

cover some mode of baffling the adversary, as he could not overcome him by main force. It is true, the *modus medendi* which he adopted suited more a cavalry than an infantry surgeon, but that was of little consequence.

About half an hour before the accession of the fit there was generally a premonitory shiver and pain in the back, with an incipient chatter of half a dozen teeth. One warm day at this time, the writer ordered his horse, and, an instant before mounting, swallowed a tumbler of hot, spiced wine and water. He then left the town, and cantered and galloped over an extensive heath for more than an hour, under a powerful sun. The plan succeeded perfectly: the cold fit was skipped, or evaded, and natural heat and perspiration were brought on. Two days after, just before the critical hour, the same plan was tried, and with like success. The ague fiend was again distanced, and has never since been able to make up the lost ground.*

The writer passed several months in other parts of Spain liable to endemic fever, but fortunately during a great part of this time the weather was cool and the fevers were rare, mild and curable. At Coira we had the anomaly of remittent alone, neither preceded by intermittent, nor followed by continued fever.

In 1815, and the two following years, the writer served in Bengal, and had an opportunity of witnessing the operation of tropical malaria on a large scale. By a most unwise order, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the medical officers, our regiment was ordered to embark on the Ganges at Dinapore, for Cawapore, at a most improper time, when the river was falling rapidly, and every day a large segment of the bank, on each side, reeking with animal and vegetable putrescence, was left by the receding water to dry in the sun. The Ganges is the sacred grave of the Hindus; consequently millions of dead bodies are cast into the river, and are left in loathsome numbers on the banks, as the water falls. We had to sail up this polluted stream, and to anchor nightly near the shore for 600 miles, amongst the most fetid and noisome exhalations.† When we reached Cawapore, about a third of the men, and a large proportion of the women and children, were in the sick list with remittent fever. We had two large hospitals for the soldiers, and another for the women, children and civil servants, containing 150 beds each.

* It is on record that in 1822, a Mr. Blachet, a medical gentleman of Lyons, also cured himself of intermittent fever by a hot ride. His fever had been produced artificially by a cold bath in the Saone.—*Watson's Practice of Physic*, fol. 405.

† The Ganges is a Hindu God. Idolatry throughout all time has reacted in terrible punishment on idolators; but, probably, never so directly and fearfully as in the valley of Bengal. There cholera was first seen.