CRITICAL RETROSPECT
OF
MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Versuch, &c. i. e. Essay, theoretical and practical, on the Effects of Medicines, by Frederic Kretschmar, vol. i. pp. 216; vol. ii. pp. 528. 8vo. 1800. Halic, for Hemmerse and Schwetibbe.

Notwithstanding the improvements and discoveries which have been lately made by physiologists and chemists in the knowledge of the virtues of medicines, and of human organization, we are still far from being able to establish a perfect system of materia medica, or to comprehend the actions of remedies under a complete and perfect theory. Conscious of this circumstance, the author professes his work to be nothing but a previous essay, on which he intends to construct, in future, a completer work on the same subject; it contains, however, several interesting hints for the practitioner, and useful materials for the completion of a greater work of that kind. With respect to the principles on which the researches in this work are founded, the author does not adhere to any particular system now in vogue, but has chosen from all what he thought best and most proper. In the first part, he treats of the following subjects. Chap. I. Determination of the difference between medicines, poisons, and nutriments. Chap. II. Manner in which medicines are communicated to the living body, and on the organs which are first acted upon. Chap. III. Laws, according to which the actions of medicines proceed. Sect. i. Action of medicines according to physical laws. Sect. ii. Action of medicines according to organic laws. Sect. iii. Action of medicines according to organic vital laws. Sect. iv. Action of medicines according to vital laws, or according to the laws of the vis vitalis. Sect. v. Action with respect to the reaction of systems and organs, to which he refers the laws of association and antagony of sympathy and antipathy. The contents of the second part are the following. Chap. I. Introduction and plan for this essay of a special materia medica. Sect. i. Results of experience. Sect. ii. Action of medicines. Analogy of action, chemical and perceptible by the senses. Chap. II. Survey of the special or compound effects of medicines. Sect. i. On the emetic effect. Sect. ii. On the purgative effect. Sect. iii. On the exciting, heating, diaphoretic, and cooling effects. Sect. iv. Summary survey of the actions of medicines on absorption and secretion. Sect. v. On the action of absorbing acidities. Sect. vi. On carminatives; and Sect. vii. On the anthelmintic action. Chap. III. Survey of the special
special action of remedies, according to their perceptible and chemical effects. 1. On the narcotic principle of vegetables. 2. On the aromatic principle. 3. On the volatile acid principle. 4. On the bitter principle of vegetables. 5. On the astringent principle. 6. On acids. 7. On vegetable mucilage, gums, starch, gluten, sugar, gross oils, &c. 8. On resins. 9. Essential oils, camphor. 10. On spices. The work concludes with an apparatus medicaminum.

Medizinisch Chirurgische Bemerkungen, i.e. Medical and Surgical Observations, by Chr. F. Schumacher, Professor at Copenhagen, &c. Vol. 1, 1800, large 8vo. pp. 22. Copenhagen, Brummer.

