

ceive all the aid that religion and humanity demand. But little, alas, must be the aid that he can receive, the mercurial frictions excepted, from a practice in other respects so truly inert.

M. Portal, after a critical review of the different remedies recommended proceeds to relate such cases as have fallen under his care, and which he treated in the method above recommended. A shoemaker, one of his apprentices, and a little girl six years old, were bitten by a mad cat. The wounds were immediately washed with salt and water, and the next day M. Portal visited them, and directed leeches to be applied to the parts bitten, which were then covered with strong blistering plaster, and kept open for more than a month. The matter and his apprentice underwent a salivation, took a bolus of two grains of camphor and four of nitre, six times a day, and did well; but the little girl having been only scratched, no application was made to the part affected. Two drams of mercurial ointment were rubbed in for a few days, and one of the above bolusses given once a day. Ten days after she had left them off, and on the seventeenth day from the time she was bitten, she became silent and melancholy, her face was red and pale by turns, her eyes fixed a long time on a single object, the lower jaw in continual motion, and sometimes she lolled her tongue out of her mouth, from which there flowed at intervals a thick saliva. It was with much difficulty she was made to put her feet in water, and they were obliged to be kept in by force. She was agitated by convulsions till she had lost some blood. Mercurial ointment was rubbed in. She drank with great reluctance, and for one while absolutely refused liquids. On the third day after the renewal of the frictions, she began to drink without difficulty, and on the fifth, having a very considerable thirst, she took liquids with avidity. If these symptoms are admitted to be those of incipient hydrophobia, the case is a valuable proof, not only of the efficacy of a proper exhibition of mercury, but of the importance of keeping the wound open.

The cat which bit these persons was killed; but M. Portal ordered a piece of bread to be rubbed with the saliva from its mouth, and offered to another cat, but the cat refused it. He then ordered a piece of sheep's liver to be treated in the same manner. This was eaten, as also two or three other pieces well rubbed with the saliva. The cat was shut up in a chamber in which a pail of water was placed, and through a hole in the door meat was occasionally thrown to her. During the

two first days she touched no food, and made every effort to escape. On the 3d she became more quiet, and on the 4th she was seen to eat and drink, which she continued to do till the 11th, when her cries became constant. She ran round the chamber, ate no more, would continue at rest for a few moments, and then make the most piercing cries, as if experiencing excruciating pain. On the 13th these were increased, and on the 14th, in the morning, she was found dead. M. Portal expresses his doubts whether the animal did not die in consequence of confinement.

A taylor was bitten in the leg. A considerable quantity of blood flowed from the wound, which was stopped by the application of vinegar and water. At the end of three weeks he experienced a sense of numbness in his leg, and shooting pains extending to the part bitten. In a little time after, the lips of the wound, which had apparently united, became inflamed and separated, had a livid appearance, and discharged a black and very offensive ichor. M. Portal ordered six leeches to be applied near the part bitten; the wound to be covered with an ointment containing mustard, euphorbium, cantharides, and turpentine, mercurial ointment to be rubbed in to produce and keep up a salivation, and the bolusses of camphor and nitre to be taken four times a day. During the first days of this course, he continued to feel the lancinating pains, which were extended to different parts of his body; he had convulsive motions; was unable to bear a bright light; complained of continual noises; had a considerable aversion to drink. On the commencement of a flow of saliva, these symptoms abated, and at length disappeared. The wound was kept open for upwards of forty days.

M. Portal concludes this part of his work with a view of the different books which have appeared on this disease, disposed in the order of time. Of many only the title is given, M. Portal probably not having seen them, but in general we have a pretty full account of the ideas the respective authors entertained of the nature of the disease, and the mode of treatment they pursued or recommended. We have to regret that the catalogue reaches no lower than 1780, and that it does not contain accounts of all the articles relating to it which are to be found in the different journals and collections of academics.