

disease. It must be frequently made fresh, and the patient may take it at pleasure. Two, three, or even four English pints of it may be drank every day for a considerable time. No benefit can be expected from any medicine in this disease unless it be persisted in for a long time. It is of too obstinate a nature to be soon removed; and, when it admits of a cure at all, it must be brought about by inducing an almost total change of the habit, which must always be a work of time. Setons or issues in the neighborhood of the cancer have sometimes good effects.

When all other medicines fail, recourse must be had to opium, as a kind of solace. This will not indeed cure the disease, but it will ease the patient's agony, and render life more tolerable while it continues.

To avoid this dreadful disorder, people ought to use wholesome food, to take sufficient exercise in the open air, to be as easy and cheerful as possible, and carefully to guard against all blows, bruises, and every kind of pressure upon the breasts or other glandular parts.*

CHAPTER XLVII.

OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE.

In a former edition of this book, the venereal disease was omitted. The reasons however which at that time induced me to leave it out have, upon more mature consideration, vanished. Bad consequences, no doubt, may arise from ignorant persons tampering with medicine in this disorder; but the danger from that quarter seems to be more than balanced by the great and solid advantages which must arise to the patient from an early knowledge of his case, and an attention

* As hemlock is the principal medicine recommended in this disease, we would have given some directions for the gathering and preparing of that plant; but as its different preparations are now kept in the shops, we think it much safer for people to get them there, with proper directions for using them.

to a plan of regimen, which, if it does not cure the disease, will be sure to render it more mild and less hurtful to the constitution.

It is peculiarly unfortunate for the unhappy persons who contract this disease that it still lies under a sort of disgrace. This renders disguise necessary, and makes the patient either conceal his disorder altogether, or apply to those who promise a sudden and secret cure, but who in fact only remove the symptoms for a time, while they fix the disease deeper in the habit. By this means a slight infection, which might have been cured by regimen alone, is often converted into an obstinate and sometimes incurable malady.

Another unfavorable circumstance attending this disease is, that it assumes a variety of different shapes, and may with more propriety be called an assemblage of diseases than a single one. No two diseases can require a more different method of treatment than the venereal disease does in its different stages. Hence the folly and danger of trusting to any particular nostrum for the cure of this disease must be obvious to all. Such nostrums are however generally administered in the same manner to all who apply for them, without the least regard to the state of the disease, the constitution of the patient, the degree of infection, and a thousand other circumstances which are of the utmost importance.

Though the venereal disease is generally the fruit of unlawful love, yet it may be communicated to the innocent as well as the guilty. Infants, nurses, midwives, and married women whose husbands lead dissolute lives, are often affected with it, and frequently lose their lives by not being aware of their danger in due time. The unhappy condition of such persons will certainly plead our excuse, if any excuse be necessary, for endeavoring to point out the symptoms and cure of this too common disease.

To enumerate all its different symptoms, however, and to trace the disease minutely through its various stages, would require a much larger space than we have allotted to this part of our subject; we shall therefore confine our observations chiefly to circumstances of importance, omitting such as are either trifling or which occur but seldom. We shall likewise pass over the history of the disease, with the different methods of treatment which it has undergone since it was first introduced into Europe, and many other circumstances of a simi-

lar nature; all of which, though they might tend to amuse the reader, yet could afford him little or no useful knowledge.

VIRULENT GONORRHEA.

The virulent gonorrhœa is an involuntary discharge of infectious matter from the parts of generation in either sex. It generally makes its appearance within eight or ten days after the infection has been received; sometimes indeed it appears in two or three days, and at other times not before the end of four or five weeks. Previous to the discharge, the patient feels an itching, with a small degree of pain, in the genitals. Afterwards a thin glary matter begins to distil from the urinary passage, which stains the linen, and occasions a small degree of titillation, particularly in the time of making water. This, gradually increasing, arises at length to a degree of heat and pain which are chiefly perceived about the extremity of the urinary passage, where a slight degree of redness and inflammation likewise begin to appear.

As the disorder advances, the pain, heat of urine, and running increase, while fresh symptoms daily ensue. In men the erections become painful and involuntary, and are more frequent and lasting than when natural. This symptom is most troublesome when the patient is warm in bed. The pain, which was at first only perceived towards the extremity, now begins to reach all up the urinary passage, and is most intense just after the patient has done making water. The running gradually recedes from the color of seed, grows yellow, and at length puts on the appearance of matter.

When the disorder is arrived at its height, all the symptoms are more intense; the heat of urine is so great that the patient dreads the making of it, and though he feels a constant inclination this way, yet it is rendered with the greatest difficulty and often only by drops; the involuntary erections now become extremely painful and frequent; there is also a pain, heat, and sense of fulness about the seat, and the running is plentiful and sharp, of a brown, greenish, and sometimes of a bloody color.

By a proper regimen and medicines, the violence of the symptoms gradually abates; the heat of urine goes off; the involuntary and painful erections, and the heat and pain about the seat, become easier; the running also gradually decreases, grows whiter and thicker, till at last it entirely disappears.

By attending to these symptoms, the gonorrhœa may be pretty readily distinguished from any other disease. There are however some few disorders for which it may be mistaken, as an ulcer in the kidneys or bladder, the *fluor albus* or whites in women, &c. But in the former of these the matter comes away only with the urine, or when the sphincter of the bladder is open; whereas in a gonorrhœa the discharge is constant. The latter is more difficult to distinguish, and must be known chiefly from its effects, as pain, communicating the infection, &c.