The author purposes to publish by degrees, the more remarkable cases of his Hospital practice; and in order to enable the reader to compare more properly the course and symptoms of the disease with the effects of the remedies that have been employed, he communicates a series of cases of each principal disease. The remedies that are made use of are the most simple and the least expensive. When emetics are indicated, he uses, instead of ipecacuanha, 15 grains of gratiola, sometimes mixed with 5 grains of rhubarb. In the gangrene, he applies, instead of the bark, the cortex Hippocastan and salic; instead of farfaparilla he gives the carex arenaria. In intermittent fevers he has successfully employed the cortex Siumdae; in the flor albus he found the faba pichurim, half a drachm pro dose for three times a day, very efficacious. For blisters he recommends a mixture of wax, turpentine, and the powder of Spanish flies. In contusions, equal parts of vinegar and water are serviceable. After considerable wounds or operations, he gives a simple tincture of opium every two or three hours, consisting of op. crud. dr. j. spir. vin. rectific. unc. j. He employed the cortex caribeus in intermittent fevers without success, but with some use in the lumbago; he never remarked any emetic quality of that remedy during its use. Such, and similar remarks, are contained in this work, which deserves the attention of hospital physicians, and of those who are obliged to have recourse to cheap and simple remedies. The greatest part of this volume, however, is devoted to the lesions of the head, of which 217 cases fell under the author's care, from the 1st. of November 1795, to the 1st. of March 1800, 127 of which ended fatally. The method of treatment consists of cold fomentations on the shaved head, of venefettion, leeches, and the internal use of camphor; but he recommends, above every thing, the timely application of cold fomentations, of the use of which he is so much persuaded, that in most cases the fatal event might be attributed to their being neglected; but they ought always to be kept properly cold, by the addition of ice, snow, &c. These are the contents of this useful publication, the continuation of which we heartily approve.
Observations on the Cancerous Breast; consisting chiefly of original Correspondence between the Author and Dr. Baillie, Mr. Cline, Dr. Babington, Mr. Abernethy, and Dr. Stokes; published by Permission of the Writers; with an introductory Letter to Mr. Pitcairn. By Joseph Adams, M. D. of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician in the Island of Madeira. 8vo. pp. 115, Longman and Rees.

The Author of the work before us has been favourably known to the public as an acute reasoner, an able controversialist, and a very zealous defender of those theoretical speculations on various diseases, which proclaimed the genius of the late John Hunter.

In his "Observations on Morbid Poisons," (published in 1795,) Dr. Adams has taken great pains to establish a very singular opinion concerning the origin of carcinoma, which had been merely hinted at by Dr. Hunter, and which is again urged at considerable length in the treatise before us.

There are few diseases in which the utmost length of conjecture, and the greatest latitude of experiment, are more to be allowed and encouraged than in cancer.

A melancholy conviction of the extent of its ravages, and of the inability of art to check it progress by any certain rules, has been lately evinced by an institution in this metropolis, for the express purpose of investigating the nature of this dreadful calamity; and we feel disposed to give a considerable share of attention to the conjectures advanced by the ingenious author of the present publication. As this is to be considered as a sequel to the chapter in the Observations on Morbid Poisons, just alluded to, we shall beg to present our Readers with the sum and substance of it in as few words as possible.

Schirrus, Dr. A. observes, or the early stage of carcinoma, is always composed of certain cysts, which, he thinks, constitute its true character, and which are filled with fluids of different compositions. Mr. Hunter has spoken of the cysts as being cancerous hydatids, and this is the opinion which Dr. A. follows up in his subsequent observations, and which constitutes their originality. These cysts have some peculiarities in their appearance and progress; the one, that their increase is not towards the surface, like matter in a common abscess, but in every direction; another peculiarity in the disease is a disposition to fungate even before the skin is broken, and in a very high degree after it has become an open sore. After this period the progress of the disease is uncertain, sometimes with a rapid ulceration of the fungus, which, in sloughing away, exposes several roundish favcoli, which are the cysts with their contents, changed from their original appearance to that of an opake pale, resembling half dissolved leather. This alternate progress, namely, of the extension of these cysts, of the formation of fungus around them, of the sloughing of this fungus and the consequent discharge of the contents of the cysts, and of the attempts at granulating
nulating which are made by the surrounding parts, forms the principal phenomena of this disease.

We shall not further pursue the arguments of the Author in his Observations on Morbid Poisons, in order to establish his opinion on the origin of cancer; but he concludes the subject by proposing a set of queries, wherein are the following: Is the simple hydatid the first form of carcinoma? Have these hydatids a life independent of the subject in which they grow, excepting as parasites? &c. &c.

The answer to several of these queries is given by the Author in the work which we are now to consider, and to which it is high time to revert.

