Dr. Pemberton also remarks that since this treatise was written, his observation leads him to believe that very little practical advantage is to be derived from the nature of the pulse, *taken by itself*, in acute inflammatory diseases; "for, says he, "I have known the pulse remain perfectly unaccelerated, and in every respect natural, in inflammatory disorders of the most alarming magnitude; where venœsection has proved the buffy condition of the blood, and unequivocal relief has justified the operation."

This proposition, in its general sense, is a great truth, and from the opportunities we have had of witnessing this circumstance, we are led to ascribe it rather to a peculiar condition of the system, than to a variety in the disease itself. But it does not appear to us altogether consistent to admit it in all its bearings, for it is also practically true, that an acceleration in the pulse is not a more essential condition of the inflammatory diathesis, than the existence of the buffy coat of the blood can alone justify depletion. On the other hand, we have the authority of Rush himself and the test of experience, for asserting that the state of the pulse which indicates venœsection is altogether independant of its frequency, viz: that peculiar feel of tension in the artery, whithout which it is doubtful whether bleeding will not prove prejudicial. Medical men are every day called to patients indulging in ardent spirits, who exhibit all the ordinary indications of inflammation, which would seem to urge the necessity of bleeding, and still that operation will prove injurious and sometimes fatal, although the pulse is accelerated, large and full, but not possessing that peculiar condition which we have just noticed; whilst it is needless to say that the buffy coat will frequently be seen in cases which do not call for the use of the lancet: for this evacuation may also afford temporary relief, even in cases where it would appear contra-indicated, or at least useless, more particularly if the strength and constitution of the