

of blood, which removed the complaints; and if they returned, he had recourse to bleeding again. "In this manner, I found with Sydenham, that pleurifies of the most fatal tendency, might be happily cured in the space of a few days, and with as much certainty, as any disorder whatever, &c. Cleghorn page 261. (K)

Dr. Hillary, on the diseases of Barbados, which lays 13 degrees north latitude, has been very particular in observing the nature of the fevers, at the different seasons; and through the whole you will find, that the disorders from the approach of winter, till the summer solstice, (viz. about the 21st of June) were inflammatory, from which time, till about November they shew more of the putrid diathesis, &c. He bled largely. He declares in the yellow fever, (a disorder the most putrid in its advanced state, of any except the plague) that he found from experience bleeding on the first attack, prevented so great a degree of putrefaction in the second stage. He ordered from 12, to 20 ounces the first time, and if the pulse kept up, which it often would do the first day or two, he had bleeding repeated; and declares, he from experience, found it the most salutary method of treating his patients, page 143.

Hippocrates, Cleghorn, Hillary, and many others, observe that the particular winds and weather, have a considerable effect of changing the nature of the prevailing disorders. It is obvious that there are fevers which prevail; from the highest degree of inflammation, down to the greatest degree of putrefaction, and in regard to bleeding in them, nothing so much determines the propriety, as the effect that it has.

The great Dr. Morgagni, vol. ii. page 570; when speaking of the different species of fevers, and the appearance of the inflamed viscera; says, it is the same, whether the fever be benign or malignant; therefore not to be distinguished by dissecting the morbid body, but he says, "in the living patient, if it be benign, it is alleviated by repeated blood lettings. If malignant, it becomes worse, and is very soon fatal. (L)

It is certain that there are complaints of the breast resembling pleurifies, accompanied with a fever of the putrid kind, wherein bleeding to any considerable degree is seldom requisite, and a repetition thereof dangerous. The ancients and moderns both make mention of such: they also observe, that bleeding has the effect of sinking the pulse, and none of the symptoms are relieved: on the contrary increased, if bled largely. Therefore, your observing to me, you judged of the impropriety of bleeding, from the consequences, makes against you, for he certainly was greatly relieved; and agreeable to the observations of Dr. Cleghorn, his case being so tedious and obstinate, was in consequence of bleeding not being used sufficiently, in page 261. says, "and it was not less remarkable to observe, how quickly the sick recovered their usual health and strength, notwithstanding the great loss of blood they had sustained; while many who had been bled more sparingly, continued in a languid, infirm state for months, without being able to get rid of the cough and pains of the breast."

I am of the opinion, whoever is qualified for the practice of physic, and is attentive to the symptoms of his patient, and reflects on the foregoing circumstances of the prevailing disorders, is the neighbourhood and season of the year, must be able to distinguish a putrid from an inflammatory fever; for in a putrid, although the pulse is at some times full, it has not that tenacity or is permanent, the heat is different, as Hillary observes, one like to a warm stone, the other to warm spirit of Hartshorn. Huxham, and Sir John Pringle, both observe the peculiar pungent heat to the touch that attends putrid fevers; there is also a frequent sighing, faintness, anxiety, despair, load of the precordia, in common the pulse very fluctuating, generally soft and quick, low and intermitting, all which symptoms are increased on using evacuations to any considerable degree, especially after the first or second day.

I candidly confess, that Mr. Coale's case will ever be a warning to me, not to be so timorous in using the lancet; for I am now fully convinced, that he ought to have been plentifully bled, on the return of the pain and inflammation on the 5th day; by which means the inflammation, of course the apothematization of the knee would have been prevented? though it is to be confessed, a person cannot at all times determine how far it is requisite to carry any particular evacuation. (M) Dr. Huxham page 194, judiciously observes, "but yet if either the pain returns with violence, after having ceased a considerable time, or seizes another part of the breast; it is an argument, that a new inflammation is forming, which indicates bleeding as much as the primary, though not to the same degree; for this necessary seizure being altogether

(K) The very ingenious Dr. Cullen professor in Edinburgh, declares, that Cleghorn has thrown more light on the nature of the disorders he treats on, than any writer he ever read.

(L) Will not the opinion of so great a man as Morgagni have some weight with you? A person from the number of morbid bodies he has dissected, must have the most extensive knowledge of the seat of diseases, perhaps of any physician; by which he is not so liable to confound the effects with the cause, as you was, when you was called to Mr. C. D. who had laboured under an inflammation of the brain, which was in great measure gone off, and because his eyes had a yellowish colour, you declared his case bilious: whereas it was nothing more than what is common in all inflammations in their last stage, when carried off by resolution; only no part of the body is so conspicuous as the tunica conjunctiva of the eye.

