we were acquainted with a case in which this method was practised here a few years ago, for introducing a solution of opium into the veins, and inflammation did not ensue. On the contrary, the wound healed rapidly.

IV.

Observations on Tetanus; illustrated by Cases, in which a new and successful Mode of Treatment has been adopted. By Henry Ward, Surgeon, Gloucester, 1825. pp. 22. 4to.

If the merit of Mr Ward's new and successful remedy is to be judged of by that of the first work in which it is brought before the public, we fear it will enjoy a very short-lived reputation. We shall leave this consideration, however, out of view. The remedy appears, to say the least of it, a rational one; and the importance of the subject makes up so far for the commonness of the treatise, that we should be wanting in duty to our readers, if we did not give them some account of Mr Ward's Observations.

It is rather singular, that a remedy, possessing qualities so peculiar and so obvious as the hydrocyanic acid, should have remained so long in the hands of practitioners without being applied to the treatment of tetanus. The state of the system in tetanus is in many respects so exactly the counterpart of the state induced in most circumstances by the acid, that one would think the disease could hardly be thought of without the remedy suggesting itself simultaneously. Nevertheless it appears to be rightly stated by Mr Ward, that he is the first who has used it, or at least who has published on the subject. How he was led to try it, we cannot conceive. For, if there is any meaning at all in the trite motto he has adorned his title-page with,—bearing, that "Experience is constantly contradicting Theory,"—the Prussian acid is the last article of the Materia Medica which could have occurred to him on his Therapeutic principles.

Both of his cases are said to be of the Traumatic variety, one having apparently succeeded a wound of the finger, the other a burn in the arm-pit. His opinion, however, may be questioned, at all events with regard to the former; because, independently of other considerations to be stated presently, the tetanus did not supervene till five months after the injury.
The first case appears to have been introduced by an attack of general fever, accompanied even with some tendency to delirium. The tetanic spasms did not commence till the fifth day of the patient's illness. On that day, however, "a very strong disposition to tetanus was evinced." In what that disposition consisted he does not instruct us. Opium, æther, and camphor, were given without avail. The spasms and delirium having gone on increasing, the hydrocyanic acid was given in conjunction with port wine and brandy. In the course of the first night, 59 drops of the acid were taken, and four bottles of Port and a pint and a half of brandy. The spasms first abated; the delirium continued for some time; but at length the patient fell asleep, and he remained so during most of the day. When he awoke the spasms returned; but through the same treatment they were again mitigated, and he again fell asleep. On his awaking the spasms returned a third time, and a third time they were removed by prussic acid, port and brandy together. From this period he recovered rapidly till the twenty-seventh day after his first attack. Having relapsed on that day, opium was given in the first instance, but without benefit: on the other hand, the spasms immediately yielded to the hydrocyanic acid. On the sixth morning of this new attack, he was much better; "he complained," to use Mr Ward's own phraseology, "of no tendency to a return of spasm;" and, except that he had this singular complaint, and likewise some incoherency, restlessness and local pains, he went on improving steadily, and soon got quite well.

On reviewing the whole particulars of the case, such as they are related,—and that is meagrely enough,—it cannot be denied, that making the man drunk with ratafia'd brandy and port, had the effect of checking tetanoid spasm; and consequently that our author's treatment was both new and successful. But that this was a case of traumatic tetanus, and that it was cured by prussic acid, can never be admitted, unless indeed we make the sweeping assumption, that all this inordinate quantity of port and brandy went for nothing in the cure. The case, seriously speaking, appears to us, in every particular mentioned by Mr Ward, closely allied to an affection that occurred occasionally in this city during the Epidemic Fever of 1818–20, and was considered by us as a spasmodic variety of it. It is not improbable that Mr Ward's practice, bating his brandy diluted with port, would have been of service in that affection; which, we should remark, was so deadly, that, of all the cases we knew, only one recovered.
The second case is more pointed. The affection seems to have been really tetanus, and the effect of the acid was not so much confounded with that of other remedies; for "no quantity of wine could be conveyed into the stomach." The subject of it was a child eight years old, who, ten weeks after sustaining a severe burn in the arm-pit, was attacked with tetanic symptoms. The limbs were extended, the eyes fixed, the belly tense, the jaws locked; the tendons affected with subsultus.

