap and tincture of Saffron. She then found herſelf better, on which the phyſicians ordered her the *Saponaceous* Pills, and a medicated wine.

THIS is an account of all the former ſymproms; her preſent condition, is as follows.——Her body is ematiated to the laſt degree, and though ſhe is naturally lean, yet ſhe now ſeems to be the *Skeleton* of what ſhe formerly was. The *Abdomen* is much ſwelled, and contains at leaſt ſix or eight pints of water, which falls down to that ſide on which ſhe lyes; it is very eaſy to perceive from the touch that there is a conſiderable collection of *Serum*. She can ſcarce ever lye on her right ſide, nor indure the ſmalleſt touch on that part of the lower belly next to the *Os Ilium*. Her feet ſwell in the evening, and ſhe has no appetite or digeſtion. She ſleeps very little and is always coſtive, except when ſhe takes ſome purgative, ſuch as the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, which always operates, unleſs ſhe has a fit of her illneſs,

illneſs, and then no *Cathartics* whatever have any effect. This laſt circumſtance made the phyſicians ſuſpect ſome concretion in the inteſtines, eſpecially as ſhe had formerly from her coſtiveneſs been threatened with the *Iliac Paſſion.* They likewiſe fear leſt the right *Ovarium*, or perhaps the *Uterus* ſhould be affected (and that from the pain in the neighbouring parts) but of all this they beg your opinion; and if you think (which they likewiſe ſuſpect) that the lymphatic ſyſtem is affected.

I need only add, that upon the ſtricteſt examination, the *Liver* appears every way ſound; ſhe has neither fever nor thirſt at this time. Her urine comes away in pretty large qnantities, and is of a ſtraw-colour with a light branny ſediment in it.—The phyſicians who now attend her have agreed to treat her in the following Manner, till ſuch time as they receive your Advice.

1*ſt*, She is to chew every night fifteen grains of the beſt *Rhubarb*, at different times.

2*ly*, Every morning and afternoon to take Pills made of *Venice Soap*, *Nutmeg*, and leſſer *Cardamom Seed*, with a bitter *diuretic* Wine.

3*dly*, Every other morning to take of the tincture of *Hiera Picra* with *Rhubarb*, ſo as to have two or three ſtools.

4*thly*,

4*thly*, They have recommended frictions and riding on horſeback or in a chaiſe.

THE lady thinks herſelf a dying, particularly as her father ended his days by an *Aſcites*.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE carefully peruſed the deſcription of the grievous diſorder the worthy lady labours under, and obſerved with great concern, that the excellent means hitherto tryed have proved ineffectual; as I am a ſtranger and at a diſtance, I can hardly expect to preſcribe better, but as you are pleaſed to lay your commands on me, I ſhall give you my opinion.——The original cauſe of the complaints, muſt be, I ſuſpect, in the *Coccum* and *Colon*, where proceeding from the *Ilium* on the right ſide, they have bore the weight of the hard *Foeces*, which with great ſtreſs they have been able to raiſe upwards. Is there not here then ſomething of a *Schirrous* nature, now growing malignant, from their conſtant action, and the attriction they have ſuffered?—The nature of the ſymptoms and different appearances of the diſeaſe, ſeem to agree tolerably well with this account. I remember to have ſeen ſome patients

tients troubled with ſuch complaints in that part, who were naturally coſtive, had hard *Foeces* or through a bad cuſtom went ſeldom to ſtool. In this caſe alſo, I have often obſerved the *Kidneys* obſtructed, and from thence a collection of watry *Serum* in the belly. The phyſicians who are preſent will be able to determine if this is the caſe, or if it be otherwiſe. In the mean time the advanced age of the patient, nature, and the diſeaſe itſelf, which ſo much prevails and is on the increaſing hand, are all ſtrong motives for uſing our indeavours, to find out a ſpeedy, ſafe and effectual remedy.

IT ſhould, I think, be propoſed, if it would not be proper to uſe for common drink, freſh whey boiled with honey to ſweeten it, that by this means the *Viſcera* might gradually be ſoftened, and the hard excrements diſſolved? For food, all thoſe Pot-herbs which gently looſen the belly ſeem to be here indicated; ſuch as *Beat*, *Succory*, *Endive*, *Lettice* boiled in broth with freſh butter; all ripe ſummer fruits, freſh cream to be taken often but in ſmall quantities at a time. Freſh fleſh likewiſe is proper, eſpecially boiled, and all ſorts of river fiſh dreſſed in the ſame way. I would adviſe alſo, to inject clyſters of the decoction of marſh mallows and honey, of ſix ounces each, every day,

which are to be retained by the patient as long as ſhe can conveniently.

THREE of the pills *A*, may be taken every three hours of the day, drinking each time after them two ounces of the juice *B*. She may begin at ſeven a clock in the morning and continue to ſeven at night.—If by this method we gain ſo much that ſhe can indure to be touched, then the belly and eſpecially the place affected muſt be gently rubbed over, every morning and evening, with rough, dry, warm cloths: This is to be done when the ſtomach is empty, and to be continued a good time, increaſing and diminiſhing the *Friction* as the pain allows.—While all this is a doing, I think a little ſoft generous wine, ſuch as *Canary*, *Spaniſh* or *Madera* ſhould frequently be indulged the patient, to ſuſtain and ſtrengthen her natural force.

I heartily pray, that this courſe, or ſome better one from a more able phyſician, may reſtore the moſt worthy lady.

A.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ij.
Salis Polychreſt. drach. j.
Sap. Ven. drach. iij.
Succi Inſpiſſat. Glycyrrh. drach. ij.
Tartar. Vitriolat.
Terebinth. ana drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. jv.

B.

℞. *Becabung.*
Chaerophyll.
Endiviae
Fumariae
Graminis
Naſturtii Aquatic. omnium recentiſſ. ana unc. jv.

All theſe muſt be cut ſmall and beaten to the conſiſtence of a poultice. Then ſtrain off the juice in a preſs through a piece of canvas, to which there may be added ſo much whey, as to make nigh a pint in all of the mixture, for daily uſe.

LETTER LII.