(M) Had you observed that bleeding ought to have been repeated, on the return of his complaints; you would have been supported by reason of the best practical authorities, as being more consistent, than the cure was obstructed by bleeding preventing an aposteme forming.

ther of the same nature, and on the same organ as the former, requires the same method to prevent its advance, and further ill consequences &c. Dr. Cleghorn, p. cclvi, makes mention of the symptoms being carried off by bleeding on the first days, but returning again on the fourth and fifth, which he says defeated all attempts for relief, which he in the succeeding pages, attributes to not carrying the bleeding far enough at first.

I hope I have proved to the satisfaction of every impartial reader—first, that Mr. Coale's was an inflammatory complaint—secondly, that the most favourable termination of topical inflammation of the breast or muscles is by resolution—thirdly, that bleeding answers every indication to procure a resolution—fourthly, that abscesses of the muscles, and particularly the tendinous parts thereof, are attended with danger, and ought always to be guarded against.

I shall now point out some of your deficiencies in regard to the human frame, and knowledge of practical writers.

In conversation with you, in regard to the lymphatics, you discovered to me, that you had not the least idea of the taking their rise from the cellular membrane. It's true that Boerhaave looked on them as veins returning the lymph: on supposition that there were lymphatic arteries; the existence of which is merely hypothetical, as Boerhaave acknowledges himself in his institutions. Had you perused Dr. Monro, you would have been capable of forming some idea of their nature; as the lymphatics can be filled by injecting the cellular membrane; I am well convinced, that a person who is unacquainted with them, cannot form an idea of the cause and various species of dropsies, or account for the many phenomena that happen.

Another of your crude notions you discovered, when you asserted that the blood was prepared for the secretion of the bile, solely by the spleen and hæmorrhoidal vessels. The absurdity of such an opinion is such, that it does not deserve a serious refutation: but for fear my passing it over with silence, should be deemed an evasion: I will make some observations thereon.

First the hæmorrhoidal vessels do not return a drop of blood to the liver, except it's what is called the internal hæmorrhoid, which is nothing more than a branch of the mesenteric artery; nor have we any reason to think, that the blood of that branch undergoes any other change, than the different ramifications of the mesenteric arteries in general; and it has taken the name, because at some times blood is discharged from it by the anus, which is very easily accounted for, from its great length, and being the most depending. How is it possible to determine of what particular service any of the abdominal viscera is in preparing the blood for the secretion of bile? when the vena portæ is composed of so many veins, and has it's blood from the spleen, stomach, omentum, intestines, mesentery, and pancreas. Such is your crude notions of philology.

If you will reflect, you must remember in conversation in regard to bleeding of Mr. Coale, I said Dr. Sydenham looked on the plague to be a disorder the most inflammatory, although it is the most putrid in it's last stage; and that he bled his patients in very large quantities in the beginning; which he found to be the most salutary method of treatment, as it prevented the putrid state by at once removing the febrile impetus; to which you modestly answered, Sydenham did not live at the time the plague raged or did he write on it. I then told you the year, (viz. 1665) but you still persisted in what you at first asserted. If you will look into Sydenham, you will find a very true account of the plague in England in the year 1665, and 1666, and one of the best histories of the symptoms of any extent; as he has done in every other disorder he wrote on. If I am allowed to draw a conclusion from your opinion, it not only betrays an ignorance of writings of Sydenham, but of every other approved practical author: or a willful misrepresentation of your ideas.

I should be sorry to advance any thing touching your character, tending to lessen your medical abilities, without just reason: I will, therefore, explain what I mean, by saying I am persuaded your reputation depends more on subtlety, audacity, and mean insinuations, than real merit. When you was first called to Mr. Coale, the method of treatment was told you, and you agreed that it was very proper, and expressed much satisfaction, on finding that the tart. emet. had been liberally used; and proposed to make a fresh solution, to have it dissolved in a larger quantity of water, and the colour altered, of course given in greater portion; and observed to me in regard to the colour being altered, "that the greater the mystery in giving of a medicine, the more it would increase the dignity of the profession." (N) Could there be any advantage arising from it to Mr. Coale; was it not done with this motive, that in case any favourable alteration should ensue, they would attribute it to a change of medicine made by Dr. Whiesenthal, and if he died, they would say if that alteration had been made sooner, it might have cured him. What was the consequence in a few days; why it was reported in Baltimore, and on Elk Ridge, that Dr. Pae and Howard were deceived in Mr. Coale's disorder, and Dr. Whiesenthal came, altered the medicine, and he was getting the better. If Mr. Coale had not been taken with the inflammation of the knee, the deception would have had the desired effect? but in a dispute at his house in regard to the propriety of bleeding; I asked you if bleeding was improper, why was not the antiphlogistic method? and how it came to pass you did not alter the medicine; when it was

