

gums—the evacuations were very numerous in the course of the twenty-four hours—there was ascites, and the lower extremities were œdematous. Daily fever, a frequent cough, emaciation, and loss of sleep, comprised the remaining formidable symptoms. An emetic was first exhibited, the gums repeatedly scarified, and the following directions strictly carried out:—A salt water bath for a few minutes each night, employing during the time continued friction over the abdomen,—repeated frictions, with dry mustard to the legs and feet by means of a piece of new flannel, through the day, with bandages round the whole of the abdomen and inferior extremities, and a powder exhibited every four hours, composed of two grains of the hydrargyrum cum cretâ, $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a grain of ipecacuan, and the same quantity of the pulv. scillæ. These means were steadily persevered with, and in less than a fortnight I had the gratification of observing a material improvement. The anasarca had entirely disappeared—the diarrhœa much diminished, and the strength proportionably increased; and no lengthened period elapsed before the health of the infant was perfectly re-established.

But it will be said that this system is applicable to a *proportion* only of the numerous cases which fall under our daily observation during the summer and autumnal seasons. I yield to the force of this observation; but having contested with *one* class of cases with at least a measure of success, I am sanguine enough to hope that we may, with equal confidence, prepare to meet the advance of another. Where, then, the disease in its wasting form has long maintained a struggle with the enfeebled constitution, and the consequences of a debilitated and relaxed state of the mucous membrane continue, I beg earnestly, yet with much deference, to suggest *another plan*, which, although adopted in Europe within the last few years, has not, I have reason to believe, experienced a fair trial in this country. A notice in a foreign journal first suggested the idea to me; and in a case which I attended, in conjunction with our distinguished President, sufficient effect was produced to encourage a repetition in instances of a similar nature. I refer to that remedy so invaluable in its application to a catalogue of *other* affections, the crystallized nitrate of silver. I do not stay to speak of its strongly astringent properties, nor is it necessary that I should expend words in discussing its eminently tonic powers; but I would, in most emphatic terms, urge my confreres to afford it admission on their list of remedial agents in the diarrhœa of infants, and with candour to test its value for themselves. Its employment, both by the mouth and through the instrumentality of the lavement apparatus, is equally beneficial and safe, and its usefulness can scarcely be questioned, whether the

disease exists as yet in the simple form of irritation, in established inflammation, or in actual ulceration of the villous lining of the alimentary canal. Presented thus as a topical application to a congested or inflamed surface, it must obliterate more or less the injected vessels, as it would obliterate those which are observed on *any external* surface; and, combined with opiates, it cannot fail to prove highly serviceable in altering the character of the ulcerated tissue, and disposing it, (if *anything* will dispose it,) to assume a healthy action.

CASE OF RE-UNION OF THE HUMERUS AFTER FIVE MONTHS FRACTURE.

By WILLIAM MARSDEN, M.D., Nicolet.

Feb'y. 20, 1844.—Was called to Hannah Colbert, ætatis 33, wife of Patrick Keif; a strong and muscular woman, who had been injured by the fall of a very large hemlock tree. She had been brought to bed of her seventh child on the 6th of the month, only a fortnight previous to the accident, and was nursing at the time. Found simple comminuted fracture of the humerus, and simple fracture of the femur and three costæ of the left side, with considerable *ecchymosis* of these latter parts. The tree, in its descent, first struck the humerus, the arm being elevated; and finally rested upon the thigh, pinning her to the ground. A portion of the tree about 12 inches in diameter had to be chopped off before she could be removed. I had her immediately removed to a comfortable lodging in the village, and, with the assistance of my students, the fractures carefully set, &c. Mrs. Chandler, the kind hostess of the manor house, ever foremost in the cause of charity, caused the infant, by my directions, to be taken from the mother and placed at nurse. The superior fracture of the humerus was immediately below the insertion of the deltoid muscle, and the inferior one about three inches above the bend of the elbow. The fractures of the thigh and ribs progressed admirably and naturally. The constitutional derangement was comparatively slight—the milk producing no inconvenience. On the 12th of March the woman, in whose charge she was placed, apprized me that my patient was in the habit of untying the bandages and scratching the shoulder. I therefore gave strict orders not to repeat the practice, and represented to her the danger and folly of it; and secured the bandages so as to make a sufficient degree of longitudinal pressure. On the 24th March, examined the humerus, and found the *inferior* fracture *re-united*, but in the superior one no attempt at re-union whatever. On raising the arm the upper portion of bone rose up almost at right angles with the lower one. On inquiry I learned (after much quibbling and pre-