

should be obviated by cooling laxatives, such as the neutral salts and emollient clysters. Where the difficulty of breathing and oppression at the chest are not relieved by bleeding, and other antiphlogistic means, a blister may be applied in the neighbourhood of the part or between the shoulders. In removal of local inflammation, a blister often proves a valuable remedy.

After the measles are gone off, the patient ought to be purged. This may be conducted in the same manner as directed in the small-pox.

If a violent looseness succeed the measles, it may be checked by taking for some days a gentle dose of rhubarb in the morning, and an opiate over-night, or by the use of other astringents;* but if these do not remove it, bleeding will seldom fail to have that effect.

Patients recovering after the measles should be careful what they eat or drink. Their food for some time ought to be light, and in small quantities; and their drink diluting, and rather of an opening nature, as butter-milk, whey, and such like. They ought also to beware of exposing themselves too soon to the cold air, lest a suffocating catarrh, an asthma, or a consumption of the lungs, should ensue.

Should a cough, with difficulty of breathing, and other symptoms of a consumption, remain after the measles, small quantities of blood may be frequently let at proper intervals, as the patient's strength and constitution will permit. The camphor mixture combined with a fourth part of the water of acetated ammonia, forms a very useful medicine in that particular species of consumption which frequently succeeds the measles. He ought likewise to drink asses' milk, to remove to a free air, if in a large town, and to ride daily on horseback. He must keep close to a diet consisting of milk and vegetables; and lastly, if these do not succeed, let him remove to a warmer climate.

CHAP. XVI.

SCARLET FEVER. (*Scarlatina.*)

THE scarlet fever is so called from the colour of the patient's skin, which appears as if it were tinged with red wine. It happens at any season of the year, but is most common towards the end of summer: at which time it often seizes whole families. Children and young persons are most subject to it.

It begins, like other fevers, with coldness and shivering, without any violent sickness. Afterwards the skin is covered with red spots, which are broader, more florid, and less uniform than the measles. They continue two or three days, and then disappear; after which the cuticle or scarf-skin falls off.

* Take Chalk Mixture,
Syrup of Poppies,

6 ounces.
6 drachms.

Make a mixture, two table-spoonsful to be taken after every liquid stool.

There is seldom any occasion for medicine in the mild form of this disease. The patient ought, however, to keep within doors, to abstain from flesh, strong liquors, and cordials, and to drink freely of cool diluting liquors. If the fever run high, the body must be kept gently open by emollient clysters, or small doses of nitre and rhubarb. A scruple of the former and five grains of the latter may be taken thrice a-day, or oftener, if necessary.

Children and young persons are sometimes seized at the beginning of this disease with a kind of stupor and epileptic fits. In this case, the feet and legs should be bathed in warm water, a large blister applied to the neck, and a dose of the syrup of poppies given every night till the patient recovers.*

To determine gently to the surface of the body, it may, from time to time, be advisable to give the saline medicine with small doses of some antimonial.†

The scarlet fever, however, is not always of so mild a nature. It is sometimes attended with putrid or malignant symptoms, in which case it is always dangerous. In the malignant scarlet fever, the patient is not only affected with coldness and shivering, but with languor, sickness, and great oppression; to these succeed excessive heat, nausea, and vomiting, with a soreness of the throat; the pulse is extremely quick, but small and depressed; the breathing frequent and laborious; the skin hot but not quite dry; the tongue moist, and covered with a whitish mucus: the tonsils inflamed and ulcerated. When the eruption appears, it brings no relief; on the contrary, the symptoms generally grow worse, and fresh ones come on, as purging, delirium, &c.‡

When this disease is mistaken for simple inflammation, and treated with repeated bleedings, purging, and cooling medicines, it generally proves fatal. In those cases which manifest a disposition to malignancy and putrescency, it will be advisable to give the Peruvian bark in substance, decoction, or infusion, according as it may sit on the patient's stomach, along with the mineral acids, (particularly the muriatic) wine, and other antiseptics, from the commencement of the disease. The treatment must be, in general, similar to that of the putrid fever, or of the malignant ulcerous sore throat.

* Sydenham.

† Take Saline Draught.

Camphor Mixture, of each, 6 drs.
Tartarized Antimony, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.

Syrup of Orange Peel, 1 drm.
Make a draught, to be taken every four hours.

‡ Edematous swellings of the ancles are not unfrequent after severe attacks of scarlet fever. Sometimes the dropsy becomes general, and destroys the patient. The remedy for this species of dropsy consists in sharp purgatives of jalap and calomel. Eight grains of the former with three of the latter may be given every second morning. Indeed it is from neglecting to keep the body sufficiently open during the disease, that this kind of dropsy most generally originates.