SIR,

THE worthy lady, who now applies for your advice, is aged 54 or thereabouts, of a lean habit of body, very weak and ſickly. She has for theſe laſt fifteen years been troubled with hyſteric complaints, an *Aſthma*, catarrhous cough on catching the leaſt cold, and a tedious expectoration of a tough humour, which ſometimes ap-

peared raw, and at other times concocted, ſhe likewiſe had ſeveral fits of an hectic fever which returns on every ſlight occaſion; ſhe labours under loſs of appetite and other ſymptoms which threaten a Conſumption, and ſhe is naturally coſtive and keeps conſtantly at home, nor can ſhe be prevailed with to ride abroad in the open air, which has been much recommended to her.

To procure ſome relief from theſe forementioned ſymptoms, I ordered her gentle *Cathartics* every third or fourth month as there was occaſion, and now and then emptied her ſtomach with a few grains of *Ipecacuana* in an infuſion of camomile Thè; I likewiſe preſcribed Dr. Morton's *Balſamic Pills*, which he recommends in a ſcrophulous conſumption, drinking after them a glaſs of *Briſtol* Water. When the hectic fever was increaſed, I gave her of the *Tincture* of the *Bark*, in a decoction of pectoral plants, in place of the *Briſtol* Waters. For the aſthma and cough when they proved ſevere, and her want of reſt which then followed, I ſometimes ordered a vein to be opened with proper cautions, or gave her a gentle cordial, as I ſaw proper, to be taken at nine a clock in the evening. I likewiſe ordered her a milk diet, eſpecially in the ſpring, and deſired her to eat of fleſh very ſparingly, but never at night. I recommended riding on horſeback or in a chaiſe,

in

in the open country air; to keep her mind composed and not to engage herself too closely with the affairs of her family; nor were *Frictions* of the joints and extremities neglected, and bathing her legs at night; for drink at meals, when she eat flesh, I allowed her a glass of old claret mixed with *Bristol* water; and for her ordinary drinking at other times, she had emulsions of almonds, barley water, pectoral ptisans, milk with *Bristol* water, whey and the like. For her cough, I ordered the balsamic troches in *Quinceys* dispensatory, with some pectoral decoction to be taken after them for variety sake. —— In this difficult and chronical case, I thought the great doctor *Boerhaave's* advise absolutely necessary, by which I am persuaded, though the disorder may not be compleatly cured, yet the symptoms will be mitigated, and the lady's life by that means not only lengthened, but rendered also much more agreable.

BOERHAAVE'S ANSWER.

I HAVE considered the elegant and comprehensive description of the disorder,—and from *a pure regard to truth*, am obliged to declare, " that the physician imployed has shown so much

"ſkill both in judging of the diſtemper and in "treating it, that I have not the leaſt amend-"ment to make, and but very little by way of "addition:" I intirely approve of what has been done, and recommend to the lady what was further propoſed,—I ſhould not write one word more, if it was not ſo earneſtly begged of me. I hope the following courſe might prove of ſervice, if the lady will be ſo good as make tryal of it.

LET her every morning two hours before ſhe riſes, drink four ounces of milk mixed with ſix ounces of the *Spa* water from the well *Pouhon*; let her take the ſame at ſix a clock in the evening and continue it for a month: ſhe may drink it warm or cold, as ſhe likes beſt.

WHEN this is firſt obſerved, ſhe is next to take every three hours of the day, three of the pills *A*, always drinking after them three ounces of the infuſion *B*, and to continue this laſt courſe for two months more. With regard to her diet, I recommend the ſame as her phyſician has done. I heartily wiſh the ſame ſucceſs may attend this courſe, after uſing it for three months, as I have known in a like caſe.

H. B.

A.

A.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. ij.
Balſam. Peruv. gutt. vj.
Croci gr. x.
Sapon. Venet. drach. jv.
Succi Liquorit. inſpiſſat. drach. ſs.
Terebinth. drach. ſs.
M. F. Pil. gr. iij.

E.

℞. *Recentiſſ. Agrimon.*
Betonic.
Chaerophyll.
Foenicul.
Hyſſop.
Haederae Terreſtr. ana M. ¼

Cut all theſe ſmall and put them in boiling water like Thé.—There muſt be xv *ounces prepared for daily uſe.*

End of the Firſt Volume.

ADVER-

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE two following cases were treated by Doctor Boerhaave *in the hospital at* Leyden, *and as they belong to the class of chronic diseases, are added to this collection.*

CASE

CASE I.

A CACHEXY.

Saturday, September 21, 1737.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU ſee this patient who is now aged 66 years, and labours under a *Cachexy*, or ill habit of body.

IN the firſt part of his life * he ſerved as a common ſoldier in the troops, and afterwards gained his living by ſpinning of wool. He has been attacked with acute diſtempers, and had formerly a tertian ague which was then epidemical, and afterwards fell into a *Cacochymie* which brought on that ſpecies of dropſy called *Leucophlegmatia:* Of all theſe complaints however he got pretty well recovered. His temperament for a man is but weak, inclining to the *Atra-*

* Theſe hiſtories are an abridgement of the public lectures the doctor gave in the hoſpital to the ſtudents, after examining the patient and inquiring into the ſymptoms of the diſorder.

bilarian;

bilarian; this feebleneſs has been much increaſed from age and his former dropſy; his ſtrength however is not as yet intirely decayed. The preſent ſituation of his body is accounted a bad ſign, for lying on the back denotes a weakneſs. His appetite is extremely little, and the fibres of the ſtomach and inteſtines ſo very weak, that all the food he takes paſſes through him unchanged, in the ſame manner as in a *Lientery**. He has a great drought, and no ſooner drinks than it paſſes quickly through the inteſtine. Hence we may learn the reaſon, why the dropſy is not increaſed, nor any conſiderable ſwelling in his belly. The organs for preparing the *Chyle* and *Bile* are weakened; hence the *Bile* itſelf is not ſufficiently ſtrong, and the fibres are relaxed. His pulſe is very low, but pretty equal. He breaths freely, and when he ſleeps, it is not attended with any noiſe or ſnoring. His tongue is very ſmooth; no bad taſte in the mouth, and a pretty moderate heat even down to the extremities. The *Foeces Alvi* ſmell. His urine is not high coloured nor rank; when ſhaken, like a *Saponaceous* mixture, it keeps the froth. There is nothing ſwimming in it, nor has it a bad ſmell.