REGIMEN.—When a person has reason to suspect that he has caught the venereal infection, he ought most strictly to observe a cooling regimen, to avoid every thing of a heating nature, as wines, spirituous liquors, rich sauces, spiced, salted, high-seasoned, and smoke-dried provisions, &c., as also all aromatic and stimulating vegetables, as onions, garlic, shallot, nutmeg, cinnamon, mace, ginger, and such like. His food ought chiefly to consist of mild vegetables, milk, broths, light puddings, panado, gruels, &c. His drink may be barley water, milk and water, decoctions of marsh-mallows and liquorice, linseed tea, or, if the patient has been accustomed to live high, small beer or weak negas. Venereal pleasures and violent exercises of all kinds, especially riding on horseback, are to be avoided. The patient must beware of catching cold, and when the inflammation is violent he ought to keep his bed.

MEDICINE.—A virulent gonorrhœa can seldom be cured speedily and effectually at the same time. The patient ought therefore not to expect nor the physician to promise it. It will often continue for two or three months, and sometimes for five or six, even where the treatment has been very proper. Sometimes, indeed, a gonorrhœa may be cured at the beginning by astringent injections. These may be prepared by dissolving half a dram of sugar of lead in six ounces of rose-water. Of this the fill of a small syringe may be thrown up the urethra five or six times a day a little warm, and continued till the running stops.

Purges are of very great importance in the gonorrhœa. They ought not however to be of the strong or drastic kind. Whatever raises a violent commotion in the body increases the danger, and tends to drive the disease deeper into the habit. Procuring two or three stools every second or third day for the first fortnight, and the same number every fourth or fifth day for the second, will generally be sufficient to re-

move the inflammatory symptoms, to diminish the running, and to change the color and consistence of the matter, which gradually becomes more clear and ropy as the virulence abates.*

When the inflammatory symptoms run high, bleeding is always necessary at the beginning. This operation, as in other topical inflammations, must be repeated according to the strength and constitution of the patient and the vehemence and urgency of the symptoms.

Medicines which promote the secretion of urine are likewise proper in this stage of the disorder. For this purpose an ounce of nitre and two ounces of gum Arabic, pounded together, may be divided into twenty-four doses, one of which may be taken frequently in a cup of the patient's drink. If these should make him pass his urine so often as to become troublesome to him, he may either take them less frequently, or leave out the nitre altogether and take the same quantity of magnesia alba in its stead.

When the pain and inflammation are seated high towards the neck of the bladder, it will be proper frequently to throw up an emollient clyster, which, besides the benefit of procuring stools, will serve as a fomentation to the inflamed parts. Injecting frequently a little milk and water, or linseed tea about the warmth of new milk, up the urethra, by means of a syringe, will likewise be of use. The genitals ought also to be bathed or rather soaked in warm milk and water, two or

* If the patient can swallow a solution of salts and manna, he may take six drams, or, if his constitution requires, an ounce of the former, with half an ounce of the latter. These may be dissolved in half an English pint of boiling water, whey, or thin water gruel, and taken early in the morning.

If an infusion of senna and tamarinds be more agreeable, two drams of the former and an ounce of the latter may be infused all night in half an English pint of boiling water. The infusion may be strained next morning, and half an ounce of Glauber's salts dissolved in it. A small tea-cupful of this infusion may be taken every half hour till it operates.

Should the patient prefer an electuary, the following will be found to answer very well. Take of the lenitive electuary four ounces, jalap in powder two drams, rhubarb one dram, and as much of the syrup of pale roses as will serve to make the whole into a soft electuary. Two tea-spoonfuls of this may be taken over night, and about the same quantity next morning, every day that the patient chooses to take a purge. The doses of the above medicines may be increased or diminished according as the patient finds it necessary.

three times a day, which not only keeps them clean, but tends to take off the stricture of the vessels, and to blunt the acrimony of the humors. We have reason to believe that bathing, injections, and fomentations, if duly persisted in, would have far more influence in the cure of this disease than is generally imagined.

Soft poultices, when they can conveniently be applied to the parts, are of great service. They may be made of the flour of linseed, or of wheat bread and milk, softened with butter or sweet oil. When poultices cannot be conveniently used, cloths wrung out of warm water, or bladders filled with warm milk and water, may be applied. I have often known the most excruciating pains, during the inflammatory state of the gonorrhœa, relieved by one or other of these applications.

Few things tend more to keep off inflammation in the spermatic vessels than a proper truss for the scrotum. It ought to be so contrived as to support the testicles, and should be worn from the first appearance of the disease till it has ceased some weeks.

This treatment will sometimes remove the gonorrhœa so quickly that the person will be in doubt whether he really labored under that disease. This, however, is too favorable a turn to be often expected. It more frequently happens that we are only able to procure an abatement or remission of the inflammatory symptoms, so far as to make it safe to have recourse to the great antidote *mercury*, which in all obstinate venereal cases seems to be absolutely necessary for completing the cure.

When bleeding, purging, fomentations, and the other things recommended above, have eased the pain, softened the pulse, relieved the heat of urine, and rendered the involuntary erections less frequent, the patient may begin to use mercury in any form that is most agreeable to him. One of the most common preparations of mercury used in this case is calomel. Two or three grains of it may be made into a pill with a crumb of bread, or formed into a bolus with conserve of hips, and taken every other night at bedtime. The dose may be gradually increased to eight or ten grains.

Should the patient be purged or griped in the night by the mercury, he must take an infusion of senna, or some other purgative, and drink freely of water gruel, to prevent bloody stools, which are very apt to happen should the patient catch cold, or if the mercury has not been duly prepared. When

the bowels are weak, and the mercury is apt to gripe or purge, these disagreeable consequences may be prevented by making the above quantity of calomel into a bolus, with half a dram or two scruples of diacodium or the Japonic confection. After the pill or bolus has been repeated three or four times, a purging potion must be given, to carry off the mercury and prevent a salivation.

