

means have supplicated after the tension had been taken off by bleeding. I have seen a case in this town in essentials entirely similar to Mr. Coale's, the truth thereof may be enquired into by yourself or any body else that doubts it; the case is as follows:

Capt. John Staymaker here, the latter part of this last summer, was taken with a violent pain in his right side, so exquisite that he was heard screaming in the neighbourhood, the fever was severe, the breathing very difficult, he was bled, an abscess was discovered to form itself, so extensive as to reach from the shoulder down to the hip, it was brought speedily to maturation and opened; in less than a month he followed his occupation in perfect health and with all his limbs. Our journal furnishes us with another case, viz. Mrs. Patten, when yet the widow Porter, was taken with similar pleuritic pains to Mr. Coale's, the pain was excruciating, the fever high, the breathing obstructed, a hard tumour was discovered in the pectoral muscle, it was soon brought to maturation, the matter laid deep and required a severe operation; she is a lady very delicate and subject to hysterical complaints; notwithstanding which she was without any danger perfectly restored. From these two cases, being exactly in point, I presume Mr. Coale's case was not so dangerous, but might have been relieved in the like manner. But granting for once that it would have been connected with ill consequences, how did you know that after dispersing it, it would not have fallen on some more noble part? At least you put him to the risk to have the matter formed anew in any part of the body, as well as it did in the very articulation of the knee, where it undoubtedly had as ill consequences as ever it could have had on the breast.

To obviate this you lay hold of the argument at another corner, when you say he ought to have been bled again; nay so positive you are, that you exclaim that this case shall be a warning to you, and resolve that for the future you will not be so sparing with the lancet; I admire your pious resolution, and cannot help congratulating Mr. Coale to a happy escape, since in all probability no matter then would have formed in the knee, but he, ere that, might have been with both his legs in his silent grave.

In reality I cannot conceive under what pretence you would have bled the patient again, since your intentions in bringing the tumour to a resolution were fully answered; and he was easy in his breast, unless on your former notion of inflammation to lessen the quantity of blood and abate the impetus, and so forth; however, sir, as Dr. Whiesenthal's opinion was, that Mr. Coale's complaint had originally been an abscess on the shoulder, so did he conclude that this was a translation from thence to the knee; but as it will throw some light on the whole, I will take the liberty to examine the opinions of both, and will for that purpose take notice of that part of your state of Mr. Coale's case, where you describe this translation as naturally as can be, when you say, "On the 31st of May he felt a sensation of stiffness in his knee; on the 21st of June, pain in the shoulder more easy; and of June inflammation and pain decreased." And thus as it did there decrease, by your own account, it gradually increased in the knee; but as you stop short in your narrative, and making long strides, evade several things very material for clearing up this matter, I will take a step to our journal, where it appears, that when the doctor visited Mr. Coale on the 2d of June, he found the pain in the shoulder, &c. subsided, and instead thereof a violent pain fixed in the knee, his pulse being very low and exceeding quick, and taking the bark freely, which you had found necessary to administer; to which method the doctor readily agreed. Why you omitted both these circumstances, in your narrative I cannot well say, unless you found them repugnant to your doctrine, which is the more remarkable, since you was all along so particular in counting the strokes of the pulse till this time, though I do not in the least doubt of your having performed this in the same manner as you have mentioned, I still should have been well pleased if you had vouchsafed to inform us whether you had counted the pulse by a watch, glass, or clock; if by the latter, it must have been very inconvenient, since Mr. Coale at that time laid in one room and the clock was in the other; probably however you looked at the clock, and Mr. Coale counted the strokes. What a pity it was you did not provide yourself with a thermometer, in order to ascertain the peculiar degrees of heat at the same time; of this I will nevertheless excuse you, because a man cannot always think of all these physical niceties; this state of the pulse, and the administration of bark in various forms, found necessary by you, previous to the doctor's second visit, will make some parts of your letter with respect to its candour more intelligible.

These recited omissions we must join to your very scanty and superficial account, from the 2d of June to the 6th of July; here I beg leave to make the following digression: It was about this time that Dr. Whiesenthal spoke with Mrs. Ridgely (see the journal) and as he deemed the present state of Mr. Coale to be a translation from the shoulder, he told his sentiments with the cause thereof, which I presume he had an absolute right to do; the more so, as he did it with such a caution, which you are pleased to term an evasion; notwithstanding that you say in another place, that he did not intend this should reach your ears; if so, why should he then prepare himself for an evasion; but, sir, your own heart is such, that it would not admit of a generous construction. As you are totally silent of the doctor's third arrival at Mr. Coale's, on the 6th of July, and to the difference of your opinions previous to the opening of the knee, when the glorious contest on this ever memorable day was uttered in; I will give the following account as concise as possible.