* *Liennery* is a flux, wherein the aliment is diſcharged crude and indigeſted.

WHAT

WHAT he has brought up by ſpitting, has likewiſe no offenſive ſmell; there is no *Pus* nor *bilious* matter in it, but is white, thick and inſipid. Hence it is plain, that this ſpittle is a meer collection from his weak lungs, which have been much fatigued to bring this matter up, and are now unable to throw it off, whence it gathers here, and becomes more digeſted and thick, till at laſt he is ſo much oppreſſed with it, that he imploys the ſtrength of all the *Thorax* to get rid of it. The animal functions are in a pretty good ſtate, except that he is ſlow and unable for muſcular motion.

THUS, gentlemen, I have given you, what is ſufficient for forming the indications. For eating; biſcuit, freſh fleſh roaſted and well ſeaſoned, are proper; and now and then a glaſs of wine. But in place of theſe, all dry mealy grains, boiled barley, *&c.* ſerve the poorer ſort. The beſt drink in this caſe is *Brunſwick Mum*, and were our Patient in eaſy circumſtances, a rough *Grecian* Wine and marmalade of quinces might be given to great advantage. The ſtimulating claſs of medicines is likewiſe indicated, ſuch as ſpices, *&c.* The cure then ought to be attempted, firſt by a gentle purge, and then the cough muſt be allayed by opiates, and laſtly, the ſolids muſt be ſtrengthned

and

and the humours corrected; all which we will indeavour to do by the following remedies.

The PURGE.

℞. *Rhei* gr. XL.
Scammon. gr. IV.
Lap. Cancror. ſcrup. i.
Syrup. Roſar. Solutiv. drach ij.
Contritis accuratiſſime admiſce
Aquæ ſtillat. Sambuc. unc. i. ſs.

Mix all theſe together for a purgative draught, to be taken at ſix a clock to morrow morning.

The PAREGORICK DRAUGHT.

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Cortic. Autrant.*
Meliſs. ana unc. j.
Aq. ſtomach. drach. ſs.
Opii puriſs. gr. j.

Mix all theſe carefully together and let it be taken at once, ten hours after the purging draught.

The CORDIAL, STOMACHICK WINE.

℞. *Cortic. Cinnamom.* unc. ſs.
Winteran. drach. ij.
Radic. Helenij
Imperator. ana drach. vj.
Semin. Angelic.
Cardamom. Min. ana drach. v.

With theſe ingredients and three pints of white French *wine, let there be prepared S. A. a medicinal wine. The patient is to drink of it on* Monday, *one ounce four times a day.*

Wedneſday,

Wednesday, March 25. You perceive, gentlemen, a change in the symptoms much to the better; he has now acquired more strength, his tongue has a better colour and is become moist. He sleeps better, and is not so much disturbed by the cough. His appetite is likewise somewhat mended; the water he now makes, keeps the froth less than formerly, though still it be faulty in this respect. The *Phlegm* which at last visit, was white, thick and insipid, is now become thinner and more fluid. The cough proceeds from a thick matter flowing from the *Lungs*, which are very weak. He has a pretty equal heat over all the body. The flux or *Lientery* still remains, for which we must use warm and narcotic draughts. His stomach is extremely weak; so we will order a plaster for it. With regard to the diet, the indications are the same as formerly.

Take plaster of Oxycroceum, *what suffices. Spred it on leather for a stomach plaster, and let it be immediately applied.*

℞. *Aq. stillat. Fœnicul.*
Menthae ana unc. ij.
Syr. Pap. alb. unc. j.
Opii puri gr. iij.

Mix all these together. He is to take one fourth part of it every morning, at seven a Clock.

September,

September 28th. THIS patient is fatigued with the ſmalleſt motion, and lies as if he were dead. The two chief ſymptoms we remarked laſt time, were the weakneſs which ſtill remained and the *Lientery*. The ſolids therefore were to be reſtored to their tone as much as poſſible, and the *Juices* defended from putrefaction. He took the remedies then preſcribed, but was worſe afterwards, and the day before yeſterday was ſo low that he ſeemed to be nigh his end. I ordered ſome ſuch thing as follows, *viz.*

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Menth.* unc. v.
Lapid. Cancror. drach. iij.
Laudan. puri gr. iij.
Mix altogether, and let him take one ſpoonful every two hours.

MY deſign in this was in ſome meaſure to ſtop the flux. He has had no ſtool theſe laſt thirty hours. He has now a little recovered his ſtrength, but brought up again his laſt medicines. The *Diagnoſis* remains the ſame, except that there now appears to be an extreme relaxation in the inteſtines. He found himſelf better after taking the *Opiate*, but now complains of a *Vertigo* which ſymptom proceeds from the *Opium*, and can ſcarcely be prevented.

℞. *Ol.*

℞. *Ol. Stillat. Cortic. Aurant*, gtt. vi.
Sacchar. drach. ſs.
M. f. ſ. a Elaeo ſaccharum, cui admiſce
Maſtiches, Thuris ana drach. j.
Succi Acaciæ inſpiſſat. drach. iij.
Tartar. puriſſ. drach. j.
Conſerv. Roſar. rubr. unc. ſs.
Syrup. Myrtin. q. s.

Mix all theſe together into an electuary, of which he is to take half a drachm every three hours, with one ſpoonful of the following mixture.

℞. *Aq. ſtillat. Fœnicul.* unc. v.
Opii puri gr. iij.

Mix them together, for a vehicle.

October, 2. We found at laſt viſit, this patient's ſtomach ſo weak, that it could not bear the force of the medicines then preſcribed, for he had no ſooner taken them, than he vomited them all up. This ſymptom ſtill continues, his pulſe is at preſent very low; the flux is diminiſhed. I am of opinion that we muſt keep by the firſt *Diagnoſis*, and may try if a little wine and aromatics will not do ſervice. We ſhall therefore take our *Stomachic Water*.

℞. *Aq.*

℞. *Aq. Stomach.*
Spir. Matricar. Burrhi ana unc. ſs.

