

that when cases of small pox were admitted into the Quarantine Hospital—specially appropriated for that disease, I should apply the pure nitrate of silver to the pustules after puncture,* as being, he believed, particularly successful as an ectrotic. I did so, in two or three cases, and the application proved successful, so far as leaving no pits wherever the nitrate of silver had been applied, but in cases of a confluent character, I soon discovered that the irritation and pain produced by the caustic on an extended surface, was too severe to become a very desirable application, in the view of establishing its propriety as an ectrotic or abortive.

In the early part of this season, having admitted some cases of small pox into hospital, it was suggested by Dr. Douglas (and to whom, it would appear, it had also been suggested) that a solution of the nitrate of silver, of one drachm to the oz. of water, was the best means to prevent *pitting*, when applied at various stages of the disease, whether previous to or after maturation of the pustule. I resorted to this method, although fully convinced that the sooner the solution could be applied after the appearance of the eruption, the greater the chance of speedily arresting the development. I made the *essay* on two cases—brother and sister—on both of whom, the pustules, then confluencing with each other, had already matured. In the latter, it may be remarked, that the whole body, as well as the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, and neck, were confluent. In the former, the trunk and lower extremities were discrete. I applied the solution twice, two days intervening; the fourth day after the last painting, I perceived a shrivelling and drying up of the pustules; desquamation spontaneously followed; all constitutional symptoms disappearing; appetite returning; and, in a few days, convalescence established, and when discharged, which occurred two weeks after, scarcely, if any pittings could be discovered.

Shortly after, two other cases—adults—presented themselves in nearly the incipient stage, *i.e.*, the eruptions were scarcely papular; both of which, however, from the constitutional symptoms, would have proved severe cases. The solution was applied twice, and in one, three times—three days intervening. I soon perceived that all inflammatory action, puffing of the face, &c., whenever it had been applied, had been subdued, and apparently arrested; both patients became in a few days convalescent, and when leaving the hospital, the face, neck, &c., bore no appearance of pitting.

I cannot, however, conclude this imperfect sketch of my experience

* An almost endless operation in confluent small pox.—A. V. J.