To prevent the disagreeable circumstance of the mercury's affecting the mouth or bringing on a salivation, it may be combined with purgatives. With this view the laxative mercurial pill has been contrived, the usual dose of which is half a dram, or three pills, night and morning, to be repeated every other day; but the safer way is for the patient to begin with two, or even with one pill, gradually increasing the dose.

To such persons as can neither swallow a bolus nor a pill, mercury may be given in a liquid form, as it can be suspended even in a watery vehicle, by means of gum Arabic; which not only serves this purpose, but likewise prevents the mercury from affecting the mouth, and renders it in many respects a better medicine.*

It happens, very fortunately for those who cannot be brought to take mercury inwardly, and likewise for persons whose bowels are too tender to bear it, that an external application of it will answer equally well, and in some respects better. It must be acknowledged that mercury taken inwardly for any length of time greatly weakens and disorders the bowels; for which reason, when a plentiful use of it becomes necessary, we should prefer rubbing to any other mode of application whatever. The common mercurial or blue ointment will answer very well. Of that which is made by rubbing together equal quantities of hog's lard and quicksilver, about a dram may be used at a time. The best time for rubbing it on is at night, and the most proper place the inner side of the thighs. The patient should stand before the fire when he rubs, and should wear flannel drawers next his skin all the time he is using the ointment. If ointment of a weaker

* Take quicksilver one dram, gum Arabic reduced to a mucilage two drams; let the quicksilver be rubbed with the mucilage, in a marble mortar, until the globules of mercury entirely disappear; afterwards add gradually, still continuing the trituration, half an ounce of balsamic syrup, and eight ounces of simple cinnamon water. Two table-spoonfuls of this solution may be taken night and morning. Some reckon this the best form in which quicksilver can be exhibited for the cure of gonorrhœa.

or stronger kind be used, the dose must be increased or diminished accordingly.

If, during the use of the ointment, the inflammation of the genital parts, together with the heat and feverishness, should return, or if the mouth should grow sore, the gums tender, and the breath become offensive, a dose or two of Glauber's salts, or some other cooling purge, may be taken, and the rubbing intermitted for a few days. As soon, however, as the signs of a spitting are gone off, if the virulence be not quite corrected, the ointment must be repeated, but in smaller quantities and at longer intervals than before. Whatever way mercury is administered, its use must be persisted in as long as any virulence is suspected to remain.

During this, which may be called the second stage of the disorder, though so strict a regimen is not necessary as in the first or inflammatory state, yet intemperance of every kind must be avoided. The food must be light, plain, and of easy digestion; and the greatest indulgence that may be allowed with respect to drink is a little wine diluted with a sufficient quantity of water. Spirituous liquors are to be avoided in every shape. I have often known the inflammatory symptoms renewed and heightened, the running increased, and the cure rendered extremely difficult and tedious, by one fit of excessive drinking.

When the above treatment has removed the heat of urine and soreness of the genital parts; when the quantity of running is considerably lessened, without any pain or swelling in the groin or testicle supervening; when the patient is free from involuntary erections; and, lastly, when the running becomes pale, whitish, thick, void of ill smell, and tenacious or ropy;—when all or most of these symptoms appear, the gonorrhœa is arrived at its last stage, and we may gradually proceed to the use of gentle astringents or agglutinating medicines. These, however, ought always to be used with caution. When the contagion is removed, the running will generally stop of itself; and when it does not, there is still reason to fear that the virulence is not completely subdued. But this will soon appear; for if the contagion be not removed, upon stopping the running, swelled testicles, a sore throat, buboes, or some other symptom of the pox, will ensue. When this happens, the running must be again promoted by purges, and more mercury must be used.

That we may proceed with caution, and not give too sud-

den a check to the discharge, gentle astringents may be mixed with purgative medicines, and taken in the following manner: To two ounces of the lenitive electuary add cream of tartar and powdered rhubarb of each half an ounce, balsam of capivi an ounce and a half. Let these be made into an electuary, with the syrup of pale roses, and about the bulk of a large nutmeg taken evening and morning for a dose.

If no bad symptoms ensue from using the above, stronger astringents, if necessary, may be administered, as the Venice turpentine, the Peruvian balsam, balsam of Gilead, &c. If these balsams should occasion nausea or sickness, the patient, instead of them, may take fifteen or twenty drops of the acid elixir of vitriol, in a glass of red wine or water, twice a day.

Should the running, notwithstanding the use of these medicines, still continue, but without any signs of virulence, recourse must be had to astringent injections. For this purpose a little gum Arabic may be dissolved in three or four ounces of rosewater, to which ten or twelve grains of the sugar of lead may be added. Two or three drams of this may be daily injected up the urethra with a small syringe. It should be used a little warm, and may be made stronger as the case requires.

During this course, a proper regimen is likewise to be observed. The patient ought to take gentle exercise in the open air, but should avoid great heat and fatigue. His diet ought to be drying and agglutinating, as biscuit, rice, millet, jellies of hartshorn, and other things of a strengthening nature. His drink should be Bristol water, red port or claret, with the addition of a little water. All excess is carefully to be avoided, and whatever may have a tendency to weaken or relax the habit.

If all these means should prove ineffectual, and, notwithstanding the virulence is perfectly cured, a running should still remain, the disorder is then denominated a GLEET; the proper treatment whereof we shall next endeavor to show.

GLEETS.

A gonorrhœa frequently repeated or improperly treated often ends in a gleet, which may either proceed from relaxation, or from latent ulcers in some of the parts which had been the seat of the gonorrhœa. It is however of the greatest importance in the cure of the gleet to know from which of

these causes it proceeds. When the discharge proves very obstinate, and receives little or no check from astringent remedies, there is ground to suspect that it is owing to ulcers; but if the drain is inconstant, and is chiefly observable when the patient is stimulated by venereal ideas or upon straining to go to stool, we may reasonably conclude that it is chiefly owing to relaxation.

