

It was ultimately found to yield to large doses of calomel, pushed to salivation; and the report of the cases led the writers on Indian disease to identify it with the bowel complaints of that country, and to appeal to this epidemic for the character of that remedy so much dreaded and abused by European practitioners.

The different epidemics of cholera in Europe have since proved, that people situated as these convicts were, are most liable to its attacks, and to those bowel complaints that will usually attend such epidemics.

The penitentiary epidemic shows the variety of disease that may arise from one general cause, and the errors that must be produced by looking at it on nosological principles. In examining our best works on bowel complaints, the results of such a course are too obvious. We usually find attempts to reconcile them with Cullen's or some other nosology, and a capriciousness with the descriptions and treatment of preceding writers, because diseases to which the same names have been applied, are not always delineated with the same symptoms, and found to yield to the same remedies and course of treatment.

This variety in the symptomatology and the effects of remedies is to me the chief value of this extensive department of our medical literature. It shows the effects of localities, seasons and circumstances in producing a modification of disease arising from a general cause, and still exhibiting many symptoms in common.

To military and naval surgeons in charge of a number of men, and rapidly passing from one locality—or even climate—to another, the effect has been long known; but if we only watched for it with sufficient care, it would be equally evident in any district of this country, as the effect of seasons and peculiar localities.

The names applied to the different affections constituting bowel complaints are exceedingly vague, scarcely two writers or individuals attach the same

meaning to any one of them. The following diagnosis given by Bloomfield in his invaluable work on dysentery, is about the best that I know of, and may serve as a definition of the common terms, and render them useful in designating a state of any peculiar case of disease; but the liability of the one state to run into some of the others, and the modifications of all by the original cause of the disease, must never be lost sight of, nor the general practical deduction to be drawn from a combination of circumstances, as to the purging depending on altered and diseased secretions from the liver and intestinal canal, or on an inflammatory state of some portion of the latter tube.

"In dysentery, the evacuations though frequent, are, at the commencement, often devoid of fæcal smell, and consist of mucus, serum, blood, or a mixture of these, while the natural fæces are retained; tenesmus and tormina are constant attendants, and are more or less severe."

In diarrhœa, the stools have a fæcal smell, are frequent, and consist of loose liquid fæces, without any admixture of serum or blood; and when mucus appears, it is transparent, mixed with fæces, and is evidently an increased secretion of the natural mucus of the intestines."

"In cholera morbus the stools are frequent, but consist of loose fæces, mixed with bile or undigested food. The stools are more copious than in dysentery, and are only occasionally followed by tenesmus. Vomiting is also a constant symptom of cholera morbus, but not of dysentery."

Many of the symptoms of the inflammatory variety of dysentery are the same as characterize enteritis; but in enteritis there are not any dysenteric secretions discharged by frequent evacuations; and there is but rarely tenesmus; dysentery is always accompanied by both."

"Bilious flux, or more properly speaking diarrhœa, is preceded by a yellow tongue, and not unfrequently yellow skin and eyes; pain at the præcordia,