This volume consists of correspondence between the Author and Dr. Baillie, Mr. Cline, Dr. Babington, Mr. Abernethy, and Dr. Stokes; in which Dr. A. states pretty fully his peculiar opinions, and his correspondents some of the objections which may be urged against them, and other very valuable illustrative facts. Perhaps it would have assisted the reader in forming a clearer idea of the Author's theory, if the facts on which it is founded had not been presented in so desultory a form; but the authenticity which is attached to original correspondence may make amends for this defect.

Almost the whole of our knowledge on that curious parasitical animal, the human Hydatid, is contained in an excellent paper by Dr. J. Hunter, inserted in the Transactions of a Society for improving Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge, which the author has prefixed entire to the subject matter of this work. Dr. Hunter's paper consists of the history of a dissection of a person who died with symptoms of diseased bladder, in which vicus was contained a large number of these singular animals, of a size varying from an inch and a half in diameter to that of a pin's head.

The structure of the hydatid is most clearly described by Dr. Hunter in the following words:

"As to the structure of the hydatids, it was the same in large and small; a transparent bag, uniformly round and smooth, filled with clear water. The bag appeared to consist of two coats, or layers; for, on handling them, the outer coat would get rumpled, and occasion a degree of opacity, but by wiping the hydatid it became again clear and transparent. They appeared to be completely sphericall, except that the large ones were a little flattened by their own weight when laid on a plate. They adhered no where to the sides of the sac, nor to one another. When they were opened, their coats possessed a strong contractile force, so as to roll themselves up in part. On examining a number of hydatids, some of them appeared of an amber colour, and with thicker coats than the rest; and when opened, their inner surface was found covered with small hydatids, which were not so large as the heads of pins, and looked like minute pearls or flats set in the inner coat.

"Some of the water containing the small grains mentioned above, was examined with a microscope, and found to have floating in it numerous minute hydatids, of which the largest were the little grains
Dr. Adams, on the Cancerous Breast.

grains visible to the naked eye, and a two hundredth part of an inch in diameter; the smallest were less than a red globule of blood, and they were of all intermediate sizes. The coats of the largest were a little rough with numerous filaments, or villi; and on using a deeper magnifier they had somewhat of a mulberry appearance.

"When the young ones growing in the coats of the larger were examined with the microscope, they were found not to be set in the coats, like pearls, but to be covered by a thin transparent membrane, so as to lie between two layers. It is not improbable that the small globules attach themselves by the villi to the side of the hydatid and to each other, and thereby give the appearance of being covered by a thin membrane. However that may be, the globules being found of various sizes floating in the liquor, seems to prove that they are originally formed there, and not in the coats of the hydatid, upon which they are afterwards deposited. The number of those that had young ones in them, was few in proportion to the others.

"The hydatids in their growth and decay appear to pass through various stages; they are first found floating in the fluid that fills the hydatid, and afterwards attached to its coats. The hydatid thus pregnant with young, if the expression may be allowed, adheres to the neighbouring parts, increases in size, and becomes itself a sac, containing numerous small hydatids. These, after a certain time, decay, and the skins or empty bags are squeezed together into a substance like funglafs. It is probable they still undergo a further change; two small bodies of the size of the common bean, of a cheese-like consistence, and covered with a skin, were taken notice of adhering to the bladder, near its neck; it may be a question whether those were not the remains of hydatids? but that must be determined by future observations."

The hydatids of sheep differ from the human hydatid, in possessing besides a more muscular bag filled with a transparent liquor, a mouth or longitudinal aperture, and a neck composed of rings. These hydatids are contained in the abdomen of the animal; others are sometimes found in the brain, which again wants the mouth and neck above described, and give the disease called the flargers. Each kind of hydatid, when put in warm water, moves about briskly, with a kind of peristaltic motion of the whole body, though it has been taken out of the sheep for several hours.

The first letter contained in this volume is addressed to James Pitcairn, Esq. in which Dr. A. makes some observations on the structure of the hydatid, and observes, very justly, that "the most simple idea of animal life we can well form, is that of the hydatid, consisting only of a membranous bag containing a transplantable fluid. Those in the human body give no other proofs of life than a contractile power."