(N) I did not just then think of your design, but when I came to hear what was said, it immediately occurred to me.

answered you had. I then called on you to declare you meanly evaded, and said you brought the medicine with you; I then asked you whether you was not told he was using the same, you then acknowledged you was told so; and I am persuaded contrary to your desire, acknowledged that there was no alteration only it's being disguised. Was you not guilty of the same a few years past, when you was called to Mr. C. D. when he was taking medicine in the form of boluses, you desired the same to be dissolved and given, which was done. I have been since informed, his recovery was attributed to an alteration you made in the medicine. I now beg you will declare on your honour, whether in either case, you made the least alteration, only in the form of giving; or even prescribed a medicine of a different tendency, more than used before. Needs there any other confirmation of your subtlety. (O)

A specimen of your audacity you have exhibited in regard to the writings of Sydenham before related; as you was ignorant (as certainly you must have been) why did you assert he never lived at the time the plague raged, in contradiction to me? it being so glaring a falsity I presume your motive was this, you suggested from the great reputation you had obtained, a bare assertion was sufficient to out weigh any thing, I could advance, as every person present (to judge from your reputation) must think you ought to know more of the writings of practical physicians than myself; especially so great a man as Dr. Sydenham.

The manner you expressed yourself in regard to bleeding Mr. Coale, I look on to be a mean insinuation, as you was called into consultation, it behoved you to deliver your opinion to me, and not after Mr. Coale had laid upwards of forty days, for you then to say bleeding was wrong, to a person who from their respect and connections, would communicate it to the family, especially as she entertained so great an opinion of your judgment, and believed all you said to be a fact; and the not being able to form a judgment of her own. The manner of your expression shews a design, for after you said the cure was obstructed by bleeding, you added any person might have done it: (by which there was room for evasion) but you cannot think to be acquitted by that, as you afterwards (on being attacked) endeavoured to maintain the impropriety of bleeding.

I hope you will for the future avail yourself of that malicious disposition, and never hereafter endeavour to advance your own character, by depreciating another person's. I am, your humble servant,

EPHRAIM HOWARD, Son of Henry.

P. S. I have since writing the above been informed of the following, viz. Mr. Samuel Stringer Coale received a letter from Dr. Morgan, of Philadelphia, requesting him to send a state of his father's case, as he was then in Baltimore-town, he desired you to state it; which you promised to do, and said you would send a copy thereof to Elk-Ridge, that it might be seen: some time after Dr. Morgan wrote to Mr. Samuel S. Coale, informing him of the receipt of yours; the family has waited with impatience to see Dr. Morgan's opinion, but their desire has not been gratified.—I am now authorized to say you have received a letter from Dr. Morgan, with his opinion in regard to Mr. Coale, and that some time the last of August; or in September, which opinion has not been seen by Mr. Coale, or his family, nor by the attending physicians. As Dr. Morgan is a gentleman among the first characters on the continent, as a physician, I shall be glad his opinion be made known; and am instructed to say it will give Mr. Coale great satisfaction. The complying with your promise in sending a copy of a state of the case to Elk-Ridge, will be pleasing to

December 16, 1773.

(O) A person may triumph for a time in a charact obtained by their low cunning—Behold! How contemptible he is rendered when detected, and his mean artifice exposed.

ERRATA in the former part of this letter.

P. 1. col. 1. l. 44. leave out the words, "That had been not been blooded an aposteme might have been formed, which would have carried off his complaint long since, or words to that purpose." P. 2. col. 1. l. 28. for "Subdico read sub duo." Ibid. l. 37. for autem read aculem. Ibid. l. 96. for depression read depletion. Col. 2. l. 77. for solida read vaticca. Ibid. l. 80 for tuturam read tuturam. L. 85. for audissimè read acutissime. Ibid. col. 3. l. 79. after conclusion insert not. L. 62. for effed read effort.

P A R I S, October 5.

MEMORIAL has just made its appearance here, written with great spirit, which took its rise from the following circumstance. In it a young laundress makes complaint of her having been beaten and severely treated by a regular Abbot of the Abbé Royal of Notre Dame d'Ablandcourt. Perhaps we may hereafter know the real cause for the outrage, as the present reason given for the wrath of the Abbot seems little to deserve it, which was her having lately held, with one of the Abbot's domestics, an infant at the baptismal font. But that as they may, the Abbot had some how been affronted, and resolved to be avenged; in consequence of which he sent for the young laundress, under pretence of employing her in her business, who immediately waited on him; but on her entering the room, he shut the door, tore off her bonnet and handkerchief, and with a whip, which he had prepared, gave her a number of severe strokes, which fetched blood from her. The cries of the girl brought several of the domestics, who forced open the door.