

his body was several inches less than before taking the medicine; his skin, from being so distended by the fluid as to appear ready to give way, was loose and flabby, hanging about him, as Falstaff would say, "like an old lady's loose gown." He could handle himself much better, turn himself in bed, raise himself up, without the fear of "bursting open," as he said. His appetite was better, and he could take more food, without the feeling of distension which troubled him so much before. He also expressed himself as feeling much stronger, and "ready to return to the charge again, whenever the word was given."

I left him another comp. jalap powder, with directions to follow it, as before, with the senna mixture, (though not in such quantities,) and to have, after its operation,—

R. Pot. Bitart 3iss.
 Sp. æther nit 3iij.
 Tr. digitalis 3i.
 So. apii. m xxx.
 Inf. junip. 3xii m

Cap. coch. 1 larg 2^o da quaque hora.

I also allowed a moderate quantity of gin, which, as a medicine, was by no means disagreeable to him.

At my next visit I found him still better. He was sitting up, with his clothes on, for the first time in several months. His medicines had operated favourably. The cathartic had produced a number of fluid discharges: the diuretic had also acted favourably, and he had passed much more urine than usual. The same treatment, modified to suit his altered condition, was pursued for two or three weeks, and he recovered completely, and was able to go about his usual occupation.

CASE 2.—Dec. 20th, 1848, I was requested to visit Mrs. Leek, of Darlington, aged about 48, suffering from ascites, and anasarca of the lower extremities. She had always had good health until early in the preceding fall, when she had an attack of epidemic dysentery, which left her in a state of extreme prostration. On recovery from this, her lower limbs began to swell and fill, and continued so, until they were so large that she could scarcely move them, or turn herself in bed, without assistance. The abdomen then began to enlarge, and became much distended. The physician in attendance, fearing, I suppose, to resort to an active cathartic treatment considering the former attack of dysentery, had tried diuretics in nearly all forms, without sensibly diminishing the enlargement of the limbs or abdomen. Her pulse was natural, and of moderate firmness, tongue clean, urine scanty and high coloured, appetite capricious, though the feeling of distention which follows eating prevents her from taking as much as her appetite craves.

Remembering the result of McCormick's case, and as the dysentery

* "It is astonishing," says Dr. Watson, "how much relief to the feelings of the patient, and how great a diminution of the dropsical symptoms, are sometimes obtained by these active cathartics. Patients will earnestly beg for a repetition of them, even when their operation is attended, for the time, with considerable pain, or sickness, and much general distress."—*Practice of Medicine*, pp. 893.