The second letter is from the author to Dr. Baillie. Dr. A. first feelingly laments his deprivation of those opportunities for improvement which London affords to the anatomist. "At a distance from
Dr. Adams, on the Cancerous Breast.

science, from hospitals, from dissecting rooms, and often from books, to be thus remembered by those who luxuriate in all these delights, may, for a time, renew those scenes we have reluctantly left, and make us anxious to protract the charming illusion." He also candidly acknowledges the defects of his former work, the Treatise on Morbid Poisons.

The third letter is an answer from Dr. Baillie to the author, and we cannot refuse to give our readers the following accurate and valuable remarks which it contains on the structure of scirrhous. Dr. B. observes, "In parts which have become scirrhous, I have commonly observed the structure to consist of a very firm light brown substance, intermixed by membranous or ligamentous septa, which run in various directions. The membranous septa are more numerous, and of greater thickness in some cases than in others. There is occasionally mixed with this structure a cartilaginous substance. The whole structure I have sometimes known to be cartilaginous, resembling very much a piece of common cartilage, which had been previously rendered soft by being steeped for some time in a dissolving fluid.

"Ulcers are often formed in scirrhous structures, and fungous excrecences occasionally grow from them. Cyts containing a kind of serous fluid are sometimes found in scirrhous structure; but they seem to me frequently wanting. They occur, I believe, most commonly in the breast and testicle, and these glands in a scirrhous state I have had few opportunities of examining. From what I have observed, I should be inclined to believe, that cyts are only sometimes formed in a scirrhous structure, but are not essential to it. In this, however, I may be mistaken; and it may be found by a more minute observation, that the formation of cyts always constitutes a part of a scirrhous structure. If you should be able to establish this or any other general observation about the nature of scirrhous, it will give me real satisfaction.

"I have known a substance which possessed the common characters of scirrhous structure to be converted into a kind of bony matter. In this, I believe, that the earthy part will be generally found to be in a larger proportion to the animal part than in common bone. Muscular and membranous parts I have known to be affected with scirrhous, as well as those which are strictly glandular. A fatty membrane I have seen affected with the same disease. The fat was almost as hard as a piece of gristle."

In the fourth letter, (from the author to Dr. Baillie) he explains more at large his opinion on the nature of hydatid, and the proofs of its existence in carcinoma. In this part of the subject the author is so clear and precise, that our readers cannot form a better idea of it than in his own words. "By the term hydatid," he observes, "I mean an animal, consisting only of a cyst and its contents, incapable of existing but in living animal matter, having the powers of secreting or absorbing from its nidus the food which fills its whole cavity, and of producing an offspring similar to itself by no generative organs that can be traced. If it should..."
should be objected that the etymology of the word would confine it to those cysts which contain a watery fluid. I would remark, that such is not the case with the common hydatid, the contents of which are coagulable, and sometimes tinged with red particles of blood. For this and other reasons, I should divide these into hydatis lymphatica, and hydatis cruenta."

"That which is the subject of our present enquiry, I should call hydatis carcinomatosa, which, besides the difference of its contents, has also the property of stimulating the part in which it lives to form a kind of fungus, for purposes I shall endeavour hereafter to point out: my first business is to prove, if possible, the animalcular existence of carcinoma; for this fungus, though in the cancerous breast it is usually considered as the whole of the scirrhus, appears to me only an appendage to the carcinomatous hydatid."

"As you have been less conversant with the cancer in the breast than the visceræ, you may, perhaps, not have examined with your usual accuracy a quantity of apparently diseased fat; which, when the part is very much enlarged, is found inclosed in different portions of the scirrhus, and of which the whole posterior part of the tumour, as well as the space from that to the axilla is usually made up. This diseased fat, as it is sometimes called from its appearing thinner, more transparent, and of a greenish yellow hue, I have found to have all the properties ascribed to the hydatid in the human subject."

