

may be appealed to. Let me advise you to avoid expressing anything like annoyance at the vaunted success of these extra-professional therapeutics, lest it be supposed that you are influenced by interested motives. On the other hand, you will avoid assenting to the views, however plausibly stated. Content yourselves with stating that you cannot receive a theory of disease and cure from persons who have not studied anatomy and physiology, and that as for the alleged success of the method, before you trouble yourselves to account for it, you must be assured that the persons who witnessed the cures were capable of ascertaining that the alleged disease had really existed.

I have made frequent use of the word systems, and I shall often be obliged to use it. Systems may in process of time lose their value, but we cannot do without them; they are like formulæ in matters of faith; without such connecting tissue our ideas would fall loosely about and be lost. True, these systems are often artificial—idols or imaginary embodiments of our minds which we mistake for realities; but it is better that our knowledge of facts should be thus held together, even though the respective position of the members of the system and the cement which unites them must often be altered and softened by time. It is not, however, so with all systems—those, for instance, which are copied from the actual order and arrangements of nature. Why, you might at first sight ask—why should there be any systems but such as are directly derived from nature? The answer is, that the natural order and collocation of facts are often not easily ascertained. It may take ages of patient investigation even to prepare the way, before the genius of a great discoverer, even though gifted with those extraordinary insights and inspirations which are not vouchsafed to ordinary men, can see through the perplexities and intricacies in which the true nature of things has so long been involved.

Do not allow yourselves, from observing the varieties of opinion, and the inconsistencies, and transitoriness of systems, to pass into a state of scepticism, and to doubt whether in medicine there be any sound theory. Be assured that in medical science there is that which he who runs may read, there are lights which are not *ignes fatui*, there is ground which will not sink or recede. Read the immortal works which our medical literature can boast of, and you will find that nature presented the same facts to the eyes of the earliest observers as to ours, and that many of the landmarks which guided them may also be ours. Well might Hufeland remark, "There has ever been an invisible church of true physicians who have continued faithful to nature, have been animated by her spirit, have acted under her direction, and kept the sacred watchword—men who have all thought and meant the same thing, who have always been and always will be understood throughout all ages, and in spite of the confusion of tongues; there have always been men in these respects like Hippocrates, Cælius, Aræteus, Baglivi, Sydenham, Huxham, Boerhaave, Frank, and others."

With the enumeration of these illustrious names I terminate my lecture; for they cannot but inspire in your minds high and ennobling thoughts, which I should be sorry to incur the risk of dissipating by any further remarks.

HÆMORRHAGE

FROM

EXTRACTION OF A TOOTH.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—The following case occurred to me in practice a short time since, and I forward it you for insertion in your Journal, if you deem it worth notice.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED CRABB, M.R.C.S.L.

Poole, October 15, 1842.

J. O., a young man about twenty-two years of age, of unhealthy aspect, but with the muscular system well developed, and who followed the business of a carpenter, applied to me early one morning to have a tooth extracted. I examined the mouth, and found the tooth which had given the individual pain, and the one to be removed was the first molar of the lower jaw, on the right side. The tooth was removed with facility by the aid of forceps, and the man left the surgery, there being at that time not more hæmorrhage than is ordinarily observed after extraction of a tooth. About four hours after, when I returned home, after making visits in the town, I found the individual for whom I removed a tooth in the morning so early, sitting in a chair in the surgery, and blood issuing freely from the mouth. He told me that, shortly after leaving me in the morning, bleeding came on, and had continued ever since. I added a little sulphate of zinc to a tumbler of cold water, and directed the mouth to be rinsed freely; I then removed any coagula that existed in and around the socket, and filled it firmly with lint saturated with *sp. terebinth.*; a piece of cork was then wedged on the lint and between the posterior bicuspid and the second molar; I bound the lower jaw to the upper, and directed my patient to go home and remain in bed for the rest of the day, all hæmorrhage being at that time arrested.

About four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day I was sent for to see him at his house; I was absent from home at the time, but was shortly after in attendance, and found him, to my surprise, below stairs, and sitting near a fire, with the bandage loose, which enabled him to open the mouth, and hæmorrhage going on. On expressing my surprise at finding him below stairs, he stated that he retired to bed according to my direction, where he remained an hour or two, but, as there was no bleeding, he thought he might get up. I removed the bandage, and on making an examination, found the cork loose in the mouth, and some of the portions of lint gone. He was now placed in bed, and directed to rinse the mouth, and I again filled the socket by replacing the tooth; and, with a view of keeping up pressure, I placed a piece of cork, which not merely covered the crown of the tooth, which had been removed, but extended over other teeth anteriorly and posteriorly; the lower jaw was again bound to the upper by the aid of a bandage, and cold applied over the whole of the side of the face and neck. Hæmorrhage having again been checked, I did not consider it necessary to remain with him, but left directions with his at-

tendants to call me if bleeding returned. Some hours after, and about eight o'clock in the evening, I was again summoned to attend, when I found the blood issuing from the mouth, and running down the pillow of the bed. The apartment was heated, and several persons were in it, who, I had reason to know, had been talking to him, and the effort made to reply to their questions had, without doubt, loosened the bandage, which allowed the cork to shift its position, and the tooth to rise considerably in the socket. I now let him wash the mouth out freely with cold water, whilst the bedstead in the adjoining room was divested of everything except a mattress, over which a sheet was placed, and my patient was carried into this apartment, which was well ventilated, and placed on the sheet covering the mattress, and just a sheet thrown over him. All visitors were now excluded except one female attendant and myself. The skin being hot and feverish, and the pulse 96, full and bounding, I prescribed the following draught every half hour:—