Mix them together: and let him take thirty drops four times a day, in an ounce of white French *wine.*

This is a very grateful mixture, and at the ſame time ſtrengthening.

October, 5. We mentioned laſt time, that this patient had vomited up all he had taken; thence we inferred the great decay of his natural ſtrength, and the fear of giving way under the *Atrophy* peculiar to old age. The pulſe is ſtill ſo low, as hardly to be felt; hence it is plain that the juices are not recruited by any thing he eats or drinks, ſo as to fill the veſſels. The cough is rather increaſed and freer; the *Lientery* and vomiting are diminiſhed; his ſtrength is very much ſpent. We ſhall continue the laſt preſcriptions and ſtomachic plaſter. When the cold weather comes on, his weakneſs will then very much increaſe, the flux likewiſe grow worſe, and ſo he will make his *exit*.—This was my opinion from the beginning.

October 9. The natural functions are at this time in a much better condition than formerly, and his ſtomach can now bear, and in ſome meaſure digeſt what it receives. He has only had two ſtools theſe laſt twenty four hours, which

which is a ſure ſign that his ſtomach and inteſtines have recovered a little more ſtrength. His muſcular motion is ſomewhat briſker, and he breaths eaſily. The cough likewiſe is freer and without ſtreſs, which formerly was very weakning. There is an equal heat over all the body, quite down to the feet. The pulſe is at preſent ſo low, that ye ought to feel it; this ſignifies the ſmall quantity of blood in the veſſels, and a proportionable ſtrength, for there is hardly enough to raiſe the arteries. Hence the ſame *Diagnoſis* ſtill takes place, *viz.* that the vital force is not ſufficiently recovered: and the *Prognoſis* muſt be, that as long as he continues thus weakned by old age, the bad ſtate of the juices and ſolids, his forces muſt intirely give way on the approach of winter, unleſs they be ſupported with a recruit of new humours. We muſt therefore indeavour to repair his ſtrength as much as may be by proper food, which he muſt take in ſmall quantities at a time, elſe he could not digeſt it. But as there is ſo very little blood in the arteries, there is danger of the *Nervous Liquids* failing. Phyſicians uſe much to obſerve this ſymptom, which is a ſign of approaching death; from it proceed, dimneſs of the eyes, and ſuffuſions; but this has not as yet happened, and he keeps in his ſenſes. His conſtant waking is now likewiſe gone off. The in-

dications "we formed laſt time, were, to ſtrengthen the *primae viae**, to comfort his ſtomach by a plaſter, and give ſuch food as is eaſily digeſted with a little wine, in which aromatics and ſome diſtilled waters were infuſed." By means of which he is at preſent better, and ſo we'll repeat the laſt mixture for the ſame purpoſe.

October 12. This patient's caſe is truly ſurprizing, as now almoſt the chief ſymptoms are relieved; for his appetite is returned, his digeſtion is good, and he retains what he eats the due time. Thus by *Nature* aſſiſted with *Art*, we have removed all the chief complaints. The principal of theſe was the *Cough*, which proceeded from a collection of heavy matter lodged in the *Lungs*, which were ſo weak as not to expectorate nor caſt it off. The force of the blood is ſtill ſo weak, as hardly to be felt, nor does it increaſe on reſpiration; if he cloſes his fiſt (which generally accelerates the motion of the blood) it is even then ſcarce ſenſible. Hence every circumſtance is much mended, ſave the circulation of the blood, which muſt be imputed to the preſent eaſe and inactivity of the patient. Could he afford it, it would be extremely proper, gently

* The ſtomach and inteſtinal tube.

to

to ſhake and exerciſe his body, with riding on horſeback or in a chaiſe. But as his low circumſtances do not admit of this remedy, we will ſubſtitute *Friction* in its place. Let then all about his ſtomach and belly be well rubbed over, with coarſe, warm, dry *Flannel*. Says *Hippocrates*, *the part you would nouriſh, muſt be moved*; for motion produces heat, which attracts nouriſhment to the part; and for this purpoſe nothing is more ſerviceable than *Friction*, ſo we recommend it. He ought to indulge in ſleeping, and his drink ſhould be ſtrong, with ſome pure generous wine. The preſent fine weather and heat of the bed has wonderfully reſtored him. We ought then to continue the ſame preſcriptions. His tongue which at firſt was red, ſmooth and dry, is now moiſt, and turgid with it's *Papillae*.

October 16. I viſited this patient yeſterday, and could then find the blood returned into the arteries. Ye remember, the pulſe was ſo low as ſcarce to be felt, but is now pretty ſtrong. He breaths eaſily and the expectoration is not conſiderable. The natural heat is equal and as it ſhould be. The tongue has loſt its ſmoothneſs, and is moiſt. His urine is now more inclining to a ſtraw-colour; a ſign that the natural *Forces* are increaſed. Thus, ye ſee gentlemen, this poor man though exhauſted to the laſt degree, is ſur-

prisingly recovered, and we have got the better of the bad symptoms, the flux, decay of strength, *&c.* From the description I at first gave of this case, we can promise, that the patient *may possibly* regain as much strength, as is to be expected from a constitution so much broken with old age, and severe sickness; for there is not the least ground to hope for a renewal of his age or total recovery of his strength, especially at this present time of the year. Let the last mixture, be again ordered for the same intentions.

October 19. THE patient still continues better, and the several functions are now stronger; hence we will renew the last prescription.

October 26. HE was worse t'other day; and whenever it freezes, there must be a considerable alteration in his condition. The principal concern at present, is to fortify his body against the cold; by what remedies, must this be done? where there is no drought, heat or fever, or a putrid *Alcalescency*, there are none more proper than *Antiscorbutics*. Hence,

℞. *Vin. Gall. alb.* unc. viij.
Elixir. Proprietat. drach. ij.
Spir. Carminat. Sylv.
Cochlear. ana unc. ss.
M.

Of this mixture, he is to take on an empty stomach, one spoonful thrice a day, viz. *an hour before breakfast, dinner and supper.*

October

October 30. We could not look for better health in ſo aged a body; the appetite and digeſtion are good, and if you aſk himſelf, he ſays *he is perfectly well.* Ye have here in truth a proof of the power of medicines; for we have removed all the bad ſymptoms.