In the cure of a gleet proceeding from relaxation, the principal design is to brace, and restore a proper degree of tension to the debilitated and relaxed vessels. For this purpose, besides the medicines recommended in the last stage of the gonorrhœa, the patient may have recourse to stronger and more powerful astringents, as the Peruvian bark,* alum, vitriol, galls, tormentil, bistort, balaustines, &c.

While the patient is taking these medicines, the cure may be promoted by astringent injections, such as are recommended in the last stage of the gonorrhœa, to which a few grains of alum or white vitriol may occasionally be added.

The last remedy which we shall mention in this case is the cold bath, than which there is not perhaps a more powerful bracer in the whole compass of medicine. It ought never to be omitted in this species of gleet, unless there be something in the constitution of the patient which renders the use of it unsafe. The chief objections to the use of the cold bath are a full habit and an unsound state of the viscera. The danger from the former may always be lessened, if not removed, by bleeding; but the latter is an insurmountable obstacle, as the pressure of the water and the sudden contraction of the external vessels, by throwing the blood with too much force upon the internal parts, are apt to occasion ruptures of the vessels, or a flux of humors upon the diseased organs. But where no objection of this kind prevails, the patient ought to plunge over head in water every morning, fasting, for three or four weeks together. He should not however stay in above three or four minutes, and should take care to have his skin dried as soon as he comes out.

* The Peruvian bark may be combined with other astringents and prepared in the following manner:

Take of Peruvian bark bruised six drams, of fresh galls bruised two drams; boil them in a pound and a half of water to a pound; to the strained liquor add three ounces of the simple tincture of the bark. A small tea-cupful of this may be taken three times a day, adding to each cup fifteen or twenty drops of the acid elixir of vitriol.

The regimen proper in this case is the same as was mentioned in the last stage of the gonorrhœa: the diet must be drying and astringent, and the drink Spa, Pyrmont, or Bristol waters, with which a little claret or red wine may sometimes be mixed.

When the gleet does not in the smallest degree yield to these medicines, there is reason to suspect that it proceeds from ulcers. In this case, recourse must be had to mercury, and such medicines as tend to correct any predominant acrimony with which the juices may be affected, as the decoction of china, sarsaparilla, sassafras, or the like.

Mr. Fordyce says he has seen many obstinate gleets, of two, three, or four years' standing, effectually cured by a mercurial inunction, when almost every other medicine had been tried in vain. Dr. Chapman seems to be of the same opinion, but says he has always found the mercury succeed best in this case when joined with terebinthinate and other agglutinating medicines. For which reason the doctor recommends pills made of calomel and Venice turpentine,* and desires that their use may be accompanied with a decoction of guaiacum or sarsaparilla.

The last kind of remedy which we shall mention for the cure of ulcers in the urinary passage are the suppurating candles or bougies. As they are prepared various ways, and are generally to be got ready made, we shall not spend time in enumerating the different ingredients of which they are composed, or teaching the manner of preparing them. Before a bougie be introduced into the urethra, however, it should be smeared all over with sweet oil, to prevent it from stimulating too suddenly. It may be suffered to continue in from one to seven or eight hours, according as the patient can bear it. Obstinate ulcers are not only often healed, but tumors and excrescences in the urinary passages taken away, and an obstruction of urine removed, by means of bougies.

* Take Venice turpentine, boiled to a sufficient degree of hardness, half an ounce, calomel half a dram; let these be mixed and formed into sixty pills, of which five or six may be taken night and morning. If, during the use of these pills, the mouth should grow sore or the breath become offensive, they must be discontinued till these symptoms disappear.

SWELLED TESTICLE.

The swelled testicle may either proceed from infection lately contracted or from the venereal poison lurking in the blood. The latter indeed is not very common, but the former frequently happens both in the first and second stages of a gonorrhœa, particularly when the running is unseasonably checked from catching cold, hard drinking, strong drastic purges, violent exercise, the too early use of astringent medicines, &c.

In the inflammatory stage bleeding is necessary, which must be repeated according to the urgency of the symptoms. The food must be light and the drink diluting. High-seasoned food, flesh, wines, and every thing of a heating nature, are to be avoided. Fomentations are of singular service. Poultices of bread and milk, softened with fresh butter or oil, are likewise very proper, and ought constantly to be applied when the patient is in bed. When he is up, the testicle should be kept warm, and supported by a bag or truss, which may easily be contrived in such a manner as to prevent the weight of the testicle from having any effect.

If it should be found impracticable to clear the testicle by the cooling regimen now pointed out, and extended according to circumstances, it will be necessary to lead the patient through such a complete antivenereal course as shall ensure him against any future uneasiness. For this purpose, besides rubbing the mercurial ointment on the part, if free from pain, or on the thighs, as directed in the gonorrhœa, the patient must be confined to his bed, if necessary, for five or six weeks, suspending the testicle all the while with a bag or truss, and plying him inwardly with strong decoctions of sarsaparilla.

When these means do not succeed, and there is reason to suspect a scrofulous or cancerous habit, either of which may support a scirrhus induration, after the venereal poison is corrected, the parts should be fomented daily with a decoction of hemlock, the bruised leaves of which may likewise be added to the poultice, and the extract at the same time taken inwardly.* This practice is strongly recommended by Dr. Stork in scirrhus and cancerous cases; and Mr. Fordyce

* The extract of hemlock may be made into pills, and taken in the manner directed under the article Cancer.

assures us that by this method he has cured diseased testicles of two or three years' standing, even when ulcerated, and when the scirrhus had begun to be affected with pricking and lancing pains.

