

temper the heat of the blood by medicinal herbs of a cooling quality. Diet is with them a material part of the remedy, and their regimen consists only in abstinence from certain viands which they conceive to be hurtful to the disorder with which the patient is afflicted. Until their intercourse with Europeans they were unacquainted with bleeding, and the manner in which they now perform that operation shews they have but very little knowledge of its practice. They awkwardly scarify with sharp stones, or with bones of fish, that part of the body which is affected by pain; they then make use of empty gourds or calabashes filled with combustible matter and fire, which they apply to the wound.

Perspiration is among them an universal remedy of which they make frequent practice. It is equally in use for the sick and for the healthy, who thereby free themselves from the redundant humours which might have altered the state of their health, and produced infirmity. The sudatory or place for performing this operation is a small round cabin about seven feet high, capable of containing several persons.

Nature has bestowed on every country and climate specific remedies for the maladies to which its inhabitants are subject. The Indians generally carry with them an antidote for the bite of snakes, which they chew previous to applying it to the wound.

The Caraihs immerse the sick in cold water and afterwards compel them by flagellation, to run around a large fire, until out of breath and ready to fall down, when they are conveyed to their hammocks. The patients are restricted to abstinence in diet, and bleeding is sometimes employed. Should the recovery of a sick person be despaired of, he is carried to a distance from the dwellings, and suspended in a hammock between two trees. Provisions for three or four days are left with him, and he is abandoned to his destiny. If he return to his village, his restoration to health is celebrated with rejoicing, and if he die, his loss is lamented.

We have now given so full an Analysis of this excellent volume, that it would be superfluous to offer any opinion upon it; as every one of our readers must be competent to appreciate its value. We have no doubt that they will consider it as the most complete description of British America, which has ever been published; and also the most perfect and interesting history of the natives throughout the whole of that vast and important Continent.