But, in truth, we deem these speculations of trivial utility. Dr Stock has presented us with a judicious view of numerous and important facts, in which he is fully borne out by the most authentic records of medicine. He has nowhere shown a disposition to overrate, in the slightest degree, the virtues of the remedy whose powers he has undertaken to illustrate; but has evinced equal discrimination and candour in his statements. Many of his facts, however, are confessedly not of modern production, and we almost wish that he had consigned a larger portion of his work to the use of cold in febrile disorders; a subject not only more novel in its nature, but against which a host of prejudices still remains to be conquered.

III.

Cases of Pulmonary Consumption, &c. healed with Uva Ursi; to which are added, some practical Observations. By Robert Bourne, M. D. Aldrichian Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Oxford, &c. &c. 8vo. Lond. 1806. pp. 293.

The practical physician will no doubt sit down to the perusal of this, as of every other treatise on pulmonary consumption, without any fanguine hopes of receiving much useful or efficient instruction. A short experience will have been sufficient to convince him of the general inefficacy of medicine in any stage of true phthisis; and an observation of the mass of morbid structure, which presents itself to the eye on the exposure of phthisical lungs by dissection, will have satisfied him of the extraordinary obstacles which, in the latter stages, medicine has to encounter. But we apprehend his hopes will receive an additional depression, if possible, in the present instance, in consideration of the remedy which is recommended on this forlorn occasion. The sensible qualities of Uva Ursi are extremely slight; its medical powers are summed up in a trifling degree of astringency; and, as a remedy in those diseases, in which it has been extolled as efficacious, or indeed in any other, we believe the general opinion deems it almost entirely inert. Great, however, as may be the reasons for viewing a work of this nature with a sceptical eye (and we have not enumerated them all), candour and philosophy suggest a suspension of our judgment.
Dr Bourne was led to make trial of uva ursi in pulmonary consumption, in consequence of the success with which he had exhibited it in a case of apparent ulceration of the bladder, attended with hectic and emaciation. In this instance, the formula employed by Dr Ferriar was followed, viz. about ten grains of uva ursi, rather more than that quantity of bark, and half a grain of opium, three times in the day. Dr B. had previously used the uva ursi in two nephritic cases, in the dose of half a drachm, as recommended by De Haen, with the same want of success which physicians in this country have usually acknowledged.

After this preliminary notice, the author proceeds to relate the particulars of sixteen cases of apparent phthisis, fourteen of which occurred in his own practice. In the observations which he afterwards makes on each case, he arranges them under four heads: 1. He considers the first eight as cases of apparently true pulmonary consumption in its first stage, or before purulent expectoration had taken place: 2. The three following as cases of the same in its last stage, being attended with expectoration of pus: 3. The 12th and 13th as cases of an affection of the lungs, in which there was purulent expectoration, but which were, nevertheless, not true phthisis: and, 4. Cases of hectic, in which the lungs appeared either not to have been primarily affected, or not at all, including the three last cases. Of these 16 cases, it appears that three died, two while under the remedies, and one in the succeeding winter; nine recovered, and four were apparently relieved. One observation occurred to us with respect to those cases which terminated favourably; they all began to take medicines in the spring and beginning of summer, and were in a state of convalescence before the approach of winter. Now, if there is any one circumstance which appears to possess an influence over the consumptive, it is a warm or mild temperature.

The eight cases of incipient consumption will, we think, be perused with some degree of doubt. The difficulty of ascertaining the presence of phthisis, in its early stage, is universally acknowledged. There is no pathognomonic symptom. In irritable constitutions, we have often seen teazing catarrhal coughs wasting even the strength and flesh of the patient, and accompanied by a marked hectic; yet the ordinary remedies have completely succeeded in removing it, and no future similar attack has occurred. We know, too, that, in female habits especially, a dry cough, with dyspnea, emaciation, &c. is frequently the concomitant of that languid state of the system which con-
flitutes the principal feature of *chlorosis* and *amenorrhœa*, but which occurs also independently of these symptoms. A cough of this sort is likewise an occasional attendant of some forms of *dyspepsia*, arising apparently from irritations in the viscera adjacent to the lungs or trachea. We do not mention these facts as circumstances of which Dr Bourne requires to be informed. His observations evince that, both from personal observation, and an acquaintance with the records of medicine, he has possessed himself of no inconsiderable share of medical accomplishments. But we mention them as circumstances which will influence the opinion of the ordinary reader, but which may be not sufficiently adverted to by one who is conducting experiments with the hopes of attaining a particular result, and whose conviction may be modified by his wishes. We shall quote Case III. as an example, chiefly on account of its brevity.