BUBOES.

Venereal buboes are hard tumors seated in the groin, occasioned by the venereal poison lodged in this part. They are of two kinds, viz., such as proceed from a recent infection, and such as accompany a confirmed lues.

The cure of recent buboes, that is, such as appear soon after impure coition, may be first attempted by dispersion, and if that should not succeed by suppuration. To promote the dispersion of a buboe, the same regimen must be observed as was directed in the first stage of a gonorrhœa. The patient must at the same time be bled, and take some cooling purges, as the decoction of tamarinds and senna, Glauber's salts, and the like. If by this course the swelling and other inflammatory symptoms abate, we may safely proceed to the use of mercury, which must be continued till the venereal virus is quite subdued.

But if the buboe should from the beginning be attended with great heat, pain, and pulsation, it will be proper to promote its suppuration. For this purpose the patient may be allowed to use his ordinary diet and to take now and then a glass of wine. Emollient cataplasms, consisting of bread and milk softened with oil or fresh butter, may be applied to the part; and in cold constitutions, where the tumor advances slowly, white-lily roots boiled, or sliced onions raw, and a sufficient quantity of yellow basilicon, may be added to the poultice.

When the tumor is ripe, which may be known by its conical figure, the softness of the skin, and a fluctuation of matter plainly to be felt under the finger, it may be opened either by caustic or a lancet, and afterwards dressed with digestive ointment.

It sometimes, however, happens that buboes can neither be dispersed nor brought to a suppuration, but remain hard, indolent tumors. In this case the indurated glands must be consumed by caustic; but if they should become scirrhous, they must be dissolved by the application of hemlock both externally and internally, as directed in the scirrhous testicle.

CHANCRES.

Chancres are superficial, callous, eating ulcers, which may happen either with or without a gonorrhœa. They are commonly seated about the private parts, and make their appearance in the following manner: First a little red pimple arises, which soon becomes pointed at top, and is filled with a whitish matter inclining to yellow. This pimple is hot, and itches generally before it breaks; afterwards it degenerates into an obstinate ulcer, the bottom of which is usually covered with a viscid mucus, and whose edges gradually become hard and callous. Sometimes the first appearance resembles a simple excoriation of the cuticle, which, however, if the cause be venereal, soon becomes a true chancre.

A chancre is sometimes a primary affection, but it is much oftener symptomatical, and is the mark of a confirmed lues. Primary chancres discover themselves soon after impure coition, and are generally seated in parts covered with a thin cuticle, as the lips, the nipples of women, the *glans penis* of men, &c.*

When a chancre appears soon after impure coition, its treatment is in every respect similar to that of the virulent gonorrhœa. The patient must observe the cooling regimen, lose a little blood, and take some gentle doses of salts and manna. The parts affected ought frequently to be bathed, or rather soaked, in warm milk and water, and if the inflammation be great an emollient poultice or cataplasm may be applied to them. This course will, in most cases, be sufficient to abate the inflammation, and prepare the patient for the use of mercury.

Symptomatic chancres are commonly accompanied with ulcers in the throat, nocturnal pains, scurfy eruptions about the roots of the hair, and other symptoms of a confirmed lues.

* When venereal ulcers are seated in the lips, the infection may be communicated by kissing. This ought surely to banish that ridiculous custom, still kept up in many parts of Britain, of kissing every person to whom one is introduced. I have seen very obstinate venereal ulcers in the lips, that would not yield to any thing but a course of mercury, which I had all the reason in the world to believe were occasioned solely by kissing an infected person. Nurses ought to beware of suckling infected children or having their breasts drawn by persons tainted with the venereal disease. This caution is peculiarly necessary for nurses who reside in the neighborhood of great towns.

Though they may be seated in any of the parts mentioned above, they commonly appear upon the private parts or the inside of the thigh. They are also less painful, but frequently much larger and harder, than primary chancres. As their cure must depend upon that of the pox, of which they are only a symptom, we shall take no further notice of them till we come to treat of a confirmed lues.

Thus we have related most of the symptoms which accompany or succeed to a virulent gonorrhœa, and have also given a short view of their proper treatment. There are, however, several others which sometimes attend this disease, as a strangury or obstruction of urine, a phymosis, a paraphymosis, &c.

A strangury may be occasioned either by a spasmodic constriction or an inflammation of the urethra and parts about the neck of the bladder. In the former case, the patient begins to void his urine with tolerable ease, but as soon as it touches the galled or inflamed urethra a sudden constriction takes place, and the urine is voided by spurts, and sometimes by drops only. When the strangury is owing to an inflammation about the neck of the bladder, there is a constant heat and uneasiness about this part, a perpetual desire to make water, while the patient can only render a few drops, and a troublesome tenesmus, or constant inclination to go to stool.

When the strangury is owing to spasm, such medicines as tend to dilute and blunt the salts of the urine will be proper. For this purpose, besides the common diluting liquors, soft and cooling emulsions, sweetened with the syrup of poppies, may be used. Should these not have the desired effect, bleeding and emollient fomentations will be necessary.

When the complaint is evidently owing to an inflammation about the neck of the bladder, bleeding must be more liberally performed, and repeated according to the urgency of the symptoms. After bleeding, if the strangury still continues, soft clysters may be administered, and emollient fomentations applied to the region of the bladder. At the same time, the patient may take every four hours a tea-cupful of barley water, to an English pint of which six ounces of the syrup of marsh-mallows, four ounces of the oil of sweet almonds, and half an ounce of nitre, may be added. If these remedies should not relieve the complaint, and a total suppression of urine should come on, bleeding must be repeated, and the patient set in a warm bath up to the middle. It will be proper, in this case, to discontinue the diuretics.

