the effect is to be determined only by the practice. It is probable that the means would fail, not because the design is defective, but rather owing to the remoteness of the disease from the surface. It may be said, by way of suggestion, that the internal exhibition of remedies with the same view is not altogether precluded.”

It is evident, from the perusal of this essay, that it has been hastily composed, and prematurely published. Mr. Pring possesses talents, and writes with animation; but he is much too confident in his powers of reasoning; and his style is diffuse, turgid, and incorrect.

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V.

Observations on the distinguishing Symptoms of three different species of Pulmonary Consumption, the Catarrhal, the Apos- tematous, and the Tuberculous; with some remarks on the remedies and regimen best fitted for the prevention, removal, or alleviation of each species. By ANDREW DUNCAN, Senior, M. D. Physician to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent for Scotland, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, &c. 8vo, Edinburgh, 1813.

The author of this Treatise is well known as one of the most laborious cultivators of the healing art. As a teacher of medicine, and as editor of the Medical Commentaries and Annals, he has been led to study and record every important fact, and every improvement in medicine, for a period of more than half a century. But he has not been merely the historian of what others have done; he has had many opportunities, both in public and private practice, of bringing every rational scheme or discovery to the fair test of experiment. Some of the results thus obtained, he has now submitted to the public.

After a short address to the Prince Regent, and a letter of the same description to his friend and former pupil, Sir Gilbert Blane, the author gives the following account of the nature and objects of his present work:

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"I here present to the public a very short treatise, on a very important subject. With little difficulty, I might have extended it to a much greater length. A particular relation of even a selection of those cases from which my observations have been deduced, might have filled a large volume. My object, however, has been to lay before the intelligent reader, not the detail, but the result of my practice, and to state merely the conclusions I have drawn from the facts which I have witnessed in watching the progress of pulmonary consumption."

The author next adverts, in a short introduction, to the question which has been so much agitated, whether phthisis is to be regarded as an idiopatbic or a symptomatic disease; and concludes by observing, "that there can be no doubt that it may justly be considered as an important genus by itself."

From the endless modifications of hectic, or that form of fever which always attends pulmonary consumption, nosologists have been led to consider the species as very numerous. Sauvages, for instance, reckons up no less than twenty. But this frivolous minuteness can only serve to distract the attention of the beginner, and bewilder even the most experienced. Without presuming that he has embraced the whole, the author has confined his attention to three species, which may be easily distinguished from one another, and each of which requires a peculiar mode of treatment. On this division, and the principles which led to its adoption, he makes the following remarks:

"In the division of any genus of disease into species, two great objects are to be had in view. The first and principal object is to point out such species as require a different mode of practice from each other, by obvious symptoms, during the life of the patient. The distinction of species, which can be discovered only by dissection after death, serves merely to perplex and puzzle, without being of any material benefit. On this general ground, and with these objects in view, in phthisis pulmonalis, three different species may be pointed out, which may not only be distinguished by obvious symptoms, during the life of the patient, but which also require some difference in that mode of treatment best fitted for the removal of each.

"These species may be distinguished by the titles of the Catarrhal, the Apostematous, and the Tuberculous phthisis. The principal circumstances between these, requiring variety in the mode of treatment, is the difference in the source from whence the purulent matter is derived. In the first modification it is merely separated from an inflamed surface, in a manner similar to the separation of pus from a blister-issue. In the second modification, it is furnished from an abscess of a considerable size, which may be formed in the cellular substance of the lungs, as well as of any other part of the human body. In the third, it is furnished from a tubercle, or from the parts surrounding.
r-ounding a tubercle, terminating in suppuration, and commonly yielding, not proper purulent matter, but rather an ulcerous sanies, somewhat resembling that which is often yielded by lymphatic glands, in cases of scrofula, when they terminate in suppuration."

The remainder of the work is divided into eight chapters, which we shall shortly notice in their order.

I. "A description of the pneumonic symptoms occurring in catarrhal phthisis. In this chapter, the author describes with great minuteness, the almost imperceptible changes by which a common catarrh may degenerate into a case of confirmed phthisis, and concludes with an account of the means we possess of ascertaining the quality of the matter expectorated.

II. "A description of the pneumonic symptoms occurring in the apostematous phthisis." The author distinguishes the present form of the disease from the one previously described; inquires into the various causes which most generally give rise to it, and exposes with propriety the incorrectness of Dr Cullen's notions, who regarded it as a mere consequence of hæmoptysis. The following short account of the symptoms and progress of this species deserves to be noticed:

"In most instances of the apostematous phthisis, the first symptom of the affection is a fixed pain in the breast. This pain is not indeed in general excruciating; but it is almost constantly felt to some degree, and is commonly referred to some particular spot. For the most part it is rather a gravative than an acute pain; but it is not unfrequently of the pulsating kind. Whatever the nature of the pain may be, it is very commonly attended with some degree of dyspnæa. With that dyspnæa the patient is sensibly affected, even when in an erect posture; but it is in general much increased in a horizontal position; and it is often particularly aggravated when the patient lies on one side, rather than the other. Often it happens that the patient can breathe only when he lies on that side on which the apostema is situated; the reason of which is abundantly obvious. With this state of respiration, there occur frequent and severe fits of coughing; but for some time these are attended with very little, or even no expectoration.