Alum, one scruple;
Dilute sulphuric acid, twenty drops;
Tincture of digitalis, fifteen drops;
Water, one ounce;

and directed an assistant to keep up pressure on the lint (with which the socket had been filled) by the aid of a finger. On visiting him, about two hours after, I found the pulse and heat of skin subdued, but he complained much of nausea. The hæmorrhage was to a certain extent subdued, but not to such an extent as to induce me to relax my efforts. Sickness having supervened, I discontinued the medicine, and all previous means proving of little avail, I determined on applying the actual cautery. Having obtained an instrument from home (within five minutes' walk), and such an one as is ordinarily used for destroying the sensibility of the nerve in some decayed teeth, I heated it, and applied it to what appeared (as far as I could see by candle-light) the part from whence the bleeding came, but hæmorrhage appeared but little arrested. I waited a few minutes, and re-applied it, and certainly it then appeared with some effect; but I quickly found that hæmorrhage was still going on to such a degree as would not warrant my leaving my patient, or discontinuing remedies. In this predicament I scarcely knew how to act; it was now past midnight, but I ventured to hope that, as the hæmorrhage had been partially arrested by the actual cautery, perhaps pressure might do the rest. I, therefore, procured a piece of sponge, and having cut it into small pieces, directed an assistant, who was then called in, to draw back the right angle of the mouth, the female before mentioned holding the candle. I placed in the sponge very gradually, and made pressure as I went on (with an instrument used for pressing gold into decayed teeth), especially on the anterior and posterior part of the socket, and having filled the cavity level with the upper part of the gum, I placed on the sponge a *thin* piece of cork, and then wedged with *considerable force* a piece of lead—taken from a window-frame—on the cork, and between the adjacent teeth, which happily succeeded in again putting a stop to hæmorrhage, and I left my patient, with directions to one of the attendants to sit by him during the remaining portion of the night,

and at the same time gave strict orders that he should have no more clothes allowed him, and that no one should speak to him after my leaving him. I heard nothing more of him during the night, and on visiting him the following morning, found no hæmorrhage had returned, and that he had slept some time. He continued in bed a couple of days, taking cool and bland diet, at the termination of which time the cavity was emptied of its contents, and nothing farther occurred worth notice to prevent recovery.

My patient told me when he came to the surgery, after having had the tooth extracted, that he had only had one previously extracted, which was performed by a female in some neighbouring place where he was then living, and that bleeding then came on to such an extent that a medical man had great difficulty in arresting it.

A CASE

OF

HEMIPLEGIA TERMINATING IN COMPLETE RECOVERY.

By BEVERLY R. MORRIS, A.B., M.B., Trin. Col. Dub.
Physician to the York Dispensary.

February 8, 1841. Mrs. T—, aged sixty, of a spare habit, was seized yesterday about four, p.m., with a total loss of power of the right hand and arm, and with some loss of power over the leg of the same side. She had no previous headache, or warning of any kind; the bowels had been regular.

Present Symptoms.—Eyes natural; face rather anxious; tongue foul, with white fur; bowels slow; pulse 80, moderately full and soft; no headache; right arm entirely without power of motion; sensation remains perfect; hand red and swelled; tongue protrudes slightly to the right side; right leg drags, but is somewhat under command; utterance thick; slight tenderness over lower cervical vertebræ. A blister between the scapulæ; cupping glasses over the scapulæ.

Calomel, two grains;
Scammony, three grains;
Jalap, four grains;
Capsicum, two grains. Two pills to be taken at night, and half an ounce of sulphate of magnesia.

9. Tongue cleaner; bowels moved freely; utterance somewhat improved; swelling of hand less; in other respects as yesterday; blister has risen well. Repeat the pills and the sulphate of magnesia.

12. Each day some very slight improvement in the tongue and right leg; swelling of hand gone; no power over the hand or arm yet. Each day the pills and sulphate of magnesia have been repeated; continue remedies.

14. To-day she can very slightly move the arm by the muscles of the shoulder-joint; leg better; tongue still deviates a little to the right side. Continue treatment.

15. To-day can move the forearm with the biceps; no motion yet in the hand; in other respects as yesterday; is cheerful. Continue remedies.

16. Can pronate the hand when it has been supinated; leg better; in other respects as yesterday.

17. Can both pronate and supinate the hand; leg