Sometimes it is necessary in this case to draw off the water with a catheter; but, as the patient is seldom able to bear its being introduced, we would rather recommend the use of bougies. These soften and lubricate the passage, and greatly facilitate the discharge of urine. Whenever they begin to stimulate or give any uneasiness, they may be withdrawn.

The phymosis is such a constriction of the prepuce over the glands as hinders it from being drawn backwards; the paraphymosis, on the contrary, is such a constriction of the prepuce behind the glands as hinders it from being brought forward.

The treatment of these symptoms is so nearly the same with that of the virulent gonorrhœa that we have no occasion to enlarge upon it. In general, bleeding, purging, poultices, and emollient fomentations, are sufficient. Should these, however, fail of removing the stricture, and the parts be threatened with a mortification, twenty or thirty grains of ipecacuanha and one grain of emetic tartar may be given for a vomit, and may be worked off with warm water or thin gruel.

It sometimes, however, happens that, in spite of all endeavors to the contrary, the inflammation goes on, and symptoms of a beginning mortification appear. When this is the case, the prepuce must be scarified with a lancet, and if necessary divided, in order to prevent a strangulation and set the imprisoned glands at liberty. We shall not describe the manner of performing this operation, as it ought always to be done by a surgeon. When a mortification has actually taken place, it will be necessary, besides performing the above operations, to foment the parts frequently with cloths wrung out of a strong decoction of camomile flowers and bark, and to give the patient a dram of the bark in powder every two or three hours.

With regard to the *priapism*, *chordee*, and other distortions of the penis, their treatment is no way different from that of the gonorrhœa. When they happen to prove very troublesome, the patient may take a few drops of laudanum at night, especially after the operation of a purgative through the day.

CONFIRMED LUES OR POX.

We have hitherto treated of those disorders in which the venereal poison is supposed to be confined to the particular part by which it was received, and shall next take a view of

the lues in its confirmed state, that is, when the poison is actually received into the blood, and, circulating with it through every part of the body, mixes with the several secretions, and renders the whole habit tainted.

The symptoms of a confirmed lues are, buboes in the groin; pains of the head and joints, which are peculiarly troublesome in the night or when the patient is warm in bed; scabs and scurf in various parts of the body, of a yellowish color, resembling honey-comb; corroding ulcers in various parts of the body, which generally begin about the throat, from whence they creep gradually by the palate towards the cartilage of the nose, which they destroy; excrescences or exostoses arise in the middle of the bones, and their spongy ends become brittle, and break upon the least accident; at other times they are soft and bend like wax; the conglobate glands become hard and callous, and form, in the neck, armpits, groin, and mesentery, hard movable tumors, like the king's evil; tumors of different kinds are likewise formed in the lymphatic vessels, tendons, ligaments, and nerves, as *gumata*, *nodes*, *tophi*, &c.; the eyes are affected with itching, pain, redness, and sometimes with total blindness, and the ears with a singing noise, pain, and deafness, whilst their internal substance is exulcerated and rendered carious; at length all the animal, vital, and natural functions are depraved; the face becomes pale and livid, the body emaciated and unfit for motion, and the miserable patient falls into an atrophy or wasting consumption.

Women have symptoms peculiar to the sex; as cancers of the breast; a suppression or overflow of the menses; the whites; the hysteric passion; an inflammation, abscess, scirrhous, gangrene, cancer, or ulcer of the womb. They are generally either barren or subject to abortion, or, if they bring children into the world, they have a universal erysipelas, are half rotten, and covered with ulcers.

Such is the catalogue of symptoms attending this dreadful disease in its confirmed state. Indeed they are seldom all to be met with in the same person or at the same time; so many of them, however, are generally present as are sufficient to alarm the patient; and if he has reason to suspect the infection is lurking in his body, he ought immediately to set about the expulsion of it, otherwise the most tragical consequences will ensue.

The only certain remedy hitherto known in Europe for the cure of this disease is mercury, which may be used in a great

variety of forms, with nearly the same success. Some time ago it was reckoned impossible to cure a confirmed lues without a salivation; this method is now, however, pretty generally laid aside, and mercury is found to be as efficacious, or rather more so, in expelling the venereal poison, when administered in such a manner as not to run off by the salivary glands.

Various preparations of mercury have been extolled at different times, by different authors, for the cure of the venereal disease; but after all it has been found that the most simple forms in which it can be introduced into the system generally succeed as well as the most elaborate chemical preparations. Thus, an ointment or pill prepared by triturating common quicksilver with grease, resin, or mucilage, will, if used for a sufficient length of time, remove the most obstinate venereal symptoms, unless where the constitution is so far destroyed as to render a cure impossible.

These may be used in the same manner as for the virulent gonorrhœa; and if any symptoms of a salivation should appear, they must be discontinued for some days, and a purge or two taken. It is impossible to ascertain either the exact quantity of these medicines that must be taken, or the time they ought to be continued in order to perform a cure. These will ever vary, according to the constitution of the patient, the season of the year, the degree of infection, the time it has lodged in the body, &c. But though it is difficult, as Astruc observes, to determine *à priori* what quantity of mercury will in the whole be necessary to cure this distemper completely, yet it may be judged of *à posteriori* from the abatement and ceasing of the symptoms. The same author adds, that commonly not less than two ounces of the strong mercurial ointment is sufficient, and not more than three or four ounces necessary.

The only chemical preparation of mercury which we shall take notice of is the corrosive sublimate. This was brought into use for the venereal disease, in Germany, by the illustrious Baron Van Swieten, and was soon after introduced into Britain by the learned Sir John Pringle, at that time physician to the army. The method of giving it is as follows: One grain of corrosive sublimate is dissolved in two ounces of French brandy or malt spirits, and of this solution an ordinary table-spoonful, or the quantity of half an ounce, is to be taken twice a day, and to be continued as long as any symptoms of

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the disorder remain. The sublimate may likewise be given in form of pills or drops; but I never found it answer so well in any form as that of the solution.