III. "A description of the pneumonic symptoms occurring in the tuberculous phthisis." This is the most common, and the most incurable form of pulmonary consumption, and unfortunately the least alarming; so much so, indeed, that the disease has generally arrived at an advanced stage before danger is at all apprehended. The patients themselves have no fears, the practitioner is often deceived, and even when he is not deceived, it is so ungracious a thing to forbode evil, that this part of his duty is seldom discharged with that fidelity, or his admonitions receiv-
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ed with that attention, which their importance deserves. After some pathological remarks on the origin and nature of tubercles, the author gives the following account of the symptoms which characterize the incipient stage of this species of consumption:

"Of all the modifications of phthisis, the pneumonic complaints which occur in the tuberculous are the least alarming. Hence this species often subsists for a considerable time before it awakens the attention of the patient. This the rather happens, because the fever with which the tuberculous phthisis is attended at its commencement, is in general accompanied with high spirits. And from this state of exhilaration, even to the latest periods of the disease, patients affected with tuberculous phthisis have often no apprehension of their own danger. At the commencement of tuberculous phthisis, neither the cough nor dyspnoëa are by any means urgent; and in many instances, even to the very end of the affection, there hardly occurs any expectoration. The cough in general is of the short tickling kind, without being violent; and may be termed rather a tussicula than a tussis. But while it takes place without any great uneasiness, it is still troublesome, from being very frequent. Notwithstanding, however, these frequently repeated efforts towards expectoration, the irritating cause is not removed, and those slight fits of coughing, terminating without the smallest expectoration even of mucus, are again speedily renewed. In most cases no remarkable pain of breast attends the tuberculous phthisis; and when pain occurs, it is neither fixed to any particular spot, nor is it constant. In many instances no dyspnoëa whatever occurs in the tuberculous phthisis; or at least difficulty of breathing is observed only upon motion or exertion. When the patient remains at rest, the breathing is perfectly free, and it is very little, if at all, affected, by change in the position of the body. Contrary to what happens in the apostematous phthisis, the patient can lie with equal ease on either side."

Though we are highly pleased with the distinct and intelligible account, which the author has given of the three species of phthisis, yet we cannot help regretting, that his plan did not admit of a more detailed account of the symptoms of a disease, so exceedingly diversified, and where success in practice, if at all attainable, depends on early and accurate discrimination. The outlines are strongly marked, but some of the more minute features are omitted.

IV. "Observations on the hectic fever in phthisis pulmonalis, attending the second stage of the disease." This form of fever is a constant attendant on pulmonary consumption, and common to all the three species. The author, after shortly adverting to the different theories respecting its origin and nature, proceeds to give a detailed account of its symptoms. This account is more remarkable
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remarkable for fidelity, conciseness, and perspicuity, than for any thing new.

V. "Observations on the symptoms occurring in the last stage of phthisis pulmonalis; what may be termed the supervening or consequent symptoms." These are, emaciation, debility, a deficiency of fluids in the extreme vessels, loss of hair, incurvated state of the nails, cessation of the menses, aphthous affections of the mouth and fauces, colliquative sweats and diarrhoea; and lastly, delirium, which generally closes the scene. The author gives a very plain and obvious account of the origin and nature of these symptoms, or what may be termed their proximate cause. He also points out, with great propriety, the danger arising from directing the attention to one or two symptoms alone, without regarding the diseased habit on which the whole depends.

VI. "Of the diagnosis in phthisis pulmonalis." This chapter is naturally divided into two heads. The means of distinguishing this disease from others, and the means of distinguishing between the different species. Under the first of these heads, the chief difficulty arises in drawing the line of distinction between pulmonary consumption and common catarrh. Almost every case of phthisis is, for a longer or shorter period, taken to be a common cold, and in a majority of instances it is really so. It becomes, therefore, a nice, but an important point in practice, to say where the one ends, and where the other begins. The author's long experience and habits of minute observation, have enabled him to do this with more than ordinary clearness and precision. As his remarks on this head, and the different species, are too long for quotation, and do not readily admit of abridgement, we must refer the reader to the work itself.

This concludes the first part of the essay, which is devoted chiefly to an account of the symptoms, causes, and nature of the disease. In the two last chapters he takes up the treatment. In the first of these, he discusses those general or leading principles, which ought to guide our practice on all occasions; and in the last, gives a more minute detail of such individual methods of treatment, as he has found most successful.