"S M. who lived in a village near Oxford, an unmarried woman, 28 years of age, rode over to me for advice on May 31, 1803. She had had a cough for six months, during the former part of which time it was troublesome in the day only; latterly it had been so both night and day, and had been accompanied with fever. The cough was dry. For the last fortnight she had had profuse morning perspirations. When she applied to me, she had lost flesh considerably; her tongue was white; her appetite indifferent; her breath short; her pulse frequent; and she had some pain under the right breast. She menstruated regularly.

*I prescribed seven grains of *uva ursi*, a quarter of a grain of opium, and three grains of liquorice powder, thrice in the day, to be taken in milk.*

*June 21.* Cough much better, hardly at all troublesome in the night. But little fever. Morning perspirations much abated. No pain under the breast. Breath less short. Tongue clean; appetite improved. Pulse less frequent. She had taken her medicines very regularly.

*She was directed to go on with the powders; but the *uva ursi* was increased to eight grains, the opium to the third of a grain.*

*July 3.* She sent me a very favourable report. The *uva ursi* was now increased to nine grains.

*July 30.* The cough and all other unfavourable symptoms were gone; her looks approached to those of health; she had gained considerable strength.

*She was advised to take one of her powders, night and morning, for some time to come.*—Page 18.

On March 31, 1804, this patient continued well.
We believe that most practitioners will be satisfied that cases of this nature not unfrequently occur, and yield to, or at least recover under the use of, the ordinary remedies. At the same time, it will be admitted, that it is not easy to show that such cases shall not terminate in genuine phthisis. But the circumstance is sufficient to excite great distrust of the powers of uva ursi.

Of the three cases which are ranked under the second head, of confirmed phthisis, with purulent expectoration, two terminated fatally. The third is related in a letter to Dr Bourne from an apothecary at Banbury. A labouring man, aged 51, was attacked with haemorrhage from the lungs, after considerable exertion, and lost about a pint of blood. An incessant cough succeeded, with expectoration occasionally streaked with blood. Two months after the attack (viz. in May 1804), he applied to the reporter of the case. "He was much emaciated, his appetite bad, pulse 120, and his breath so extremely short, that it was not without difficulty he could get up stairs to bed; his fever usually came on about six or seven o'clock in the evening, succeeded by profuse night perspirations; and the expectoration, which was apparently purulent, amounted generally to a full pint in the course of twelve hours. He began taking the uva ursi on the 14th May, in doses of ten grains, twice a-day, combined with a small quantity of opium, and he regularly per-fevered in it for the space of three weeks, with evident advantage: he now omitted the medicine for a short time; but finding that his cough was worse, and his complaints on the increase, he was glad to have recourse to it again. He then continued its use, with great regularity, till the 6th of July, when I had the pleasure of seeing my patient nearly well; his pulse was only 66, his appetite remarkably good, and he had in a great degree recovered his flesh; his breath was so good as to allow him to walk up a very steep hill; and I can now add (September 4. 1804), he is quite recovered, and enabled to pursue his usual employment of a common labourer," page 62. Of this case Dr Bourne has heard nothing farther. From a single case little can be inferred; so far as it goes, it appears to mark a connexion between the use of the medicine and the alleviation of the symptoms. But it may be remarked, that in a man of 51 years of age, who is neither said to have had any constitutional tendency to phthisis, nor to have been subject to cough before, the consequences of a pulmonary haemorrhage, accidentally produced, are not so difficult of alleviation or removal as the ulceration which occurs in phthisical constitutions after the rupture of pulmonary vessels. Dr Bourne himself does not peremptorily
emptorily decide whether it is "rightly arranged" under the second head. Although fully aware of the discouraging appearances which generally present themselves in the disease of phthisical patients, he has dwelt at length upon the propriety of not suffering all hope to leave us in the more early stages of the disorder. The mischief, he affirms, is not always so extensive as the quantity of pus expectorated would lead us to believe; and the greater part of it frequently takes place only a short time previous to death, during which the progress of the disease is rapidly accelerated.

The 12th and 13th cases rank under the third head. In commenting on these, the author distinguishes them from those cases of ulcerated lungs which constitute the ordinary form of phthisis, as well as those which succeed to pneumonia. In the two instances in question, a large abscess had insidiously been formed in the lungs, with little previous indispension, and with no one symptom that could indicate the extent of the mischief which was going on. The author had seen three similar cases previous to his adoption of *uva ursi* as a remedy, all of which terminated in death. He remarks that, in four of the five, the matter discharged differed from that discharged from abscesses formed in ordinary phthisis, or after pneumonic inflammation, in being extremely fetid; in four, also, the complexion was sallow and dusky, and four were males. They were all above 23, and under 26 years of age.