Dr. A. then reverts to the proofs of the separate existence of the common hydatid given in Dr. Baillie's Morbid Anatomy. The chief is, that the hydatid of the sheep, when taken out of the body and put into warm water, has been seen to move. This, indeed, has not been observed with the hydatid of the human liver; but as Dr. B. observes, the reason may be that the body is seldom examined till many hours after death. In the case given by Dr. Hunter, which we have just alluded to, he found likewise that the hydatids when opened, retained a strong contractible force so as to roll themselves up in part. This power of contraction, Dr. Adams observes, if not dependant on elasticity, is a sufficient proof of the life of these hydatids. If, therefore, the same property, unconnected with elasticity, be found in the cancerous breast, it will be sufficient (Dr. A. imagines) to establish the point of the hydatid-life of this diseased part. This he demonstrates in the following manner.

"Immediately after the operation, take the amputated part, and cut it in a tranverse, or indeed in any direction, and wherever you discover this fatty appearance, you will see the surface at first smooth under your knife. In an instant after, you will find a papillary appearance all over the yellow-green surface. Each of these papillæ you will find to be part of the contents of a capsule, the contraction of which has produced this conical figure. If the amputated part has been exposed long to the cold, or thrown into water and left there for several hours, a section of it no longer exhibits
exhibits this appearance, nor is it possible in this stage to distinguish at first sight what I call carcinomatous hydatids from common fat. By this it appears that the yellow-green transparancy of the fat, and the contractile power of the inclosing tunics could only arise from life, and the degree of heat with which that life was attended."

The next point on which Dr. A., exercises his conjectures, is on the use of the formation of cartilage before ulceration, and of the fungus after it, which spring up round the ulcer; calling in aid of his explanation that principle so well laid down by Hunter, that living animals lodged within another living body, do not whilst alive stimulate to suppuration the parts which form their nidus; but that when dead they act as mere extraneous matter, and cause this process to take place: Dr. A. thence explains the use of the carcinomatous fungus in the following terms:

"Now, if carcinomata pass through the same stages as Dr. J. Hunter has remarked of the common or lymphatic hydatid, is it not probable that on the death of any of them suppuration will follow, and that this suppuration may expose the living hydatids in such a manner that many of them may die from not being surrounded by living animal matter? To prevent this, I conceive a fungus is formed, which incloses individuals or clusters of them in separate compartments, so that the death of one set produces no effect on the rest."

"As far as my observation extends, this fungus grows in every direction where it is necessary to preserve the hydatids. When a cluster of hydatids dies, the fungus between it and the surface ulcerates, or sloughs slowly, till the compartment containing them is exposed. By this time, if the process has been very slow, all the tunics of the hydatids are detached, and the surface being clean will make an attempt at healing. If no dead hydatids are in the neighbourhood, it will often, for a time, scab, or even skin over. But if, when the cavity is exposed, some of the tunics of the hydatids retain their attachments, the attempt at healing will only produce an exuberance of fungus with retorted edges. This will continue till all the tunics or fragments of them are detached; after which, if no new impediment arises, the edges will take a different direction, and the part heal for a time."

The fifth letter, (from Mr. Cline to the author). The writer observes, that he has often met with the cells in cancerous tumours, containing a greenish yellow liquor, as mentioned by Dr. A. but they did not give Mr. C. the idea of being living hydatids. The writer also gives the following valuable practical directions concerning the removal of encysted tumours.

"When an encysted tumour is small, it may be cured by an opening that will discharge its contents; and then by applying lapis septicus to the internal surface, so as to destroy the cyst. But when they are very large, this practice must be dangerous, because the suppurating surface might be greater than the constitution is able to support. The removal or destruction of the cyst is generally
generally necessary, for it rarely has any disposition to heal. Even
the leaving a very small part of the cyst will be sufficient to pre-
vent the complete healing of the wound."