Not many hours before the knee was opened and the matter let out, you disputed with the doctor, and strenuously insisted upon it that the knee contained no

matter; you affirmed in the strongest terms that all was owing to relaxation, nay so positive was you that you offered to lay 50 guineas on your side of the question, and confess that agreeable to this theory you had applied astringents and repellents; you even have applied mercurials (though this last application you are silent about in your epistle it is no less a fact); the effect of these applications was without any doubt that of hindering the matter to come to a palpable fluctuation, confirming the same to the joint, where during so long a time that it was unnecessarily retained, it corroded the cartilage, the head of the bone, and destroyed the ligaments, which in all probability would have been in a great measure avoided, if a method had been adapted and persevered in to dispose the matter so as to be let out as speedy as possible; and thus fell Mr. Coale a victim to hypothetical theory, who might otherwise have had a chance to escape at least with a stiff knee, still retaining his leg.

What mischiefs can and do arise from theory built upon a wrong hypothesis, is known to every experienced practitioner; it is only the judicious physician that can make a good use of theory to draw just conclusions therefrom, for the good of his patient; the self-conceited and the vain adapt any hypothesis which seems to them plausible, and are extremely fond to make use of it whenever they can; their vanity stimulates them to palm their wisdom upon every one they meet, imagining they would otherwise be obscured, though they never fail of making themselves ridiculous; they are for ever quoting authors in support of their arguments, and imagine the more numerous their quotations are, the more learned they appear; always speaking of celebrated characters as if they themselves had seen every experiment made of which they speak. When you communicated to the doctor in a similar manner the discoveries of Dr. Monro, concerning the lymphatics, it could not fail of raising his admiration, and in silence his compassion for you.

I cannot help admiring your dexterity in misrepresenting the doctor's words, artfully to cloak your own mistakes, when you insinuate his having crude notions of the preparation of bile, which notions might have probably been not altogether so crude, if you would have permitted him to explain himself, but no sooner did he mention the entrance of the hæmorrhoidal vein into the meseraic, to join the splenic in order to form the vena porta, you was so genteel as to interrupt him before you well knew what he was about to say; you declared that they did not enter into the meseraic, but into the *iliac*, and quoted Monro, as a proof, whom you said had demonstrated it by injections. It is true that the external hæmorrhoids enter the *iliac*, which merely carried the blood back to the *vena cava*; but the doctor spoke of hæmorrhoidal vessels entering into the meseraic, because the question here was of those vessels which constituted the vena porta; why did you contradict it? that this is a true account will easily appear from your own remarks, if read with attention; where you lay great stress on the external hæmorrhoids, saying they bring not a drop of blood to the liver, but speaking of the internal hæmorrhoids (the identity of which you have since found) you with an indifference call only a branch of the meseraic—a good come off this—I will take no advantage of another little mistake, such as the internal hæmorrhoid, being a branch of the meseraic artery; these are trifles which however if even a mistake would have been deemed highly ignorant in the doctor? from this paragraph I can form an idea of what learned a nature this dispute must have been, and I would have given any thing to have been so happy as to be present, that I might have had the satisfaction to hear great men talk in a manner as we apprentices now and then do—I can remember when the doctor returned from Mr. Coale's, his first question to me was, where the internal hæmorrhoid entered, I made answer they entered into the meseraic, upon this he said that they did so formerly, but Dr. Howard said, that Dr. Monro had proved by injections, that they entered the *iliac*, which brought to my mind, when Scanarel in Moliere's mock doctor was detected of having placed the liver in the left, and the heart in the right side; he had the address to say that it had been so formerly, but was now altered by the college of physicians.

Eager as you are to grasp at any thing which you imagine will any way detract from the medical abilities of the doctor, you are not ashamed of entering among the list his not remembering Sydenham living at the time of the plague in London—Nobody but Dr. Howard would have rated a man's abilities, according as (in the heat of contest) he remembered a chapter on the plague.

However sir, Sydenham is an author the doctor reveres, and he has so strongly recommended him to me, that I his pupil, have read him three or four times over; it is not for the sake of chronology that I read him, but the frequent changes almost every year, which he so accurately observes, and which are so frequent here, is the reason why I so much admire him, and read his reasoning with the greatest attention.

Surely your head is filled with nothing but little trifles, and your thoughts occupied with little meanesses; you would otherwise possibly have suspected the doctor to make use of such trifling arts, as the tinging a medicine merely to make people believe it was a new medicine, different from what you had given; sir this is really low; but suppose for once the family should have taken it for a new medicine, I will take upon me to prove that it actually was, not on account of its being more diluted, nor of its being tinged; but on account of its being given simple and unconnected; the patient took no spirit of mindersrus, no regenerated tartar, no camphor, nor any thing (either along with it, or between whites) of what you had given—the doctor indeed did tell you in private, not to mention the medicine the patient took; but for no other reason than, that they very

often have a prejudice against particular medicines, especially the emetic tartar, which when they know, would refuse to take, and thereby hinder a salutary effect; but this prodigious secret you have ungenerously disclosed, and let the cat out of the bag.