November 6. This poor man did not take our laſt preſcriptions but three or four times, and was tolerably well ſo long as the weather continued mild and warm; the only care then, was to defend his body againſt the cold; *but now he falls back.* This is a proper time, gentlemen, to obſerve *the influence of the weather* on the human body, after the example of our *great maſter Hippocrates*, eſpecially as it is moſt manifeſt when old age and diſtempers have preceeded.—If the froſt continues, this patient muſt in a few days come to his end. A proper diet, which is cordial and gently exciting is here required.—But if too much, muſt be improper, as the cough would thence grow worſe.—Likewiſe too watery diet and medicines are here forbidden, as he formerly had a *Dropſy*. Hence we ſhall order what is mild and gentle.

℞. *Aq. menth.* unc. IV.
Sp. Carminat. Sylv. unc. j.
Syrup. Papav. Alb. unc. ij.
Tinct. Croci
Succin ana drach. j.
M.

Let him take half an ounce of this mixture, every three hours.

THIS remedy can only be useful from its gentle stimulating virtue, and by allaying the cough.

AFTER three days, the patient died in a very easy manner.

HISTORY

HISTORY OF A PALSY.

September 28, 1737.

THE patient is of this place, *(Leyden)* aged ſixty one years, of a good temperament of body, and ſubject to few or no diſorders in his paſt life.

IN the month of *September* laſt year, he was firſt ſeized with a moſt ſharp and conſtant pain in the muſcles of the leg and thigh, and this without any apparent cauſe. He became thence in a manner unfit for muſcular motion, which ſo far increaſed, that in fourteen or fifteen days from the firſt attack, he fell into an acute fever. He was then ſo weakened in the powers of body and mind, that the *Muſcles* which ſerve for

moving the *Tarſus*, *Metatarſus* and leg, were abſolutely impotent for all ſort of motion. Theſe parts are painful whenever he moves, and all below the knee is as cold as if he were a *Corpſe*. The parts above are as yet ſound. Seven weeks ago he became inſenſible of where he lay. He knows when he muſt go to ſtool, but his water comes away involuntarily. His right ſide is deprived both of ſenſe and motion, and is all over cold, there has likewiſe ariſen a large *Tumor* at the *Os Sacrum* nigh the loins.——What name muſt we now give this diſorder? doubtleſs, it is a *Palſy*, or impotency to muſcular motion. Our practical phyſicians obſerved, that a *Palſy* proceeds, either from the ſole defect of muſcular motion, and this they term a *Nervous Palſy*; or from the defect of ſenſe or feeling, and this they called, the *greater Nervous Palſy*; and the third *ſpecies* was that in which *heat* was abſent, which they looked on as *deſperate* or incurable. In this laſt ſtate the arteries neither receive nor tranſmit the blood, which is commonly followed with a dropſy.

DIAGNOSIS. THIS is then a moſt compleat *Palſy*, in all the three ſpecies, attended with an *Oedematous* ſwelling from the defect of the juices. The original failing was in the nerves; from the nerves it proceeded to the muſcles, and from the muſcles it has gone into the

the arteries. But what was the cauſe of the loſs of ſenſe? the great pain which preceeded it. Phyſicians generally are of opinion, that a *Palſy* proceeding from this cauſe, is incurable. What is pain, *in a phyſical ſenſe?* it is either a *Tenſion*, or laceration of the nerves. This *(the Laceration)* is its higheſt degree. One or other of theſe two, has been the caſe with this unhappy man. The diſeaſe is going higher, ſo that the muſcle which hinders the flux of the urine is now become *Paralytic*. This is a moſt melancholy circumſtance, for it ſignifies that the *cauſe* has now reached the *Spinal Marrow*, which is owing to the contuſion of the *Os Sacrum*: It is much to be feared, that it may mount ſtill higher. The ſwelling is very apparent; but the Palſy coming after, proves all the nerves in the lower parts to be obſtructed; hence this man feels exactly ſuch a pain, as we often feel after ſitting long, from the compreſſion of a nerve.——With regard to every other circumſtance, the patient is in a very proper condition, his tongue is moiſt, and its colour natural; his pulſe, reſpiration, appetite, *&c.* are all good. In this reſpect then, the diſeaſe might be conſidered as a *Sciatic* diſorder of the inferior parts. Thus the diagnoſticks give us nothing that is favourable in this caſe, but much otherwiſe.——Ye have,

gentlemen,

gentlemen, a ſhort deſcription of the melancholy diſorder under which this poor old man labours.

PROGNOSTICKS. It is much to be feared from all the ſymptoms, that the *Spinal Marrow* may by degrees at laſt be weakened and corrupted, and thus the head be ſeized with a *Parapoplexia*, in which the arteries, receive no vital liquids, nor the veins tranſmit any to the heart.——We have reaſon likewiſe to ſuſpect a *Gangrene* on the tumor, and the lower parts becoming dead.

INDICATIONS. The vital forces muſt be reſtored as much as poſſible; for this end he ought to drink often, but always very little at a time. He may take ſome ſmall thing once in two or three hours.——I ſay *ſmall* thing, leſt theſe parts ſhould be oppreſſed with too much *Chyle*, which are now unfit for tranſmitting the matter. Are *Frictions* proper in this caſe? not in the leaſt; for thus by too violent a motion of theſe parts, in which the matter ſtagnates for want of circulation, I ſhould bring on a *putrefaction*. What ſeems then propereſt in the preſent circumſtances, is to imploy every thing that ſtops and prevents corruption, nor at the ſame time excites motion, ſuch as ſalt, wine and its different preparations. To this end likewiſe all

Acids

Acids conduce very much, particularly vinegar. The applying *Brine*, vinegar and wine to these parts, will be an excellent means to defend them from *putrefaction*. What is to be done with regard to internal applications? are repletives proper? by no means; for they increase already too great, the mass. Are not *Stimulating* medicines? no.——From what has been said, the course of diet will easily appear; we cannot do better, than give him every two hours some light food, and small drink, that we may first see, whether these juices point out some new course.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Rorismarin.* lb. ij.
Acet. Sambuc. unc. iv.
Spir. Theriacal. unc. ij.
Sal. Ammon. drach. ij.