In the succeeding letter, (in answer to the former,) Dr. Adams
endeavours to explain the nature of the various cavities or cysts
connected with carcinoma. He supposes three kinds. The first is
the common hydatid, in which, after the contents have been
washed away, on throwing the amputated part in water, the cyst
still preserves its figure, and remains an empty cavity, or only fill-
ed with serum. The second kind of cyst is a cavity filled with a
gelatinous substance, which the author supposes to be carcino-
matous hydatids, which have gone through their various stages of
birth, growth, and decay, and are retained in the enclosed fungus.
A third species is a cavity composed of cells, filled with a dark
bloody fluid, to which the author gives the appellation of Hydatis
Cruenta.

In the eighth letter, (which is from the author to Mr. Aber-
neathy,) Dr. A. explains more at large the final cause of the
generation of fungus. This is in a great measure a repetition of
what we have given our readers from the fourth letter; but the
following passages will include all the most material substance of
the author's hypothesis, which therefore we shall quote.

"In examining a carcinomatous breast amputated in an early
period, we meet with little or no fungus. By an early stage I
mean, before the disease, how long forever it may have exis-
ted, has made any considerable progress. If the progress has been suffi-
cient to exhibit any superficial marks, by a circumscribed puckering
of the skin, we find the fungus usually confined to the space be-
tween the carcinomatous hydatids and the surface; but if the
disease has made considerable progress, so that the whole breast is
much enlarged, it is then that we find various compartments in
the fungus filled with hydatids in different states of their progress
towards maturity and death.

"Hence it seems as if the hydatids had a period of existence
short in proportion as their powers of multiplication are greater.
Till they multiply (supposing them in a situation that affords them
a nidus for it) they appear more or less in a torpid state, occasion-
ally growing, and at other times stationary. But the death, or
perhaps even the approach towards death, of any individual or
number of carcinomatous hydatids, instantly becomes a stimulus to
the surrounding parts to generate this fungus, which, by separating
the dead from the living, produces in different parts of the same
breast two different actions at the same time. One is a kind of
ulceration, or more commonly continual sloughing of the fungus
which incloses the dead hydatids; the other is the formation of
new fungus to protect the living hydatid, and in many instances,
if not in all, the fungus becomes itself a nidus for the generation
as well as protection of future hydatids. That it does so for hy-
datis cruenta, when such are the contents of a carcinous breast, we
have every proof that our senses can furnish. For in these cases
the
the fungus is always much softer and spreads faster, if the integuments are removed by the knife, caustic, or ulceration, and the whole appearance when removed is similar to the description of those hydatids which have escaped from the uterus, adhering to a spongy substance resembling or serving as a placenta."

[To be continued.]

Observations on the Opinion of Dr. Langslow, that Extravasation is the general Cause of Apoplexy, in Letters to a young Surgeon; by William Crowfoot. 8vo. pp. 46. Robinsons. London, Oct. 31, 1801.

In a private letter to the Editors, Mr. C. complains that his Statement, which appeared in our last Number "was not intended to be obtruded upon the public in so crude and incomplete a form, nor with the verbal errors it contains. He does not think his opponent justifiable in fending what was intended for a small circle, before the public at large, without the knowledge and consent of the writer." In the present pamphlet, Mr. C. has given that Statement of the Cafe which he wishes to be considered the only one intended by him for general inspection. It does not differ materially in facts or opinions from that given in the Journal. A second Cafe is added, very similar to the first, which was attended by Mr. C's friend, Mr. Davey, who gives the following relation of it.

"When I first saw her, which was not less than two hours and a half from the commencement of the attack, she was just recovered from a fit, which, from its symptoms, (described to me by the persons present) I judged to be apoplectic, and of that kind which is termed by writers of the most respectable authority, the nervous apoplexy.