As the three remaining cases were confessedly not pulmonary consumption, we shall not detain our readers with any account of them. The author is of opinion that, by fair analogy, they afford encouragement for the trial of *uva ursi* in all cases of inipient or recently formed hectic, whatever be the part of the body wherein the local affection, on which the hectic depends, is seated. And he is hence led to suggest the probability of its remedial powers in scrofulous diseases.

We cannot but wish that the author had accumulated a more satisfactory evidence in favour of these hypothetical suggestions, before he gave them to the world. From the experience of three cases of hectic, connected with some irritation in the region of the uterus, of the lungs, or liver, he arrives not only at the sweeping conclusion that all morbid states of all the viscera, which are accompanied with hectic fever, are probably curable by the same means, but also that other great and important organic actions or changes in the glands, or other parts of the body, will probably yield to the same drug. This is not the careful and clear mode of induction by which alone science can be advanced with firm and steady steps, and by which some departments of medicine
medicine have of late years received the most material and irre-fragable illustrations. Nor do we conceive it to be the best mode of satisfying the public of the efficacy of any remedy, nor of laying a claim to the merit of an useful discovery.

In his last chapter, the author proceeds to make some "pharmaceutical and practical observations" on the medicine in question. He considers that the powder of *uva ursi*, which is often, if not commonly, sold in the shops, is ill prepared, and not possessed of the full medicinal powers of the plant. The *green* leaves alone should be selected and picked from the twigs, and dried by a moderate exposure to heat. "The powder, when properly prepared, is of a light-brown colour, with a shade of greenish yellow. I have often met with it of a light-brown, without the greenish-yellow shade; and, when this is the case, I suspect either that the leaves from which it was made were not duly selected, or that they were exposed to too great a heat to render them pulverable. The exposure to too great a heat is certainly the worse fault; but neither fault is very venial, where health, perhaps life, is concerned. The powder has nearly the smell of good grass-hay, as cut from the rick; to the taste it is, at first, smartly astringent and bitterish; by and by these impressions on the palate soften into a liquorice flavour." We quote this more particularly, because Dr B. affirms, that he "never saw a good specimen of the powder which was not prepared in Oxford, or the neighbourhood;" and also to caution our readers that they pay particular attention to the medicine which they use, in order that their conclusions may be satisfactory even to the most fastidious examiner.

We do not acquire much or very accurate information from the author's experiments. The principal conclusion which they afford is, "that water extracts from *uva ursi* nearly all that proof spirit is able to extract, and proof spirit nearly all that water is able," p. 208. Another is, that it contains the "astringent acid," for a drop of the infusion or tincture in a solution of sulphate of iron produced a precipitate. Dr Bourne has not attempted to avail himself of the accurate means, which chemistry would have afforded him, of ascertaining the quantity of this acid which it contains, nor of tracing the medicinal powers to any particular constituent part, the mucilaginous or resinous for instance, of the plant.

With respect to the medicinal powers of *uva ursi*, he is of opinion, that even in the smaller doses above specified, it has now and then a very sensible effect on the nervous system, producing occasionally lowness, headach, or slight vertigo; that it has, in one or two instances, occasioned an intermimion of the pulse;
pulse; and that occasionally the pulse becomes preternaturally small during the use of it. These effects are by no means stated as being so general as to be very obviously connected with the administration of the medicine; and, what is somewhat extraordinary, they do not seem to be greater, from a dose considerably larger than those which Dr B. was in the habit of using.

On the whole, the sceptical disposition with which we commenced the perusal of this treatise, has not been greatly diminished by a careful and serious execution of our task. In a disease, however, of a tendency so generally fatal as is that of pulmonary consumption, every expedient, which promises even a chance of success, should be examined by the test of cautious experiment, until the full extent of its powers be clearly ascertained; and we trust that no a priori opinions will induce a neglect of the suggestions of Dr Bourne.

In an appendix, Dr B. has related six cases more, in which he has had an opportunity of using uva Ursi in apparently threatening consumption, and which terminated favourably.

IV.

On Epilepsy, and the Use of the Viscus Quercinus, or Misletoe of the Oak, in the Cure of that Disease. By Henry Fraser, M. D. 8vo. pp. 96. London. 1806.

We necessarily open a treatise like the present with some degree of scepticism. The numerous remedies which have been confidently recommended for the cure of epilepsy, but subsequently employed as mere palliatives, or abandoned altogether as inefficient, immediately recur to our recollection. Nor can we forget the frequency of organic causes in producing the disease, or its general obstinacy even under the plans of treatment most generally adopted. We confess, too, that this scepticism is farther excited, in the present instance, by an impression on our minds that the misletoe is rather inert as to any medicinal properties, and that its recorded efficacy was rather the refult of the superfluous associations belonging to it, than of any innate powers. Dr Fraser recommends it, however, not as a decided remedy, but as one which has been attended with so much success in eleven cases of epilepsy, in which he prescribed it, as to render