Mix all these together for a fomentation, to be applied with cloths from the extremity of the foot, to the middle of the leg.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Foenicul.* lb. j.
Rob. Sambuc. unc. ij.
Spir. Sal. marin. drach. ss.
Cochlear. drach. j.
M.

He is to take of this mixture one spoonful in the two hours.

October 2. He has still some sort of feeling in the lowest parts, which higher up becomes more acute. The left leg is quite stiff, as if he were dead. There is likewise an *Oedematous*

tous ſwelling. The two ſymptoms which give us at preſent the moſt concern, are, the preternatural tumor; and the excoriation and inflammation, by which they denote a ſucceeding *Gangrene.* This is in truth a moſt ſhocking ſwelling about the *Vertebrae*, and *Os Sacrum.* Could I but move his body and change his ſituation, there would ſtill be ſome hope; but ſo long as he thus lies on his back, the veſſels muſt be ſuffocated; and from this there muſt proceed an inflammation, and from it an Excoriation. I lately ſuppoſed, that this ſurpriſing tumor might communicate with the *Spinal Marrow*, which denotes a ſucceeding Palſy. The tumor feels ſoft to the touch. It is probably owing to a ſtoppage of the *Nervous Fluid.* Ought we to open this tumor? or attempt to bring it to a ſuppuration? not at all: for it is ſufficiently confirmed by experience, that the opening of this ſort of tumors accelerates the patient's death. This is likewiſe evident from the hiſtory of the *Spina Biſida*; and when they increaſe ſo much as to break, then there runs out a clear water, and the patient dies: if we endeavour to ripen them, it always brings on a putrefaction. From theſe conſiderations, I am of opinion, that we muſt follow the late indications, *viz.* to comfort and ſuſtain the *Nervous* ſyſtem; and defend it from the *Gangrene* where-

with

with it is threatned. We have gained at leaſt, this much by our laſt medicines, that the diſorder is no worſe. But what is to be done with regard to the melancholy ſymptom*.——There can in truth be no remedy, ſo long as his body remains in that ſituation: could theſe parts be kept free from compreſſion for ſome time, the veſſels might expand themſelves, and there would be greater hope, that in a ſhort time they might in ſome meaſure recover their tone. We ſhall (which is the next beſt) apply the *Diapomphol.* plaſter and order ſome white lead to be ſpread on theſe parts, to take off the inflammation: I have often ſeen very good ſucceſs from it. All liquid fomentations are now forbidden, becauſe of the Excoriation which is on the parts. An artificial bath might be uſed. Let the preſcription that was ordered to be taken internally on *Saturday*, be repeated, and

Take of the Diapomphol *Plaſter two ounces and apply it.*

℞. *Ceruſs. pur.* drach. iv.
Lithargyr. tenuiſs. trit. drach. ij.

Beat and mix them into an impalpable powder.

October 5. THE heat over all his body, is equal, which is ſurpriſing. There are no bliſters. We have at leaſt done ſo much by the

* *The Gangrene.*

the help of our medicines, as to defend the parts from the putrefaction they were inclining to. What we have now most reason to apprehend, is a *Stagnation* of the juices, though the colour does not as yet manifest any corruption. If the scarf-skin should rise up in little blisters, then the part must corrupt, and a *Gangrene* come on. His feeling is not very acute. He has such a pain, as those men have who had a limb cut off; they still feel as it were a pain in their toes. Formerly he was as cold as lead, but now there is every where a natural heat; which is a good sign. The muscles which belong to the loins and *Ossa Innominata*, do still move the leg. The *Tumor* is not in the least diminished, and is surprisingly great. In the first examination, we suspected the original cause of all this disorder, to lye very deep. He had the most racking pains, as the *Periosteum* is extremely sensible, and has no covering in those parts. Hence the vessels being pressed against the bone, there followed a suffocation and inflammation, of which the consequence should be a *Gangrene*.

THE other swelling plainly shows, that there is matter beginning to collect about the ligaments of the *Os sacrum*. Is it derived then, from *where* the *Medulla Spinalis* is placed? This is not so evident. What shall we say with regard

to

to the *Diagnosis?* must we change our former opinion, about the paralytic disorder, and insensibility of the lower parts? this is still certainly the case, though not quite so bad. The *Prognostics* at present are, that the lower parts will turn into a *Gangrene* from the juices stagnating and the natural forces failing there. We have by no means gained so much, as to expect a recovery of those parts. This then is all, we can now say. The indications were, to administer proper food and drink, not such as abounded with much juice, but what was strengthening; and this to be given in small quantities at a time, that so it might afford suitable nourishment to his body and decayed strength.

Ought the physician in this case, I mean that of a *Palsy* happening in old age, where all the functions are low and decayed; ought he, I say, *to move the nerves briskly?* or administrate *friction?*—There are some, who approve of this; I must own, it is far from being my opinion.—If your leg is frozen with cold, and the physician should order the part to be strongly moved, a *Gangrene* would soon ensue. We must therefore in this case prescribe the best diet that the patient's circumstances admit of. What can we do with regard to the excoriation, which greatly pains him?—The best course would be, to have him supported

ſupported by leather belts, for two hours a day, in ſuch a manner, as the veſſels might not be compreſſed, but left to play freely. This was once tried, and the conſequence was, that the patient had almoſt dyed being ſuffocated from the conſtriction of his breaſt; ſo that I dare not attempt it. I have ordered a round bolſter to be made and filled with ſtraw, the middle of which is hollow; this will ſupport the parts about the ſwelling, leaving *it* uncompreſſed. Let the laſt preſcriptions be repeated.