"She was now perfectly collected in her senses, but had a difficulty in articulation, with a want of recollection. To explain which I must observe, her ideas of things were perfectly accurate, though she had forgotten the words which expressed them; I say collected, because when she was at a loss for a proper word, if you mentioned it, she directly used it.

"She complained of head-ach, sickness, nausea, numbness all over her right side, with want of power to move that arm, thigh and leg, without the greatest exertion, and then could merely drag them after her. For some days previous to this attack she had been troubled with vertigo, nausea, general uneasiness, pain in the head, and drowsiness. The bowels had been regular.

"As Dr. Duncan, in his lectures on cafes like this, where evidently no extravasation was present, recommends to his pupils to bleed in a very small quantity, to avoid censure from not doing that which long custom has established, (although he thinks it detrimental to his patient rather than the contrary): I thought it prudent to follow such high authority, (though contrary to my own opinion) and took away not more than three ounces of blood, just to say she was let blood, and ordered an emetic to be given immediately.
immediately; together with a blister to the back. After the operation of the emetic, a stimulating purgative mixture (io as to evacuate the contents of the bowels, and remove any thing offensive which might be lodged there) was ordered, and likewise a rubifacient embrocation for the part affected.

"I saw the patient no more, but was happy to hear from my friend, Mr. C. that most complete success had attended this mode of treatment.

"H. S. D."

"In addition to this testimony, I can affirm, that on the following day the severity of the attack had left threatening symptoms of hemiplegia, the right side being much affected, and which did not perfectly recover for some days after."

Mr. C. appears to us to have adopted the opinions of Dr. Kirkland in too great an extent; whereas an author, like Dr. K. who designs to overturn old opinions and introduce new ones, always pushes his peculiar notions too far, and should be read with that impression, and certain grains of allowance admitted accordingly. Dr. K. appears to stumble at the very threshold of his Commentary, for he argues thus. I found two cases of violent concussion of the brain by mechanical means, attended with fracture of the skull, which terminated fatally in a few days. After death, blood was found in contact with the brain. The patients had no other sign or symptom of Apoplexy, except the sudden falling down and afterwards dying: Therefore effusion of blood within the cranium is never the cause of true Apoplexy; and "erroneous opinions have been drawn from appearances in the dissection of dead bodies." p. 21. He then revises other similar cases, determined to abide by this extraordinary inference, and attempts to establish a distinction between Apoplexy and Coma, which, we fear, may lead to an erroneous and dangerous practice if generally adopted.

It is probable, however, that Mr. C. does not intend .jwtw.re in verba magistri, as the following passages will evince.

"I shall consider the question of extravasation, &c. as the general cause of apoplexy, to be determined in my favour, until my opponent brings at least equal evidence to invalidate what I have advanced. Supposing, therefore, this to be set at rest, I proceed agreeably to my design, to the treatment of apoplexy, so far as regards the use of emetics, &c.

"For the cure of apoplexy arising from internal causes, Dr. Cullen recommends bleeding largely and purging; and he says, vomiting has been much employed by some practitioners and writers; but apprehending this might impel the blood with too much violence into the vessels of the head, I have never employed it. This appears to be all Cullen says upon this subject, and it is very clear he is speaking of a disease (coma) different from what we are now considering, and in which a judicious practitioner would hesitate to recommend such a remedy.

"That emetics in apoplexy are neither new nor extraordinary, we learn by this extract from Cullen; and from my opponent's favourite,
favourite, Brooks, we have the names of Sydenham, Boerhaave, Heister, and Pitcairn, to sanctify their use. But I do not rely upon them, because large bleedings were generally prescribed, and the practice, I have reason to believe, was prejudicial to the patient, &c.

"I shall now return to the main design of this paper, the subject of emetics. 'Allow me to ask,' says the Doctor, 'how the brain can be oppressed by a foul stomach?' Without entering into any explanations as to the sympathy which is known to exist between the head and stomach, I shall briefly observe, that no one I believe, except himself, would assert the brain was oppressed, or suffered compression, when there was no other foundation for that opinion than pain in the head, flight sickness, and nausea?

