

is not so efficacious (dose from grs. viij. to grs. xv.); that when the purgative does not produce the evacuation of the retained feces, it may cause irritation, or hæmorrhages of the stomach or intestines, and sometimes even an excitation of the whole system; that, as by this method only drastic purgatives can be employed, they are counter-indicated whenever any latent or ardent phlegmasia exists; that they must be discontinued when their application is not followed by evacuations; that when the purgative does not cause the symptom, against which it is directed, to yield, it acts as a perturbator, and if it has not an advantageous action on the primitive disease, it may produce serious accidents; consequently, the abdominal organs must be attentively examined ere it is prescribed.—*Revue Medicale de Dijon.*

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#### DEPURATION OF THE BLOOD.

Dr. Barlow, in a paper, read before the Physical Society of Guy's, states that he conceives the depuration of the blood to be wholly effected by the two-fold agency of air and water. The atmospheric air acting through the medium of the pulmonary circulation, removes, in the form of carbonic acid, the carbon which has been formed in the capillaries of the aortic circulation, and which would act as a poison if returned to the left side of the heart, and again transmitted through the system. The water acts through the medium of the portal circulation, by the capillaries of which it is taken up from the stomach and small intestine, and is employed for the purpose of holding in solution the solid contents of the bile, the urine, and the perspiration, preparatory to their elimination by their respective secreting organs, and without which these solid contents cannot be separated from the body, unless they are brought to the excretories in a state of solution. These views he supported by references to the symptoms, pathology, and effects of remedies employed in cardiac, hepatic, and renal disease, and also to dropsical effusion in the cavity of the peritoneum, and to the symptoms and state of the blood in Asiatic cholera: Dr. Barlow dwelling particularly on the impossibility of procuring diuresis, when disease of the liver has proceeded so far as materially to obstruct the entrances of water from the small intestine into the portal circulation.

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