Several roots, woods, and barks, have been recommended for curing the venereal disease; but none of them have been found, upon experience, to answer the high encomiums which had been passed upon them. Though no one of these is to be depended upon alone, yet, when joined with mercury, some of them are found to be very beneficial in promoting a cure. One of the best we yet know is the sarsaparilla. Three ounces of the dried root sliced may be boiled in two English quarts of water to one, adding towards the end a little liquorice root, to take off the disagreeable taste. This quantity may be divided into three or four doses, and taken in the space of twenty-four hours. As this decoction not only promotes the cure of the venereal disease, but strengthens the stomach and acts as a restorative, it cannot fail to be of singular service where the patient is greatly weakened or exhausted by the disease.

The mezereon root is likewise found to be a powerful assistant to the sublimate, or any other mercurial. It may either be used along with the sarsaparilla or by itself. When they are used together, an ounce of the fresh bark of the mezereon root may be mixed with eight ounces of sarsaparilla, and a little liquorice added to them, as above. Those who choose to use the mezereon by itself may boil an ounce of the fresh bark, taken from the root, in twelve English pints of water to eight, adding towards the end an ounce of liquorice. The dose of this is the same as of the decoction of sarsaparilla.

We have been told that the natives of America cure the venereal disease in every stage by a decoction of the root of a plant called the lobelia. It is used either fresh or dried, but we have no certain accounts with regard to the proportion. Sometimes they mix other roots with it, as those of the ranunculus, the ceanothus, &c., but whether these are designed to disguise or assist it is doubtful. The patient takes a large draught of the decoction early in the morning, and continues to use it for his ordinary drink through the day.

Many other roots and woods might be mentioned which have been extolled for curing the venereal disease, as the china root, the root of soapwort, burdock, &c., as also the wood of guaiacum and sassafras; but as none of these have

been found to possess virtues superior to those already mentioned, we shall, for the sake of brevity, pass them over, and shall conclude our observations on the disease with a few general remarks concerning the proper management of the patient and the nature of the infection.

The condition of the patient ought always to be considered previous to his entering upon a course of mercury in any form. It would be equally rash and dangerous to administer mercury to a person laboring under any violent acute disease, as a putrid fever, pleurisy, peripneumony, or the like. It would likewise be dangerous in some chronic diseases, as a dropsy, a scirrhus, a slow hectic fever, or the last stage of a consumption. Sometimes, however, the two last-named diseases proceed from a confirmed lues, in which case it will be necessary to give mercury. In chronic diseases of a less dangerous nature, as the asthma, gravel, nervous complaints, and such like, mercury, if necessary, may be safely administered. If the patient's strength has been greatly exhausted by sickness, labor, abstinence, or any other cause, the use of mercury must be postponed, till, by time, rest, and a proper nourishing diet, it can be sufficiently restored.

Mercury ought not to be administered to women during the menstrual flux, or when the period is near at hand. Neither should it be given in the last stage of pregnancy. If, however, the woman be not near the time of her delivery, and circumstances render it necessary, mercury may be given, but in smaller doses and at greater intervals than usual. With these precautions, both the mother and child may be cured at the same time; if not, the disorder will at least be kept from growing worse, till the woman be brought to bed and sufficiently recovered, when a more effectual method may be pursued, which, if she suckles her child, will in all probability be sufficient for the cure of both.

Mercury ought always to be administered to infants with the greatest caution. Their tender condition unfits them for supporting a salivation, and makes it necessary to administer even the mildest preparations of mercury to them with a sparing hand. A similar conduct is recommended in the treatment of old persons, who have the misfortune to labor under a confirmed lues. No doubt the infirmities of age must render people less able to undergo the fatigues of a salivation; but this, as was formerly observed, is seldom necessary; besides, we have generally found that mercury had much

less effect upon very old persons than on those who were younger.

Hysteric and hypochondriac persons, and such as are subject to an habitual diarrhœa or dysentery, or to frequent and violent attacks of the epilepsy, or who are afflicted with the scrofula or the scurvy, ought to be cautious in the use of mercury. Where any one of these disorders prevails, it ought either, if possible, to be cured, or at least palliated, before the patient enters upon a course of mercury. When this cannot be done, the mercury must be administered in smaller doses and at longer intervals than usual.

The most proper seasons for entering upon a course of mercury are the spring and autumn, when the air is of a moderate warmth. If the circumstances of the case, however, will not admit of delay, we must not defer the cure on account of the season, but must administer the mercury; taking care, at the same time, to keep the patient's chamber warmer or cooler, according as the season of the year requires.

The next thing to be considered is the preparation necessary to be observed before we proceed to administer a course of mercury. Some lay great stress upon this circumstance, observing, that by previously relaxing the vessels, and correcting any disorder which may happen to prevail in the blood, not only the mercury will be disposed to act more kindly, but many other inconveniences will be prevented.

We have already recommended bleeding and gentle purges, previous to the administration of mercury, and shall only now add, that these are always to be repeated according to the age, strength, constitution, and other circumstances of the patient. Afterwards, if it can be conveniently done, the patient ought to bathe once or twice a day, for a few days, in lukewarm water. His diet in the mean time must be light, moist, and cooling. Wine, and all heating liquors, also violent bodily exercise, and all great exertions of the mind, are carefully to be avoided.

