

leaves made into a syrup with coarse sugar is almost the only medicine he has used for round worms for three years past. Before pressing out the juice, he moistens the bruised leaves with vinegar, which corrects the medicine. The dose is a tea-spoonful at bedtime, and one or two next morning.

I have frequently known those big bellies, which in children are commonly reckoned a sign of worms, quite removed by giving them white soap in their pottage or other food. Tansy, garlic, and rue, are all good against worms, and may be used various ways. We might here mention many other plants, both for external and internal use, but think the powder of tin with æthiops mineral, and the purges of rhubarb and calomel, are more to be depended on.*

Parents who would preserve their children from worms ought to allow them plenty of exercise in the open air; to take care that their food be wholesome and sufficiently solid; and, as far as possible, to prevent their eating raw herbs, roots, or green trashy fruits. It will not be amiss to allow a child who is subject to worms a glass of red wine after meals, as every thing that braces and strengthens the stomach is good both for preventing and expelling these vermin.†

CHAPTER XXXVI.

OF THE JAUNDICE.

This disease is first observable in the white of the eye, which appears yellow. Afterwards the whole skin puts on a

* Ball's purging vermifuge powder is a very powerful medicine. It is made of equal parts of rhubarb, scammony, and calomel, with as much double-refined sugar as is equal to the weight of all the other ingredients. These must be well mixed together, and reduced to a fine powder. The dose for a child is from ten grains to twenty, once or twice a week. An adult may take a dram for a dose.

† We think it necessary here to warn people of their danger, who buy cakes, powders, and other worm medicines, at random from quacks, and give them to their children without proper care. The principal ingredient in most of these medicines is mercury, which is never to be trifled with. I lately saw a shocking instance of the

yellow appearance. The urine too is of a saffron hue, and dyes a white cloth of the same color. There is another species of this disease, called the Black Jaundice.

CAUSES.—The immediate cause of the jaundice is an obstruction of the bile. The remote or occasional causes are, the bites of poisonous animals, as the viper, mad dog, &c.; the bilious or hysteric colic; violent passions, as grief, anger, &c. Strong purges or vomits will likewise occasion the jaundice. Sometimes it proceeds from obstinate agues, or from that disease being prematurely stopped by astringent medicines. In infants it is often occasioned by the *meconium* not being sufficiently purged off. Pregnant women are very subject to it. It is likewise a symptom in several kinds of fevers. Catching cold, or the stoppage of customary evacuations, as the *menses*, the bleeding piles, issues, &c., will occasion the jaundice.

SYMPTOMS.—The patient at first complains of excessive weariness, and has great aversion to every kind of motion. His skin is dry, and he generally feels a kind of itching or pricking pain over the whole body. The stools are of a whitish or clay color, and the urine, as was observed above, is yellow. The breathing is difficult, and the patient complains of an unusual load or oppression on his breast. There is a heat in the nostrils, a bitter taste in the mouth, loathing of food, sickness at the stomach, vomiting, flatulency, and frequently all objects appear to the eye of a yellow color.

If the patient be young, and the disease complicated with no other malady, it is seldom dangerous; but in old people, where it continues long, returns frequently, or is complicated with the dropsy or hypochondriac symptoms, it generally proves fatal. The black jaundice is more dangerous than the yellow.

REGIMEN.—The diet should be cool, light, and diluting, consisting chiefly of ripe fruits and mild vegetables, as apples boiled or roasted, stewed prunes, preserved plums, boiled spinach, &c. Veal or chicken broth, with light bread, are likewise very proper. The drink should be buttermilk, whey

danger of this conduct. A girl who had taken a dose of worm-powder, bought of a travelling quack, went out, and perhaps was so imprudent as to drink cold water, during its operation. She immediately swelled, and died that very day, with all the symptoms of having been poisoned.

sweetened with honey, or decoctions of cool opening vegetables, as marsh-mallow roots, with liquorice, &c.

The patient should take as much exercise as he can bear, either on horseback or in a machine; walking, running, and even jumping, are likewise proper, provided he can bear them without pain, and there be no symptoms of inflammation. Patients have been often cured of this disease by a long journey, after medicines had proved ineffectual.

Amusements are likewise of great use in the jaundice. The disease is often occasioned by a sedentary life, joined to a dull melancholy disposition; whatever therefore tends to promote the circulation and to cheer the spirits must have a good effect, as dancing, laughing, singing, &c.

MEDICINE.—If the patient be young, of a full sanguine habit, and complains of pain in the right side, about the region of the liver, bleeding will be necessary. After this a vomit must be administered, and if the disease prove obstinate it may be repeated once or twice. No medicines are more beneficial in the jaundice than vomits, especially where it is not attended with inflammation. Half a dram of ipecacuanha in powder will be a sufficient dose for an adult. It may be wrought off with weak camomile tea or lukewarm water.

The belly must likewise be kept open by mild purgatives. Castile soap, if taken in sufficient quantities, answers this purpose very well. It may be taken from half an ounce to an ounce daily, for a considerable time. As few people have resolution to swallow such large quantities of soap, I generally give pills made of soap, aloes, and rhubarb, which answer the same intention in a smaller dose. They may be prepared and taken as under.*

Fomenting the parts about the region of the stomach and liver, and rubbing them with a warm hand or flesh-brush, are likewise beneficial; but it is still more so for the patient to sit in a vessel of warm water up to the breast. He ought to do this frequently, and should continue in it as long as his strength will permit.

* Take socotrine aloes and Turkey rhubarb in powder of each two drams, Castile soap an ounce. Beat them all together, with a little syrup, into a proper consistence for pills. Let them be formed into pills of an ordinary size, and five or six of them taken twice or thrice a day. They must be continued for some time, and the quantity regulated by the patient's stools, of which he ought to have at least two every day.

Many dirty things are recommended for the cure of the jaundice, as lice, millepedes, &c. But these do more harm than good, as people trust to them and neglect more valuable medicines; besides, they are seldom taken in sufficient quantity to produce any effects. People always expect that such *things* should act as charms, and consequently seldom persist in the use of them. Vomits, purges, fomentations, and exercise, will seldom fail to cure the jaundice when it is a simple disease; and when complicated with the dropsy, a scirrhou liver, or other chronic complaints, it is hardly to be cured by any means.

Numberless British herbs are extolled for the cure of this disease. The author of the *Medicina Britannica* mentions near a hundred, all famous for curing the jaundice. The fact is, this disease often goes off of its own accord; in which case the last medicine is always said to have performed the cure. I have sometimes seen considerable benefit, in a very obstinate jaundice, from a decoction of hemp-seed. Four ounces of the seed may be boiled in two English quarts of ale, and sweetened with coarse sugar. The dose is half an English pint every morning. It may be continued for eight or nine days.

I have known Harrogate sulphur-water cure a jaundice of very long standing. It should be used for some time, and the patient must both drink and bathe.

The soluble tartar is likewise a very proper medicine in the jaundice. A dram of it may be taken every night and morning in a cup of tea or water gruel. If it does not open the belly, the dose may be increased.

Persons subject to the jaundice ought to take as much exercise as possible, and to avoid all heating and astringent aliments.

CHAPTER XXXVII. OF THE DROPSY.

THE dropsy is a preternatural swelling of the whole body, or some part of it, occasioned by a collection of watery humor.