October, 9. YE lately examined this patient's condition, which is that of a *Paralytic* diſorder from the belly downwards to the toes. The motion which he now makes, is with the muſcles which belong to the thigh, not *thoſe* of the foot; for when he moves his leg, the foot is drawn after it: which one might eaſily miſtake in. Our former deſcription and prognoſticks are to day confirmed, nor has he undergone any change ſince the laſt viſit. The animal and vital functions, are as they ought to be, except in thoſe parts; which being compreſſed and deprived of motion and ſenſe, are in danger of a *Gangrene*; hence we applied *Antiſeptics**. His legs and feet are ſwelled (which is the only ſymptom that is new)

* *Remedies proper againſt putrefaction.*

and

and this from the juices being obſtructed by the contuſion, which will bring on a *Gangrene.* In thoſe parts, there is little elſe than the *Tendo Achilles*, hence it is all nervous. The cauſe of all this, is, his remaining too long in the ſame ſituation; thus ſhould one lie long on his back or on one ſide, theſe parts would be attacked with a mortification. The ſwelling about the loins is grown greater, though the *Diſorder* itſelf is rather diminiſhed, and could he lye on his belly, theſe parts would be relieved.—But this we cannot obtain, on the account of the difficulty in breathing, which would then follow. The *Prognoſis* muſt then be, that ſo long as he continues in one ſituation of body, the diſorder will increaſe; and when there ſhall be no more life in thoſe parts, the mortification will mount higher. What remedy can we then uſe? change his poſture. Thus, when a man has broken his leg, he is confined to bed for ſix or ſeven weeks; if the ſurgeon in that time does not frequently move his body, there will come on a *Gangrene* from the parts being oppreſſed; hence they frequently turn him and ſo promote a cure.—The lower parts muſt be equally ſupported, that ſo there may be an even preſſure, as much as poſſible, on the whole body. We ſhall next apply the plaſter of *Diapomphol.* with abſorbent powders, and that we

may make an easy derivation of the juices to those parts, we will venture at this time, gently to move the nerves.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. j.
Asae Foetid. gr. xv.
Galban.
Myrrh. ana drach. ss.
Terebinth. gr. xii.
M. F. pil. gr. iij. singul.

He is to take three of these pills, every four hours of the day, drinking after them three ounces of the following decoction.

℞. *Lign. Santal. Rubr.*
Sassafras ana unc. jss.
Glycyrrhiz. unc. j.

Let these boil together in a close vessel, for the space of a quarter of an hour, and then draw it off for use.

You will easily perceive the intention of this prescription; I have ordered the *Gums* which are of a benign nature and suit extremely well with the nerves and muscles; with these are joined gentle *Aromatics* that we may in some measure excite his forces. We may now venture thus far, as we know what his strength will bear.

October 12. We found no alteration, the last visit, in this patient; so I shall not be troublesom with repetitions. The only new symp-

tom

tom was on the out-ſide of the heel, where there appears a *Gangrene* cauſed intirely by compreſſion; and there is great reaſon to fear its ſpreading over all the leg. The compreſſion on theſe parts, deprives them of ſenſe, and thence they become dead. Our chief buſineſs was, to keep them from being dryed up by the *Air*, and to defend them from putrefaction. The plaſter we applied, had very good effect, for elſe the *Gangrene* would have ſpred much farther. If he could keep thus for ſome time, I believe there might be a change for the better; and with regard to the *Os Sacrum*, I ſhould have hopes of curing it, were it but poſſible to change his ſituation. This large ſwelling rather increaſes than decreaſes. The *Paralytic* diſorder is then ſtill the ſame, though there remains a ſmall motion in ſome of the toes.

October 16. We muſt purſue the ſame courſe, and cauſe him frequently to move himſelf, defending the parts from mortification as much as poſſible. The different preparations of *Lead*, as white lead, *&c.* are excellent againſt putrefaction. The parts at preſent appear very dry; we muſt therefore moiſten them. The *Vital*, *Natural* and *Animal Functions*, are all in good condition. The effect of our laſt medicines, is, that

our patient is at leaſt in no worſe condition, for there was great danger of the *Gangrene*'s increaſing. We ſhall therefore continue ſuch medicines, which gently excite, and reſiſt putrefaction.

℞. *Gumm. Ammon.* drach. j.
Aſae foetid. drach. ſs.
Galban. drach. jſs.
Camphor. gr. x.
Caſtor. gr. v.
Croci gr. xv.
Terebinth. drach, ſs.

Mix all theſe together, and make Pills of three grains each. He is to take two of them every three hours, drinking half an ounce after each doſe, of the following mixture.

℞. *Aq. Still. Roſmarin.* unc. x.
Sp. Sal. Ammoniac. drach. ij.
Syr. Diac,d. unc. jſs.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Sambuc.* unc. x.
Spir. Matrical. unc. ſs.
Sacchar. Saturn. gr. v.

Mix them for a lotion.

Of internal medicines proper againſt putrefaction, *Gum Ammoniac* and *Galbanum* are reckoned the chief: I added a very ſmall quantity of *Camphor*, which belongs to the ſame claſs. The *Caſtor* was put in for ſake of the *Nerves*; when we order it

it in ſo ſmall a proportion, it is uſual to join with it, *Sal. Ammoniac.*

October 19. THE tumor on the left ſide is as yet conſiderable; that on the right is but ſmall. The patient conſtantly complains of a pain in the higher parts. This ſymptom I formerly explained to you, from the ſimile of a Man, who has his leg cut off. I believe there is but little ſenſe remaining in this part. But there is, I now perceive, on the left ankle a ſmall *ſpot* which threatens a *Gangrene.* The Nerves below the knees, ſtill preſerve ſome little motion; a proof that he can bear his medicines. Other circumſtances, are tolerably well with this unhappy man. The dead weight of the leg upon the heel, prevents the ſeparation of the *Eſchar*, which from the compreſſion muſt conſequently mortify. What remedy is then to be here uſed? theſe parts ought to be raiſed, and ſo the ſeparation promoted and a mortification prevented. All this grievous diſorder proceeds from the compreſſion of the nerves, and the blood not being able to make its paſſage. The *Gangrene* however has not as yet made farther progreſs. There is no ſmell nor putrefaction, and theſe parts are dead ſolely from the compreſſion. We cannot alter any thing of our laſt preſcriptions.