With regard to the general principles, he remarks, that the practitioner has, for the most part, one of two objects in view; to effect a radical cure, or to alleviate distressing symptoms. The first of these is to be our grand object during the continuance of the incipient stage; the last, when there is no longer hope of a final recovery. In the catarrhal species, our objects are, to correct or restrain the purulent secretion from the inflamed surface, to heal up that surface, and to bring on a healthy action of the vessels. In the apostematous, to discharge the matter already
already collected, to prevent or moderate the formation of more, and to aid nature in healing up the ulcer. In the tuberculous, to effect the resolution of the inflamed tubercles, before the suppurative process begin,—after suppuration, to improve the quality of the matter secreted,—and, finally, to clean and heal up the ulcer. This last indication, as well as some of the former, the author very candidly admits, is not easily fulfilled.

The concluding chapter consists of "Observations on particular practices employed in phthisis pulmonalis, and which have been recommended by eminent writers." On this head, it may be remarked, that the author, having no favourite plan of treatment of his own, is the more likely to give a fair and candid trial to those of others; for, against the bewitching influence of theory, in the observing and relating of facts, the most upright principles are not always a sufficient protection.

The author complains of the difficulty of giving any thing like a complete view of the different modes of treatment in consumption. "From what I have seen in actual practice," says he, "I might say much, both in confirmation, and in refutation of the sentiments of others, respecting particular remedies. But my object is to deliver, not the detail, but the result of my own observations; and I shall, therefore, confine myself to a few remarks on what I consider as the most important modes of cure, either from their beneficial or prejudicial effects."

With respect to digitalis, a remedy which has been so fashionable, and so much extolled of late years, we shall give the result of the author's observations in his own words, and we do this the more readily, as it corresponds completely with our own:

"The fox-glove has unquestionably a wonderful influence on the state of the pulse. Under proper management, it produces a slowness of the pulse not perhaps to be obtained from any other medicine yet discovered. In phthisis, however, the pulse is often quickened to a remarkable degree. And it has been the opinion of some, that, by reducing it to the natural standard, from the use of digitalis, consumption may be overcome. But it is almost unnecessary to observe, that the quickness of pulse in phthisis is merely symptomatic, and that the reduction of it even below the natural standard can have no effect, either in removing a tubercle, or in curing an ulcer in the lungs. Hence, on this ground, it is vain to expect a radical cure from its use. That in certain cases, however, it may be employed with advantage, I am very far from denying.

"Besides in general diminishing the celerity of the pulse, the fox-glove, in most instances, also operates as a very powerful diuretic. It is, however, well known, that a free discharge of urine has often great influence in relieving the breast. In this way it may be highly useful in catarrhal phthisis; and a diminution of the pulse may certainly somewhat alleviate the hectic fever. But I am sorry to say, that,
that, for my own part, I have not witnessed any great benefit from
digitalis in any case of phthisis; and I have seldom been able, by
means of digitalis, so far to diminish the celerity of the pulse in
phthisis, as to bring it even to the natural standard. It would seem,
that, in this disease, such is the influence of the causes quickening
circulation, that even the power of the digitalis is not able to coun-
teract them."

As to sea voyages, the author has found them useful in the
early stage of the tuberculous consumption; in the other species,
and in the confirmed state of all, they generally prove hurtful.
He makes nearly the same remark on the removal to a warm cli-
mate. "The greater part of those patients who have had re-
course to this practice, after phthisis has been distinctly marked,
have only gone to breathe their last in a foreign climate."

The regimen of the patient is often a most important part of
the treatment in phthisis; but as no one kind of regimen can
be applicable to all the species or stages of the disease, it requires
as much discrimination to regulate this department of practice as
to direct the use of medicines. The author has discussed this
head of the subject at considerable length, together with the re-
medies usually employed to relieve the urgent symptoms, which
occur towards the fatal termination; but having already extend-
ed this article beyond our original intention, we shall conclude
the analysis by quoting his account of a new anodyne, which he
has found to be very useful in alleviating the cough that always
attends, and is often a very distressing symptom, in the advanced
stage of pulmonary consumption.

"Where opium cannot be employed, different articles of this kind,
particularly the preparations of Hyoscyamus niger and Humulus lu-
pulus, have often been used with advantage; but of all the substitutes
for opium, which I have ever employed in practice, I have found
none from which I have found so much benefit as from the prepara-
tions formed from the inspissated white juice of the common garden
lettuce. Even since the days of Galen, among the Romans, who
employed it as a soporific in his own case, this article, like the Papa-
ver somniferum, and many other plants yielding a milky juice, have
been known to possess a power of inducing sleep; but for a long
time, although constantly cultivated as a sallad, it has been almost
entirely neglected as a soporific. A few years ago, some circumstan-
ces drew my attention to this article, and I lately published, in the
Memoirs of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, an account of
different trials which I had made with it. These I shall not here
repeat, but only observe, that of all the medicines which I have em-
ployed for alleviating cough in phthisis, and indeed as a sedative in
other diseases, next to opium, I have found no article so beneficial
as that substance, which, in the memoirs above-mentioned, I have
termed Lactucarium."