"Having so lately seen a case of this nature, in which the hydrocyanic acid had been so signally beneficial, when administered in large doses, I directed eighteen drops in twelve drachms of cinnamon water, and a drachm of the mixture to be given every half hour, in conjunction with port wine, and the wound to be dressed, &c. The medicine was given for the first three hours regularly, but no quantity of wine could be conveyed into the stomach. It, (what?) however, had the most decided effect, as the spasms were greatly relieved, and the child had some sleep, which, however, was very much disturbed. I now directed the same quantity to be given every four hours, in conjunction with the wine. This plan was persisted in until the 16th, (15th of the disease), when the medicine was given only twice a day. Considering these means amply sufficient to quiet the spasmodic tendency, and no appearance of the complaint being present on the 7th, she was directed to take the acid only at bed-time. She now appeared to have overcome the violence of the spasms, although throughout the cure she had occasional attacks, which were invariably relieved by a dose of the acid. The wound has now been healed upwards of two months, since which she has had no return of the complaint."

The few remaining pages of the pamphlet are occupied with some general remarks on the remedy. He first states, that recoveries from traumatic tetanus are rare, because Dr Thomas never saw but one case of it cured; then expresses his suspicions that the acid may act, although it is introduced elsewhere than into the stomach, because a dog was killed by a little of it put on his nose, and he himself lost the use of his limbs for a time, by breathing the vapour issuing from his patient (?) ; next relates the best process for preparing the medicinal acid; and, finally, prophesies the probable consequences of his labours, and hints at his claims for immortality, by assuring us, in the words of Cicero, that "in nullâ re propius ad Deos homines accedere, quam salutem hominibus dando."

We have already stated our reasons for thinking that the method of cure recommended by Mr Ward is well worth a fair trial. But if he should try it again, or any one else should feel encouraged to follow his example, we may venture to advise him to economize his port and brandy. For, in the first place,
it has already been often enough proved, that little or no advantage is gained to tetanic patients, by

"Making their throats a thoroughfare for wine;"

secondly, it is impossible to learn, under such circumstances, which is the useful remedy; and, lastly, although it may turn out that port and brandy are good auxiliaries, it is irrational not to try, in the first instance, the effect of the principal remedy.

We must also advise our author, before he publishes again his conjectures and presumptions regarding the mode of action of hydrocyanic acid, to make sure that he does not guess at things which have been long established by a multitude of facts, and admitted by every well-informed physiologist.

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V.

Ueber die Verwandtungen des Linsensystems. Von Dr FRIED. CHRIST. DIETERICH. Mit einer Vorrede vom Professor RIECKE. Tubingen, 1824. S. 100. 8vo.

On Wounds of the Lens and its Capsule. By Dr F. C. DIETERICH, with a Preface from Prof. RIECKE. Tubingen. pp. 100. 8vo. 1824.

The length to which the French, in the zealous pursuit of physiology, have carried their experiments on animals, has, from time to time, been the subject of considerable discussion. Whilst some, chiefly extra-professional persons, in their sympathy for the brute creation, have denied the propriety of making such experiments altogether, several celebrated professional characters have given their opinion as to the extent to which they should be carried. The idea of preventing persons from experimenting on animals in toto, can only for a moment be entertained by those who are ignorant of the connexion which physiology bears to medicine, and of the true means by which this study can be advanced. The extent, however, to which experiments on animals should, with propriety, be carried, is not easy to be defined, and must, we think, be left, in every case, to the judgment of the experimenter. Views may hereafter suggest themselves to the physiological inquirer of which we can at present have no idea, and, for the investigation of which, it is quite impossible to say to what extent experiments on animals may be justified. But if it be proper to allow the