

fever, is commonly called a pleurisy, and this whether it arises from an inflammation of the intercostal muscles, the periosteum of the ribs, or the pleura itself, which last indeed, in strictness of speaking, is only the true pleurisy; the former being a species of an inflammatory rheumatism, and are called bastard pleurisy. However as they greatly affect the respiration when violent, they are always attended with much more ill consequences, than rheumatic pains in other parts of the body, and demand a particular regard and a speedy removal &c. 243. The soreness to the touch, the pain on lying on the affected side, and chiefly on a full inspiration, the tumor and redness of the part which sometimes appears, distinguish this from the internal pleurisy.

The justly celebrated Frederick Hoffman, physician to the king of Prussia, gives a very pretty definition of a spurious pleurisy in his opera omnia, tom. i. sect. ii. cap. vi. p. 137. "Hæc igitur inter se diffidentis inflammationum in thorace species sunt discernendæ a medico, per notas quasdam essentielles & characteristicas, jam sigillatim commemorandas. In pleuritide quippe spuria dolor est valde acutus & pungitivus lateris; qui etiam tactu augetur, decubitus in latere affecto difficilis, tussis sicca; sine ejectione materiae pituitosæ, vel cruentæ, dolorem tamen, si valida est exacerbans junctæ, etiam simul et febris, cum pulsu subduco, depresso & frequenti, &c."

From the quick, hard and seeming contracted pulse, I looked on the fever accompanying his complaints to be of the inflammatory kind, and my opinion was corroborated from the pulse rising in opening a vein. On visiting him the second day of his disorder, I found his pulse very quick, full, hard, and intermitting; his face of a dark red colour, the legs and feet of a purple, the pain greatly increased, great oppression of breathing, and a heat about the præcordia. (C)

Dr. Hoffman gives a very good diagnostic of an inflammation from the pulse in his de pulsuum natura & genuina differentia & usu in praxi opera omnia, tom. 3. p. 243. "porro si pulsus durus percipitur, inflammationis in partibus membranis nervosis signum fere indivulsum esse solet. Durities enim hæc pulsus sine nimia arterie tensio vibratoque, spasmodici quicquam, quod ex consensu inflammationis & doloris oritur indicat, &c."

The signs of an inflammatory disorders are well described by Dr. Smith, physician of Middlesex hospital, in a pamphlet, p. 121 says, "Have we any certain criterion, to distinguish an inflammatory from any other kind? The heat, throbbing pain, and fever will generally suffice, to form a diagnostic of an inflammation, but the pulse for the most part will prove an unerring guide, as it will be always quickened and most frequently full, hard and tense &c."

Now looking on Mr. Coale's as a topical inflammation; the next thing to be considered is, in what manner inflammations terminate: the great professor Boerhaave says by resolution, suppuration, mortification or schirrhous. Which of these is the most eligible? I am of the opinion by resolution; as it's quicker, pleasanter, and attended with less danger. The great practical physician Van Swieten, in his commentaries on Boerhaave's aphorisms, vol. i. p. 693, says, "omnium optimam esse inflammationis curam, quæ per resolutionem fit, nullus dubitat, sæpe acutem non in potestate medici vel chirurgi hanc obtinere, &c."

Dr. Smith when treating of inflammations, says, "from what has been observed of the several events of inflammation, we shall readily determine which of them is the most eligible and to be wished for; and that is resolution, especially when it happens to an internal part, is by all means to be attempted, as being the safest, and attended with the least trouble, danger, and difficulty: pamphlet, p. 98. The justly celebrated Dr. Gregory, late professor of the practice of physic in the university of Edinburg, when speaking of nature, says, "In all cases of topical inflammations, and particular those of the breast, nature is not to be depended on, but they are to be removed with all speed; for while thou art waiting to see her efforts, your patient is carried off by suffocation or gangrene. Now granting a resolution is the most salutary termination of an inflammation. What is the indication? I am of the opinion it is to abate the increased impetus of blood; prevent so great a determination to the inflamed parts, lessen its impulse, take off the spasm and tension of the vessels, and promote the secretions and excretions of the body."

