

LAND CRAB, CONGER EEL, MUSCLE, ROCK FISH, &c. In an hour or two after eating stale fish, or often in much less time, a sense of weight at the stomach comes on, with slight vertigo and headache, heat about the head and eyes, and considerable thirst; often an eruption of the skin similar to what is called the nettle rash; and, in some instances, death has been the consequence.

TREATMENT.—An emetic should be taken as soon as any of the preceding symptoms, after eating any of the above fish, begin to manifest themselves; and where it cannot readily be procured, vomiting may be excited by tickling the throat with the finger, and taking large draughts of warm water. After full vomiting an active purgative should be given to remove any of the noxious matter that may have found its way into the intestines. Vinegar and water may be drank after the operation of these remedies, with which also the body may be sponged. Water made very sweet with sugar, to which some ether may be added, may be drank freely as a corrective; and a very weak solution of alkali may be given to obviate the effects produced by the poison. If spasms come on after the evacuations, large doses of the tincture of opium are necessary. If inflammation arise, the usual means of removing it must be employed.—See *ANIMAL POISON*, p. 112, &c.*

CHAP. XVI.

VACCINATION.

As a preventive of the small-pox, the vaccine inoculation is now universally practised. This generally produces a very mild and safe disease, consisting of a single vesicle forming on the place where the inoculation was performed. On the third day, the scratch where the vaccine matter was introduced is slightly red, and, if pressed with the finger, feels hard. Next day, the red point is a little increased, and somewhat radiated. On the fifth day, a small vesicle appears, but it is more easily seen on the sixth. This gradually increases, until it acquires the size of a split pea. The colour of the vesicle is dull white, like a pearl. Its shape is circular, or slightly oval when the inoculation has been made with a lengthened scratch, acquiring about the tenth day a diameter equal to about the third or fourth part of an inch. Till the end of the eighth day, the surface is uneven, being depressed in the centre, but on the ninth day it becomes flat, or sometimes higher at the middle than at the edges. The margins are tinged and rounded, projecting a little over the base of the vesicle. The vesicle is not simple, but cellular, and contains a clear limpid fluid, like the purest water.

On the eighth or ninth day, the vesicle is surrounded with an areola or circle of intense red colour, which is hard and tumid. About this time an erythematic efflorescence sometimes takes

* See *New London Medical Pocket Book*, p. 234, to p. 249, for an excellent history of mineral, vegetable, animal, and aerial poisons, &c.

place near the areola, and spreads gradually to a considerable part of the body. It consists of patches, slightly elevated, and is attended with symptoms of fever. On the eleventh or twelfth day, as the areola decreases, the surface of the vesicle becomes brown at the centre, and is not so clean at the margin; the cuticle gives way, and there is found a glassy hard scab, of a reddish brown colour, which is not detached, in general, till the twentieth day. When it falls off, a scar about half an inch in diameter is seen, and having as many pits as there were cells in the vesicles.

During the progress of the vesicle, there is often some disorder of the constitution; and occasionally a papulous eruption, like scrophulus, appears next the vesicle. As security against the small-pox is not secured by spurious vaccine vesicles, it becomes necessary to study carefully the character of the genuine disease, which is here briefly described.

CHAP. XVII.

SEA-SICKNESS.

THE cause of this distressing affection is the well-known motion of a vessel on the surface of the water. Some thousands are annually, nay daily, prevented from going to sea, either upon business, health or pleasure, in consequence of the terror of the waves. The most alarming, nay even fatal, consequences have been known to result from the violent retching and vomiting produced by the motion of the vessel, without it being in the power of any one to stop it; for, if it be true that sea-sickness is only to be cured by habit,* what hope can be held out to the afflicted that they will acquire this habit, without inconvenience, and without risk; such as the bursting of a blood vessel, apoplexy, idiocy, blindness, abortion, &c., which have been known to result from excessive straining and vomiting?

People of delicate constitutions are known to derive considerable benefit from sailing on the sea; though frequently the good they have received has been more than counterbalanced by the in-

* With the exception of Dr. Stevenson's *Imperial Marine Tincture*, which, for the last ten or twelve years, has been privately made and sold, we never before heard of any preparation having a decided effect on this peculiar malady. It is, however, but common justice to confess, that this tincture has, in conjunction with its other virtues, every claim to the appellation of a specific for this affection, as was witnessed by us in no less than twelve passengers, male and female, from London to Leith; and on nearly an equal number, with the same effect, from Leith to London, in the year 1817, and frequently since. It possesses also the no less singular quality of completely arresting the distressing vomiting to which ladies at various stages of pregnancy are liable. In general debilities and relaxation from long residence in hot climates, the abuse of mercury, excessive drinking, and other species of intemperance; excessive and debilitating evacuations in women, and the concomitant nervous affections, indigestion, &c. the *Imperial Marine Tincture* is one of the most valuable remedies that ever the ingenuity or talent of man could possibly devise for the relief of suffering humanity. It is an elegant preparation, purely vegetable; its properties are those of an agreeable tonic, requiring no increase of dose to reproduce or keep up its effects; it promotes the general circulation, and communicates a congenial warmth over the whole system, which its use invigorates and enlivens, &c. Its analysis has frequently been attempted, but without success.