A proper regimen is likewise to be observed by such as are under a course of mercury. Inattention to this not only endangers the patient's life, but often also disappoints him of a cure. A far less quantity of mercury will be sufficient for the cure of a person who lives low, keeps warm, and avoids all manner of excess, than one who cannot endure to put the smallest restraint upon his appetites. Indeed it but rarely happens that such are ever thoroughly cured.

There is hardly any thing of more importance in the cure of the venereal disease than cleanliness. By an early attention to it the infection might often be prevented from entering the body, and where it has already taken place its effects may be greatly mitigated. The moment any person has reason to suspect that he has received the infection, he ought to wash the parts with water and spirits, sweet oil, or milk and water. A small quantity of the last may likewise be injected up the urethra, if it can be conveniently done. Whether this disease took its rise at first from dirtiness, we shall not pretend to say; but wherever that prevails the infection will be found in its greatest degree of virulence.*

When the venereal disease has been neglected or improperly treated, it often becomes a disorder of the constitution. In this case the cure must be attempted by restoratives, as a milk diet, the decoction of sarsaparilla, and such like, to which mercury may be occasionally added. It is a common practice in North Britain to send such patients to drink goat whey. This is a very proper plan, provided the infection has been totally eradicated beforehand; but when this is not the case, he will often be disappointed. I have frequently known the disease return with all its virulence after a course of goat whey, even when that course had been thought quite sufficient for completing the cure.

One of the most unfortunate circumstances attending patients in this disease is the necessity they are often laid under of being soon well. This induces them to take medicines too fast, and to leave it off too soon. A few grains more of medi-

* I have not only often seen a recent infection carried off in a few days by means of cleanliness, viz. bathing, fomentations, injections, &c., but have likewise found it of the greatest advantage in the more advanced stages of the disease. Of this I had lately a very remarkable instance, in a man whose penis was almost wholly consumed by venereal ulcers. The matter had been allowed to continue on the sores, without any care having been taken to clean them, till, notwithstanding the use of mercury and other medicines, it had produced the effects above mentioned. I ordered warm milk and water to be injected three or four times a day into all the sinuous ulcers, in order to wash out the matter; after which they were stuffed with dry lint, to absorb the fresh matter as it was generated. The patient at the same time took every day half a grain of the corrosive sublimate of mercury, dissolved in an ounce of brandy, and drank an English quart of the decoction of sarsaparilla. By this treatment, in about six weeks, he was perfectly cured; and, what was very remarkable, a part of the penis was actually regenerated.

cine, or a few days' longer confinement, would often be sufficient to perfect the cure; whereas, by the neglect of these, a small degree of virulence is still left in the humors, which gradually vitiates and at length contaminates the whole mass. To avoid this, we would advise that the patient should never leave off taking medicine immediately upon the disappearing of the symptoms, but continue it for some time after, gradually lessening the quantity, till there is sufficient ground to believe that the disease is entirely eradicated.

It is not only difficult, but absolutely impossible, to ascertain the exact degree of virulence that may attend the disease; for which reason it will always be a much safer rule to continue the use of medicine too long than to leave it off too soon. This seems to be the leading maxim of a modern practitioner of some note, for the venereal disease, who always orders his patient to perform a quarantine of forty days, during which time he takes forty bottles of, I suppose, a strong decoction of sarsaparilla, or some other antivenereal simple. Whoever takes this method, and adds a sufficient quantity of some active preparation of mercury to the decoction, will seldom fail to cure a confirmed lues.

It is peculiarly unfortunate for the cure of this disease, that not one in ten of those who contract it are either able or willing to submit to a proper plan of regimen. The patient is willing to take medicine, but he must follow his business, and, to prevent suspicions, must eat and drink like the rest of the family. This is the true source of nine-tenths of all the mischief arising from the venereal disease. I never knew the cure attended with any great difficulty or danger where the patient strictly followed the physician's advice; but a volume would not be sufficient to point out the dreadful consequences which proceed from an opposite conduct. Scirrhus testicles, ulcerous sore throats, carious bones, and a rotten progeny, are a few of the blessings derived from this course.

There is a species of false reasoning, with regard to this disease, which proves fatal to many. A person of a sound constitution contracts a slight degree of the disorder; he gets well without taking any great care or using much medicine, and hence concludes that this will always be the case. The next time the disease occurs, though ten times more virulent, it is treated in the same manner, and the constitution is ruined. Indeed the different degrees of virulence in the small-pox are not greater than in this disease, though, as the learned Syden-

ham observes, in some cases the most skilful physician cannot cure, and in others the most ignorant old woman cannot kill, the patient in that disorder. Though a good constitution is always in favor of the patient, yet too great stress may be laid upon it in this disease. It does not appear from observation that the most robust constitution is able to overcome the virulence of the venereal contagion after it has got into the habit. In this case a proper course of medicine is always indispensably necessary.

Although it is impossible, on account of the different degrees of virulence, &c., to lay down fixed and certain rules for the cure of this disease, yet the following general plan will always be found safe and often successful, viz., to bleed and administer gentle purges during the inflammatory state, and as soon as the symptoms of inflammation are abated to administer mercury, in any form that may be most agreeable to the patient. The same medicine, assisted by the decoction of sarsaparilla and a proper regimen, will not only secure the constitution against any further progress of a confirmed pox, but will generally perform a complete cure.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

DISEASES OF WOMEN.

WOMEN, in all civilized nations, have the management of domestic affairs; and it is very proper they should, as nature has made them less fit for the more active and laborious employments. This indulgence, however, is generally carried too far, and females, instead of being benefited by it, are greatly injured, from the want of exercise and free air. To be satisfied of this, one need only compare the fresh and ruddy looks of a milkmaid with the pale complexion of those females whose whole business lies within doors. Though nature has made an evident distinction between the male and female with regard to bodily strength and vigor, yet she certainly never meant either that the one should be always without or the other always within doors.