Bleeding appears to me to answer every indication in a superior degree; it takes off the spasm and tension, abates the impetus of the blood, prevents so great a determination to the affected parts, in consequence thereof the impulse is lessened, and by so sudden a depression a general relaxation is induced, from which the secretions and excretions are more easily promoted; also it acts as a sedative by which the inflammatory stimulus is abated.

Dr. Langrishi, p. 126, says, "for though it may be remarked, that bleeding during its performance increases the blood's velocity, especially in the canal that is cut, and its corresponding arteries; yet such an augmentation quickly ceases, and a slower motion is soon the consequence of the blood's diminution in quantity. And it must be confessed since diminishing

(C) On considering these symptoms it appeared to me, that they were increased from the great impetus of blood; and that a stagnation and mortification might soon ensue, if the impetus thereof was not abated, the inflammatory stimulus removed, and the too great tension of the system taken off, nothing answers the several indications so well as bleeding; as is observed by Hoffman, Huxham, Sir John Pringle, Hillary, Boerhaave, Van Swieten, De Haen, Cleggborn, Sydenham, and every approved practical writer. The event confirmed my suggestion, as the next day after the second bleeding, every symptom was removed; his pulse came down from 115 to 100, as may be seen from the history of his case.

the quantity of blood reduces the force of it, so it increases the softness of the flesh and laxity of the vessels," &c. Dr. Smith, p. 99, says, "That we may procure a resolution of inflammation, our attempts should be to reduce the proper bounds of febrile impetus; to remove and enervate the cause of the disease, and allay the increased oscillatory contractions of the vessels, every fever is its own cure; all that art can do, is to regulate the febrile impetus and provide for the relief of the symptoms, as an inflammation is a partial fever, we shall find when the cause is removed, the powers of nature rightly moderated will suffice for its cure; but as in general the patient is plethoric, and the actions of the vessels and impetus of the circulation are greatly increased in all diseases of this kind; and by these means, from the too rapid motion of the fluids, and distension of the vessels, the regular secretions and excretions cannot be given off, nor the extravasated fluids absorbed; it will be found an affair of the highest importance to reduce to proper bounds the circulating powers; by plentiful and repeated blood-lettings and other evacuations," &c. Dr. Huxham, when treating of pleurisy and the necessity of giving anodines, says, "Therefore ever remember, before you enter on them, the lancet is not to be sparingly used, when the pain is very violent, the pulse very hard, quick and tense, and the fever high." Van Swieten, Vol. I. p. 198, says, "Dum vassa nimis distenta se contrahere nequeunt, suffocatur circulatio, pulsus insipit languidus fieri, imò statuarum instar obrigescunt, simul & larga venæ sectione solvitur hæc plenitudo." The great professor Boerhaave, aphorism 396, when speaking of inflammations and an increased impetus of blood, says, "Impetus arteriosus sanguinis minucendo, per educationem sanguinis," &c. The justly celebrated Frederick Hoffman, in his opera omnia, tom. iii. p. 266, when speaking of bleeding, and in what cases it preserves life and health, says, "Pleuritides, peripneumoniz, anginæ, nephritides, & id genus aliz inflammationes vel principaliter adfigunt vel secundario superveniunt aliis morbis ob sanguinem copiosorem spissoremque factum, qualis & vena missus plerumque apparet." Celsus, lib. ii. cap. 10, when speaking in what cases bleeding is requisite, says, "Et vehementis febris, ubi rubet corpus, plenæque venæ tument, sanguinis detractionem, requirit: item viscerum morbi nervorumque resolutio & rigor & distentio; quicquid denique fauces difficultate spiritus strangulat, quicquid intolerabilis dolor est, & quacunque de causa ruptum aliquid intus atque collisum est, item malus corporis habitus, omnes acuti morbi, qui modo non infirmitate, sed onere nocet." Van Swieten, Vol. ii. p. 306, when speaking of heat in fevers, recommends that blood be taken till fainting; by which all the actions cease and a coolness soon succeeds; and particularly recommends large and repeated bleedings in all cases with great heat. Also in p. 255. Vol. ii. observes in cases where the febrile impetus is great, bleeding is highly necessary, for without it is abated, the small vessels are destroyed, the most fluid parts of the blood dissipated, the humours inspissated and never afterwards to be resolved.