October

October 23. THIS unhappy man's life is faſt a going; it is eaſy to perceive this from his countenance and habit of body. The places where the *Gangrene* is, are become drier, and two days ago he was ſeized with an incontinency in retaining the *Foeces*, which (as formerly his water) come away without his knowledge. He has ſince our laſt viſit, taken much ſtronger phyſick than I ſhould have given, which was privately conveyed to him by ſome of his friends. This is a common practice with thoſe low people. The *Gangrene*, and diſeaſe are thence much worſe. Our ſole hopes would be in keeping the parts free of compreſſion; the manner of doing this, is, I confeſs, not within my reach. Could I once effect this, there would ſtill be left us ſome hopes, as there is no bad ſmell, but only a deadneſs of the parts. I ordered plaſters of oil, lead, *&c.* to be applied; but all in vain. The diſeaſe, and particularly his ſituation, reſiſt all our intentions. I ſhall now preſcribe ſomething to recruit his ſtrength.

℞. *Aq. Stillat. Menth.* lb. j.
Spir. Vit. Matthiol. unc. j.
Tinct. Lign. Saſſafras drach. vj.
Aq. Cephalic. unc. jſs,

Let him take of this mixture one ſpoonful, every hour and an half.

October 16. YE ſee, gentlemen, how, notwithſtanding all our endeavours, the putrefaction now appears. There is no dropſy on the upper parts of his body. He is now convulſed, which is one effect of the mortification. There is no inflammation on the parts about the *Gangrene*, nor any ſuppuration. In this caſe we muſt not regard the common rules which recommend *Emollients*, for the ſwelling would thence corrupt, and all turn into putrefaction; the parts are to be defended in the manner mentioned, when we formed the firſt indications. There is on the loins, a black ſlough which lies very deep, and has the plain marks of a mortification. Hence we ought to add ſomething new, to ſtop its progreſs. *Myrrh* powdered and mixed with *Baſilicum* in a ſmall quantity, is an admirable *Antiſeptic* medicine. It may be inquired, if the parts about the heel ought to be ſcarified? but there is hardly any ſubſtance there. Were it not for the *Gangrene*, we might attempt

to

to bring the part to a ſuppuration. Are theſe parts to be covered with a poultice? as they are ſo full of humours, it is to be feared they might incline to a ſuppuration. We muſt therefore principally take care, to keep the *Eſchars* moiſt; and for this purpoſe we muſt uſe *Baſilicum*, the *Golden* or *Poplar* ointment. At the upper parts, ye perceive a great change; for there the *Eſchar* has reached even the interſtices of the *Vertebrae*. In theſe circumſtances, *Myrrhe* or *Aloe* mixed with ſpirit of wine, are extremely proper. Ye will find, theſe balſamic remedies more effectual, when given in a ſolid, than liquid form; I am very ſenſible there are ſeveral who differ from me in this point. With regard to internal medicines, the laſt are to be repeated.

October 30. HERE is an inflammation of the *Penis* from the alcaleſcent urine, which comes away involuntarily, and by being kept, is become acrid: There is danger of this part likewiſe being attacked with a mortification. Our laſt preſcriptions have had a very good effect; for the blackneſs is now wore off, and the *Eſchar* become moiſt. His excrements continue to come away without his knowledge, and there is a very great dryneſs on the *Eſchar* at the heel; and though we cannot in the leaſt perceive any moiſtneſs

moiſtneſs thereabouts, yet the *Gangrene* in that part has made no progreſs, which is ſolely owing to our medicines. I ſhall not repeat what I have often told you, with regard to this patient. Ye underſtand, I preſume, the indications as well as the remedies uſed. All theſe diſmal ſymptoms proceed from that one cauſe, *viz.* impotency to muſcular motion. The *Eſchars* now becoming deeper, ſignifies that the diſorder has reached the bones. This muſt be attributed to the continual lying on his back, which ſuffocates the parts and forces the mortification inwards; than which nothing can be worſe.

Diagnoſis. THE *Gangrene* is rather diminiſhed, and thoſe parts which were formerly dry, have now got ſome moiſture. This, ye know, is a good ſign, as it ſhows there is as yet ſome vital force. Formerly there was nothing but blackneſs and wrinkles, and then *Antiſeptics* were indicated.

BUT what is the nature of the tumor of the genitals? for ye obſerve the teguments of the *Penis* and *Scrotum* vaſtly ſwelled. This proceeds from the *Cellular membrane*, which is affected with the acrimony of the urine; and from the preſſure on the veins. Hence this member is ſwelled and inflamed. There is on the prepuce

an *Epiphymosis*. The famous *Rhuysch* taught us from his preparations, that you may easily blow up the whole *Penis* and *Scrotum*, through a small hole pricked in the skin. But this is no such swelling, but as I just now said, it is an *Epiphymosis* caused by the acrimony of the urine. These parts are extremely tender, and may be distended till they burst.

THE indication therefore must be, to prevent a *Gangrene* here; and how is this to be done? by hindring these parts from being corroded.—But we cannot stop the flux of his urine.—All then in our power, is to anoint the part, with *Nutritum*, *Poplar* ointment and *white lead*, that so it may be defended from the *Urine*, which does not easily mix with *Oil*. It is not proper to apply plasters, because they stop perspiration and suffocate the part.

℞. *Unguent, Nutrit.*
Popul. ana unc. j,
Cerus. Subtilis. drach. ij.
M.

November 2. THE *Eschar* on the heel, is extremely dry, for there is little or no motion in that part. All the other symptoms are as formerly. I am still of opinion, that could I find

I find a way to ſupport his body freely for four days, ſo as perſpiration might not be obſtructed, he would change for the better. This is the ſole remedy by which we might for ſome ſhort time, ſtop the progreſs of the diſeaſe, that is of the mortification. We muſt repeat both the internal and external Medicines, for I know of none better.

November 6. YE ſee now, gentlemen, how much the *Gangrene* has prevailed in a few days; for it has now reached the higher parts, which are all motionleſs, the mouth, eyes, *&c.* There is no part in this man properly alive, ſave the *Heart* and *Lungs*. Hence the blood begins to be collected in the lungs, as it cannot paſs to the left ventricle.—He will be ſuffocated, and die in a ſhort while; for what blood remains now in his veins, is furniſhed from the heart, which ſhakes and beats irregularly.

FINIS.

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