Thus have I explained two of your charges against Dr. Whiesenthal, viz. his speaking to Mrs. Ridgely, and then disguising the tartar emetic; both I hope I have done to the satisfaction of the candid reader; but I find you have two more instances of the doctor's low cunning (as you call it) viz. "it was reported in Baltimore, that Dr. Whiesenthal came to Mr. Coale's, altered the medicine, and he was getting better;" the second is of Mr. Coale's recovery being attributed by an alteration being made in his medicine; I confess these are enormities of so heinous a nature as not to be forgiven; but sir, I am positive the doctor never dreamt of any such method of advancing his reputation in so silly a manner, the blame must fall entirely on those inconsiderate persons who have the presumption to think of the doctor being of any service, and speak well of him accordingly; however sir, to prevent for the future any more such hardships, I would humbly propose in order to put a stop to all such extravagancies, the following method by way of advertisement, as viz.

Whereas it has been found by dire experience, that some persons or persons, have had a most heretical notion, that whenever doctor Whiesenthal was called to a patient in consultation, the recovery of said patient being in consequence of his advice, and altering the medicines; therefore as this is an intolerable burden; notice is hereby given, that henceforth no body shall speak either directly or indirectly in favour of Dr. Whiesenthal, or pretend to say that he is of any service, under no less penalty than to be deemed a heathen and publican, or even to be treated like an illiterate peasant.

Had your heart been capable of making a generous construction, you would have thought proper rather to apologize, for having entertained so low a notion of the doctor; as soon as you had been informed by Mrs. Ridgely of his mode of expression, you would have readily admitted; that though he spoke to that lady forty days after, it was because she then asked him, still he delivered himself in a gentleman like manner; you would have plainly understood what he meant by saying, the course of the disorder had induced him to think it wrong, that it was on account of the translation to the knee; you would have easily reconciled why he did not find fault with your bleeding, and at his first visit; because no translation had then happened; nay you would have discerned that on account of his agreeing with you in sentiment, he had the same idea with you of the propriety of attempting a resolution; from this you would have been able to draw the conclusion from the doctor's meaning, to be this; that generally tumours are best and easiest brought to a resolution; still it frequently happens, that after it is actually dispersed it will form again in another place; therefore, since this happened in Mr. Coale, it would have been best it had not been brought to a total resolution; still as this was unforeseen, no blame could therefore derive. I say could your heart have admitted of such like constructions, you would have thought it very idle, to enter into a dispute at Mr. Coale's, no way pertinent to the question.

I will here quit the subject and only observe, that I fear scribbling is catching; because I perceive a great impulse in me to become an author; I intend to write an essay on the necessity of legs, I will demonstrate that every man, woman or child, ought to have two legs; I will embellish it with quotations to prove my argument from the best authorities, from Hippocrates on—nor will I omit that Dr. Monro has proved it by injections, this piece I will take the liberty to dedicate to you; and beg you will permit to have it joined to your letter to Dr. Whiesenthal; proving the necessity of bleeding in inflammations, I cannot help anticipating the satisfaction, to find our names in the critical review; for instance we have been favoured with a piece, entitled *Opera omnia*, or a letter to Dr. Whiesenthal, wrote by the learned and experienced Dr. Ephraim Howard on Elk-Ridge; in which the author most learnedly proves the necessity of bleeding in inflammatory disorders; his style is easy, elegant, and expressive, his deportment to Dr. Whiesenthal (touching a controversy) in a gentleman like manner, he has given us some sketches of his chronological genius, and from a geographical argument has proved beyond contradiction, that Hippocrates did not live near the Blue Mountains; in short he writes with great energy, and handles the subject masterly; we would recommend it as a piece worth reading, if the world was not too illiterate. How fine all this will be.

Your very humble servant,
WILLIAM DASHIELL.

P. S. I presume you are in a mistake when you say Dr. Morgan's letter had not been transmitted, and I have authority to say, that Dr. Whiesenthal himself proposed to Mr. Samuel Coale (when he was down at Baltimore, in order to consult the doctor, to send the state of Mr. Coale's case as it then was to Dr. Morgan; he did so, and received an answer; but it happened that Mr. Coale's leg was already cut off, this letter was handed to Mr. Samuel Coale, with the copy of the letter sent to Dr. Morgan; however sir as it will be requisite to obtain first leave from the doctor for the publication of his letter, the same shall as soon as permission is given, be communicated.

L O N D O N, O c t o b e r 27.
A B O U T three months ago, a Mr. B. who lived in Poland-street, Soho, hired a maid, as follows