You could not with any propriety consider the inflammation as critical, as it preceded the fever; but it would have been more consistent to have looked on the fever as symptomatical, and that it would have been removed by abating the impetus of blood, removing the inflammatory diathesis, and preventing so great a determination to the affected parts, by which the pain and inflammation would be lessened. Huxham, p. 254, says, "As pain is a stimulus, which greatly quickens the circulation, and heats the blood, and derives likewise more than natural to the pained part, it cannot but increase the inflammation." Also Van Swieten, vol. i. p. 363. "Dum enim acerbus talis dolor torquet, fere semper aliqua febris adest." Also, p. 366. "Hinc pleuritide, dum simul solida febris adest dolor intolerabilis nascitur; quia magno impetu urgent humores in locum obstructum & vaso dilatando fibras nervosas horum vasorum tuturam scientes magna vi distrahunt. Omnia ergo illud, quod minuit impetum & velocitatem circuitus humorum, sedabit dolorem uti quotidiana observata docent venæ sectio enim ad animi deliquium usque infirmitas itico sæpe tollit, vel saltem plurimum levat, acutissimæ etiam pleuritidis dolores." Also, p. 214, when treating of obstructions, observes, although the ancients were ignorant of the circulation, yet they bleed very freely, and recommend bleeding till the person faints; in cases of vehement pain, ardent fevers, and inflammations; as may be seen in Galen, comment. i. in aphorism. Hippocrat. chart. tom. ix. p. 40. Also in his de curandi ratione per venæ sectionem, cap. 12. chart. tom. ix. p. 442.

I cannot think that any person qualified for a physician would have omitted repeating bleeding on the 2d day, when they found their patient labouring under a difficulty of breathing, an acute pain of the side and shoulder, the face of a dark red colour, the feet and legs of a livid, restlessness, anxiety, a great heat about the præcordia, with a quick, hard, full and interrupted pulse: nor no person of sense condemn the propriety thereof, when the pulse became more soft, slower, and quite regular, the pain, anxiety, and every other symptom removed in a few hours afterwards (that this was the case with Mr. Coale I hope his certificate removes all doubt). The observations of Dr. Huxham are very judicious. Says he, "If the symptoms are not relieved by the first bleeding after 8, 10 or 12 hours, more blood should be drawn, nay even sooner if they become more aggravated, and this must be repeated, if the fever, oppression, anxiety and difficulty of breathing increase or continue equally severe; especially if blood drawn appears very firm and dense, or covered over with a tough yellowish coat or buff, as it is called; which however very frequently doth not appear till the second or third bleeding, though the symptoms may indicate a very high inflammation, &c. But it frequently happens that the pulse even at the very beginning seems obscure and depressed, irregular and

suggill, and sometimes intermitting, the patient at the same time complaining of great weakness and oppression, which would seem to contraindicate bleeding, and yet the load at the breast, difficulty of breathing, great anxiety and heat about the præcordia loudly demand it: this often puzzles the young practitioner; but he should consider, that such a sudden want of strength, spirits and pulse, doth not arise from a want of blood, as the duration of the disease for a few hours, or a day or two, cannot be supposed to have exhausted the vital liquid to any considerable degree. The truth is, not the defect, but the too great quantity of blood in such cases is the usual cause of the symptoms; for the blood vessels being over loaded with humours, and distended beyond the due tone, cannot act with sufficient vigour, &c. Hence indeed soon follows a deficiency of spirits from want of a due circulation of blood and proper secretion of them, and thence a tendency to stagnation, concretions, and a large train of direful symptoms, and even death itself, unless timely prevented by sufficient bleeding, &c. So that in such cases letting of blood is so far from weakening, that it really raises the power of nature, as is always evident on drawing blood from plethoric persons, labouring under an oppressed pulse as it is properly called, which is found constantly to raise on bleeding." p. 179 and 183. Dr. Smith, p. 57. when speaking of bleeding and the quantity to be taken, says, "The pulse and mitigation of the symptoms will however generally prove sufficient and our best guides, some may require only a few ounces, others some pounds to answer a proper indication." Again, p. 51. "The pulse is the best and surest guide, for whenever it is full, strong or tense, bleeding is indicated, as it shews a real plethora or an increased impetus of blood." Sydenham recommends that bleeding be repeated till the pain and inflammation is quite removed. Swan's Sydenham, 1734 Frederick Hoffman, tom. i. p. 137. recommends bleeding to be repeated, whenever the pain is violent, oppression of breathing great, &c. Also does Pringle, Cleggborn, Hillary and every great practical physician.