"Again, 'Does Mr. C. really think that stimulating the stomach by emetics, will produce a freer circulation than emptying the blood vessels themselves? And further, that plenitude is more expeditiously obviated by vomiting than bleeding?' To these enquiries I answer, that distention of the stomach may affect the brain by preventing the free expansion of the lungs, and of course a free return of the blood; and therefore, to remove this pressure from the diaphragm, will produce a freer circulation, and obviate that fullness more expeditiously by vomiting than bleeding.

"But, independent of this reasoning, I would impress upon your mind, that there may exist some irritating matter in the stomach, or some exciting cause, under the particular state of the nervous system, which may be productive of apoplexy.

"This may be strongly exemplified in the case of some vegetable poisons, as the drop-wort and the lauro-cerasus, &c. which have been known to produce apoplectic symptoms, and for the removal of which, it would be an insult to your understanding to dictate the means of relief, recommended by Dr. L.

"The free use I made of Dr. Kirkland's Commentary, will, I hope, induce you to peruse it attentively, as it contains many practical observations and useful distinctions; and, I trust, you will find in this pamphlet, substantial support to what I have advanced.

"I cannot conclude without reverting to the occasion of this correspondence, which indeed it is highly proper you should keep in mind. A physician visits a patient just recovered from a fit, who complains of considerable pain in the head, occasional nausea, and flight sickness; there is no other mark of derangement in the system; she is in perfect possession of her understanding, and the vital and animal actions are unimpaired. This patient is pronounced by the Doctor to be in a state of compressed brain from a considerable extravasation of blood.

"This is too extravagant an assertion to pass unnoticed, and so contrary, surely, to all authority, that medical men will not require an answer.

"I fear I must have wearied you with these remarks upon extravasation, but my aim and endeavour have been, if possible, to stop the progress of error. The attempt is certainly to be commended,
Mended, however imperfectly it may be executed; for it has a tendency to promote the study and illustrate the doctrine of physiology.

"Such, I hope, may be the effects of this investigation; and I assure you, I shall not regret the little trouble it has occasioned me if it is attended with any benefit to the healing art, by inciting men of higher abilities, and more leisure, to prosecute the Enquiry.

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,]

On the origin of amber.—It is almost universally acknowledged that amber derives its origin from the vegetable kingdom, though it is not sufficiently ascertained, which substance does chiefly contribute to its formation, and every analogous fact which might throw light on this subject has, therefore, a particular interest for naturalists. Of this kind is the following experiment, made for that purpose by Professor Hermblaced: "Pour into a china saucer, oil of amber or rectified petroleum, so much that it stands about one line high; and, having placed it on water, cover it with a glass bell filled with oxygen gas, and expose the whole for some months to the action of sun-light. As the air in the bell is by degrees absorbed, the water will rise, and the oil become more heavy than before, and of a greater consistency. On evaporating the rest of the oil, by gentle heat, a resinous substance remains, which proves extremely analogous to amber."—The following theory is grounded on this experiment: "The rock-oil is the production of interred animal, but particularly vegetable, substances; which, having come by means of its specific lightness on the surface of water, absorbs the oxygen of the atmosphere and becomes inspissated. As long as it remained viscid, flies, gnats, spiders, and other insects that happened to sit down on it, and straw and other particles floating in the air, having stuck to it, are, by degrees, incorporated with it as it grows harder. When the solidity of the inspissated oil increases by the continued absorption of oxygen it sinks to the bottom in masses, which forms the strata of amber. The acid obtained from amber by dry distillation, seems not only to be admixed to it, but rather composed of a more intimate combination of a part of amber with oxygen."—The late Mr. Girtanner was of opinion, that amber might be an animal production, and he imagines it consisted of a kind of honey and wax that had been changed.