I presume, from your saying to me that by taking of blood, I took away the stamina vitæ, that you must have looked on it, that the fever was an effect of nature to throw off something morbid; and that nature was not able to bring on a concoction from a state of debility which was induced by bleeding. If such were your ideas, why did you recommend the same regimen and medicines to be continued, as the system was already too much debilitated, for it is certain they tended to lessen the tension; of course increase the debility, and in reality produce the same effect on the system as bleeding, though not so sudden? For what reason could you be afraid of claret's not being genuine and might heat? As in all cases where the vis vitæ is effete from too great a debility, corroborants and gentle stimulants are indicated (D).

It is not a time now to enter into any theoretical disquisitions, as I propose to support my opinion, from the facts and observations of the greatest practical physicians. The notions of antiquity concerning fevers were, that it was an effect of nature to throw off the morbid matter, and that it required a certain time for concoction; as Hippocrates observes, "concocted and not crude humours are to be evacuated;" but whoever will observe their practice, they will find in cases of topical inflammations and an increased impetus of blood, they were not regulated by their speculative notions: they bleed freely and used every method to procure a resolution, and abate the increased impetus of the circulation; and did not wait for nature to effect a cure, experience having taught them the danger of such delays. The great Dr. Sydenham also called a fever the effect of nature to throw off something morbid, but observe his practice, no one bleed more free in topical inflammations, or in cases of an increased impetus of blood. If a resolution was not procured in four days, they thought it improper to attempt any evacuations afterwards, as it disturbed nature and a concoction could be produced. But experience does not warrant it: the more modern physicians find, if the symptoms run high at any time of the disorder, bleeding is requisite, as in cases of great pain, difficulty of breathing, &c. with a full, hard, quick pulse. It appears the ancients were not altogether ignorant of the necessary (although it was contrary to their theoretical notions). In Van Swieten, vol. iii. p. 35, you will find a case taken from Hippocrates of a person who laboured under a pleurisy, with a great degree of suffocation, for which he was bled largely on the 2d day of the disorder, by which his complaints were removed. Also, p. 39. there is mention made of a person labouring under a pleurisy, who was bled twice in large quantities in the beginning of his disorder, which removed his complaints; but on the 5th day every symptom returned with more violence, and the person seemed to be dying; the feet were quite cold; they were put into warm water and a vein opened in each foot, but they did not discharge a drop of blood, then they were put into water so hot as to take off the skin, and a large quantity of blood discharged, which had such an effect, that the person which before appeared to be half dead, happily recovered (E).

(D) Such absurdities and contradictions, I am persuaded, the subtilty of a Whigist all cannot reconcile.

(E) This case is similar to Mr. Coale's in some particulars, as the symptoms being removed by bleeding in the beginning, also their returning again on the 5th day.

Query; If Mr. Coale had been bled largely on the return, whether it might not have removed his complaints immediately, and prevented the succeeding apprehension of his knee.

[To be concluded in our next.]

L O N D O N, October 21.
A GENTLEMAN at Henley, writing to his friend in London, October 14, says, "I cannot help taking notice to you that I died yesterday with